

# NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN ATLANTA, INC.

*“Helping others to live better lives”*

## SUMMIT EMPOWERED YOUNG BLACK MEN



**ATLANTA – (August 1, 2012)** - The “Overcoming the Odds Summit: Success Strategies for Young Black Males”, held at The Auburn Avenue Research Library on Saturday, July 28, 2012, was attended by more than 103 participants. Eleven organizations participated in the free event which included the “Bring Your A Game” documentary film; “Seven Steps to Success” workshop; “What Black Man Need” open forum; education, health, employment, training, and life-skills exhibitors; and discussions by the empowerment panel. “I have never experienced a more comprehensive event for young males” said Eric Morton, who videotaped the entire program, “It was encouraging to see all of the organizations offering actual services, and the young men eagerly taking advantage of them”.

Norma Joy Barnes, CEO of the Community Council of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc. (CCMA) and founder of the Priority Male Initiative, stated, “Although the odds seem to be pervasively stacked against the Black male, we know that these odds can be overcome by putting successful strategies to work. Our young men must be effectively equipped to strategically plan and achieve their goals.”

The summit was designed by CCMA to provide young black males, 18-28, with positive success strategies and resources to help this at risk population improve their lives academically, vocationally, financially, and personally. In addition to the positive presentations by panelist and exhibitors, 22 people were tested for HIV, more than 30 were screened for blood pressure and cholesterol, and 12 were registered to vote. This was one of thirty-five similar programs presented by CCMA, and involved a collaborative effort of educational, vocational, legal, re-entry, fatherhood, training, employment and health organizations and their representatives.

Plans for the next summit are underway. CCMA invites local businesses, organizations, and concerned citizens to join with them in this life-enhancing initiative. You may volunteer and or support this ongoing commitment by logging on at [www.communitycouncilma.org](http://www.communitycouncilma.org).

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For additional information, please call (404) 935-5859 or email [info@communitycouncilma.org](mailto:info@communitycouncilma.org). You may also visit [www.communitycouncilma.org](http://www.communitycouncilma.org).