



**For Immediate Release**

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**Salt Lake City Mayor's Office to Host Gang Prevention Workshops and Soccer Games**  
*City Aims to Bridge Gaps Between Law Enforcement and Refugee Community*

SALT LAKE CITY – The Salt Lake City Mayor's Office of Diversity and Human Rights will facilitate "Bridging the Gap," gang prevention workshops and soccer games on Saturday, May 14, 2011, from 3 – 6:30 p.m. at Rose Park Elementary School, 1105 West 1000 North. Workshop sessions will help educate the City's refugee community about gang prevention. Salt Lake City's Police and Fire Departments will participate in Saturday's event.

A fire truck will be parked at the event, where four firefighters will conduct a "meet and greet" with the community. Police Department Gang Unit officers and Colors of Success staff will present workshop sessions to inform parents about recognizing and preventing gang involvement. Translators will help relay presentation messages to the community. The event will give adults and youth an opportunity to learn about the negative effects of gangs in the community while getting to know City law enforcement officials.

Mayor's Office of Diversity and Human Rights Coordinator Yolanda Francisco-Nez says it's important for refugees to understand the role of public safety as an element to the quality of life.

"Nurturing trustworthy and meaningful relationships between refugees and law enforcement allows Salt Lake City to foster essential connections," said Francisco-Nez. "We look forward to this new beginning."

In addition to attending the workshop sessions, the public is invited to support the City refugee community by watching some friendly, energetic soccer competition to be held after the workshops. Somali and Sudanese youth will play a round of soccer, followed by a second game between Burundi and Myanmar youth.

The Gang Prevention Workshops and Soccer Games are presented by the Salt Lake City Mayor's Office of Diversity and Human Rights in partnership with the Utah Refugee Services Office, the Salt Lake City Police and Fire Departments, Utah Refugee Soccer, Utah Refugee Coalition, AmeriCorps VISTA, Rose Park Elementary Community Learning Center and the Salt Lake City School District. Representatives from the City's refugee communities including Somalia, Sudan, Burundi and Myanmar will be in attendance at Saturday's event.

For more details, call 801-652-0034 or email [yolanda.francisco-nez@slcgov.com](mailto:yolanda.francisco-nez@slcgov.com).