

Ft. Pierce Police Department

News Release

03/16/09



R. Sean Baldwin

Chief of Police

920 S. U.S. #1

Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

National speaker, author and motivator touts message of hope

FORT PIERCE – Victor Woods is all about change, empowerment and redirection. That's what he hopes to bring and more during his two-day visit to Fort Pierce.

Mr. Woods is scheduled to be in Fort Pierce Wednesday, March 18, and Thursday, March 19. During that time, he will speak to Westwood High School students, meet with city officials and participate in a community forum.

A reception will be held 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Willie B. Ellis Substation, 1220 Avenue D, to give Mr. Woods an opportunity to meet with members of the community that may not be able to attend the Community Forum 6 p.m. Thursday at New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 1513 North 23rd Street.

Mr. Woods' college educated, professional parents raised him in one of Chicago's most affluent suburbs and his grandfather was a prominent Baptist minister. He had every advantage and was clever and intelligent, but his fascination with organized crime eventually led to his arrest and imprisonment at the age of 19. While serving his sentence, he reflected on his life and made a positive change by motivating other inmates and wrote his auto-biography titled, "A Breed Apart."

Mr. Woods' autobiography "A Breed Apart A Journey to Redemption" has been well received by a wide range audience and has led to a variety of speaking engagements at conferences, correctional facilities and universities and colleges. He has also worked with several law enforcement agencies between Chicago and Florida.

Mr. Woods' initial visit is part of the department's Operation Ceasefire, a collaborative community program designed to reduce gang violence in our community. Operation Ceasefire started with a clear agreement across the community: "Gang violence is destroying our community, and it will not be tolerated." Operation Ceasefire provides a clear warning to gang members: "You have a choice to make. You will either stop the violence that is destroying our community, or you will spend your life in prison."

For additional information about Mr. Woods please visit his website at www.vicwoods.com.

Audria V. Moore
Public Information Officer

Cell: 772-370-1848
Fax: 772-465-5181

Office: 772-461-3820 ext. 5203
Email: fppio@fppd.org