FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA ADVISORY: White House Hosts School Discipline Convening

WASHINGTON, DC and PATERN, NJ – On Wednesday, July 22, the White House hosted Rethink School Discipline, a national convening and conversation on improving school discipline policies and practices. At the meeting held at the White House South Court Auditorium, participants discussed new tools and resources to be released by the Supportive School Discipline Initiative, an interagency initiative launched by the Administration in 2011, along with data and research that underscores the need for further action. School leaders across the country, including three representatives from Paterson Public Schools, shared best practices used to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline by fostering safe, supportive, and productive learning environments that keep kids in school and out of the juvenile justice system.

In addition to educators, researchers, and non-profit leaders, the program also featured senior Obama Administration officials, including:

· Secretary Arne Duncan, U.S. Department of Education
· Attorney General Loretta Lynch, U.S. Department of Justice
· Valerie Jarrett, Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor
· Broderick Johnson, Cabinet Secretary and Chair of My Brother’s Keeper
· Cecilia Muñoz, Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council
· John King, Delegated Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
· Catherine Lhamon, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education
· Michael Yudin, Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education
· Vanita Gupta, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Justice

Paterson Public School District representatives were Superintendent Dr. Donnie Evans, Assistant Superintendent Maria Santa, and Director of Alternative Programs Nicole Payne.

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