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The Justice Coalition began in 1995 because one man's priorities were changed. Ted Hires was the average businessman working 60 to 80 hours a week and looking out for himself until that day when he and his staff were held at gunpoint and robbed. Being a victim of crime, Ted found the criminal justice system worked harder for the criminal than the victim. As a result of Ted's experience, he formed a (501C3) non-profit organization, the Justice Coalition, and is making an effort to change the Fourth Judicial court system for the better.

Since 1995, the Justice Coalition has been fighting crime every step of the way. Fugitives captured are through a partnership with local media and law enforcement agencies.

The Justice Coalition's

Victims' Advocate

A free newspaper supporting victims' rights published monthly by The Justice Coalition. The opinions of contributing writers are not necessarily those of the Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate or the Justice Coalition. The Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate welcomes both editorial and photographic submission, but they cannot be returned. Please allow six weeks for a response to submitted works. Calendar information is welcome but must be submitted one month in advance of the event.

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All correspondence to the Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate should be sent to:
 Justice Coalition's Victims' Advocate
 1935 Lane Ave., South, Suite 1 • Jacksonville, Florida 32210
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THE JUSTICE COALITION'S OBJECTIVES

- To be available for innocent victims of violent crime
- To educate the general public on criminal justice issues
- To be pro-active in the fight against crime

Advertising Deadline

The deadline for advertising copy for the **June 2008 Edition** of the JUSTICE COALITION'S VICTIMS' ADVOCATE is **May 10, 2008.**

THE SECRET WORD GAME

Hidden in the text of the Victims' Advocate is the **SECRET WORD** for the month of **April**. The rules are simple:

1. Find the word.
2. Telephone the Justice Coalition office 783-6312.
3. The first person who telephones the correct Secret Word wins a Gift Certificate to Sonny's Real Pit Barbeque Restaurant.
4. You can only win once in a twelve month period.

SO START SEARCHING!

Exclusions: no persons employed by the Justice Coalition, Sonny's, nor their families are eligible.



LETTER *to the Editor*

Every day we get up and get our morning cup of coffee. Every morning we turn on the news and the first thing we see is another violent crime in Jacksonville. We have kids carrying guns and being shot and killed by police officers and everyone asks "Why"?

Is it just me or is anyone else seeing the big problem? Where are the parents? Why are these teens roaming the streets at all hours? Where are they getting the weapons they are using?

I grew up in an age of "community parenting." This meant that if I was causing trouble, the whole neighborhood was onto me. They would report it to my parents and then I would have my "hide blistered," so to speak.

Now parents cannot even discipline their own children. God forbid that little missy or junior should get [his/her] rear end spanked. We have parents saying that they want their children to "make their own decisions" and they do not want to "invade their child's privacy." Have you people lost your minds? You want your immature children making life and death decisions that affect their future?

I have even heard some parents say that they cannot do anything with their child. News flash for those "I have given up" parents out there with that attitude: do not be shocked when your "little angel" is incarcerated or something worse happens to him/her on the streets. We can put more police on the streets and new high tech equipment out there but until parents take charge and put the reins on their kids, you can expect many more serious crimes being committed by these kids.

I say we go back to the "old school" of child development. Here are some helpful ideas and things to look for:

One would be if your child is coming home with wads of cash and new stuff you did not buy them, question why. No kid has wads of cash [who] does not work.

Two is the easiest one of all. I believe in privacy but on occasion you have to double check. Check their rooms. Look in their dresser drawers. The search is just not for the child's welfare but the rest of the family's. We hear every day about how child[ren] found a loaded gun and either hurt or killed themselves or another child. Daily, children are overdosing on drugs carelessly left lying around.

Three is to [set an example of tolerance] for other people regardless of their race, religion, nationality, etc. This is how [we can break the] cycle of hate or racism that is continued through the generations.

Fourth is to teach your children to respect others, to listen to adults and persons of authority. Today's youth curse and insult adults on a regular basis and some parents think it is OK because they want their child to be "independent." These are the same parents who are shocked when their child gets beaten up or is brought home by the police.

Most important is to know who their friends are and who they are hanging out with. Make a curfew and stick to it and do not be afraid to punish your children. They may act like they hate you but in the end you are doing what every parents job is - to teach them morals and rules.

Too many young people are ending up in jail or in graveyards. If we want this to stop, then all parents need to do their job and take charge of their children. Remember one important thing: you brought the child into the world, you chose to have the child and it is your responsibility to raise him/her right.

The first challenge of taking back our streets from the criminals is to take back our lost youth from the streets.

- Mike Sigler, Jacksonville, Florida

J.B Coxwell Contracting, Inc.
 joins the Justice Coalition

in helping to make Jacksonville a safer place to live, work, and grow.



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