



CITY OF PLAINFIELD

DIVISION OF MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS
CITY HALL ANNEX
510 WATCHUNG AVENUE, 3RD FLOOR
PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07060



For Immediate Release

PLAINFIELD MAYOR MAPP VISITS QUEEN CITY ACADEMY FOR MLK ESSAY CONTEST AND NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

January 31, 2014

PLAINFIELD, NJ- Plainfield Mayor Adrian O. Mapp paid a surprise visit to a packed auditorium of smartly dressed Queen City Academy students located on West 7th street today. His visit was part of a General Assembly marking the end of the annual National School Choice Week and the 1st annual QCA MLK Essay Contest. 3rd grader, Kimberly Martinez and 8th grader Rickey Thompson both received Proclamations from the newly elected Mayor for their essays about the civil rights leader.

The essay contest urged students to explain their dream for the future and the City of Plainfield while explaining how they would accomplish their vision. The essay was to be limited to 1- 4 paragraphs depending on the grade level, however, Thompson (8th grader) also submitted a humorous short video. In the video, Thompson, posing as a news anchor during the MLK "I Have a Dream Speech", staged an interview with the Mayor by superimposing a photo on the screen and imitating his voice. The "Mayor" then proceeded to outline his vision according to MLK. The Mayor sat in the front row with a group of Kindergarteners while proudly watching the video.

During his remarks, the Mayor stressed the need for a strong education system in Plainfield and mentioned the formation of his educational task force of which former New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevy is the current chairman. Mayor Mapp also vowed to continue to work with Plainfield's educational community including charter schools like Queen City Academy. "I do believe that we have some educational challenges in the city, but that is why there is a need for charter schools like Queen City Academy".

The event also commemorated the conclusion of National School Choice Week, a nonpartisan, nonpolitical public awareness effort that promotes empowerment to choose the best educational environments for their children. School officials plan events that highlight a variety of school choice options — from traditional public schools to public charter schools, magnet schools, private schools, online learning, and homeschooling.

For information on Mayor's Education Task Force call (908) 753-3000

