

The Philadelphia Inquirer

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3rd ANNUAL TEA & CONVERSATION HOSTING AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN TO DISCUSS VIOLENCE AFFECTING PHILADLEPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 12, 2007 – Philadelphia Inquirer Managing Editor Sandra Long is hosting the 3rd Annual Tea & Conversation event on Tuesday, Nov. 13 at 4:30 p.m. at The Inquirer and Daily News building on 400 N. Broad Street. African American women of all socioeconomic classes have been invited to discuss their lives, their families and the violence affecting the Philadelphia regions.

“The Inquirer cares about what is going on in the community,” Long said. “By hosting this event we want to find out what we, as a newspaper, can do to address the violence in Philadelphia and to have a positive impact on this city.”

Guests will enjoy tea and sandwiches while networking with one another. The Inquirer began hosting this event as a way to make more personal connections in Philadelphia communities. This event is also a chance for Inquirer editors and reporters to meet community members and talk and listen to them.

The women are split into smaller groups and an Inquirer reporter and editor meet with them to start discussions ranging from challenges that these women face on a daily basis to what these women think they can do to curb the gun violence in the city.

“By inviting people into our newsroom,” Inquirer Editor Bill Marimow said, “we get the opportunity to listen carefully to their hopes, fears and concerns about their lives.”

Long hopes that everyone walks away from the Tea & Conversation with new contacts. She wants the women she invited to create networks with each other and to the newspaper, and for The Inquirer to also walk away with new community contacts and ideas on how to address the city of Philadelphia’s violence.

Over 125 women are expected to attend this year’s event. There will be a silent auction where Inquirer staff photographers have donated their own photos to be auctioned off. All of the proceeds go to the Acel Moore Student Workshop. Also available to all attendees will be a list of local agencies who handle violence-related issues where they can have the opportunity to volunteer at.

“People really love this event,” Long said. “After last year’s Tea & Conversation, women were already looking forward to attending it again the following year.”

About Philadelphia Media Holdings

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