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Mr. Mandar Apte
Director, Cities4Peace
International Association for Human Values

Dear Mandar,

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) works to strengthen coordination, capacity, and partnerships to address the root causes of violence, and advance practices designed at preventing all forms of violence, and to promote healing across all communities in Los Angeles County. With community stress and tensions at an all-time high due to the pandemic and increasing rates of violence, we recognized a need to support the work and efforts of our partnerships with peace ambassadors, community interventionists, and leadership.

The Cities 4 Peace Initiative training program brought together diverse members from several communities across Los Angeles County, including South and East Los Angeles, Pomona, Puente Valley, Antelope Valley, and the South Bay area. The groups consisted of former gang members, community interventionists and peace ambassadors, intervention program directors, and OVP staff.

The Cities 4 Peace training program provided participants effective self-regulation practices, techniques, and knowledge to promote compassion and nonviolence for themselves that was practical and appropriate for their work. We were grateful to be able to support 23 community interventionists and peace ambassadors and 6 OVP staff in the participation of the program. Over the 8-week program participants learned and mastered breath and meditation tools that brought greater peace in their personal lives aimed at improving their professional work in supporting needs throughout Los Angeles County. The training has empowered participants to work together to promote nonviolence in our local communities and neighborhoods.

Thank you for making Cities 4 Peace training program available in Los Angeles County, and for all you do to promote peace.

Regards,

Andrea Welsing

Andrea Welsing, Director
Los Angeles County
Department of Public Health
Office of Violence Prevention

Kelly Fischer

Kelly Fischer, Deputy Director
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