



COMMUNITY NEWS from the
Offices of Oakland City Councilmember Desley Brooks

MEDIA RELEASE

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**OAKLAND STUDENTS REPRESENTING YMCA URBAN SERVICES
MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN) AT WORLD CAMP
RETURN TODAY FROM CROATIA ARRIVING TO SFO AIRPORT**

(Oakland, CA - July 14, 2006) ... They started off wanting to change their neighborhood, now they are working to help change the world. Bianca James and Tyla Brown will return today from Korcula Croatia after attending the Model United Nations World Camp.

The Model United Nations (MUN) program allows youth to simulate the real United Nations as a means to help resolve world issues. “This program is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I can't wait to hear about their experiences, comments Oakland City Councilperson Desley Brooks. Brooks plans to meet the students upon their arrival from Europe with several other colleagues today. Brooks has supported and worked with the YMCA Urban Services leadership for the past few years providing infrastructure counseling and support for their newest East Oakland center in District 6.

From January 3rd - March 31st, 2006, each youth was given two global issues to research. They then wrote a position paper on the impact of these issues in China, DRC, and/or Rwanda. Through their work the youth became ambassadors for their assigned country, learned global laws and polices, and developed leadership, communication, and academic skills. One of the most powerful things that the youth discovered was that with knowledge and determination they possessed the means to bring about a positive change in the world.

In March of this year, Councilperson Brooks sponsored the groups attendance at their first California YMCA MUN training conference at Camp Roberts. At Camp Roberts Twinisha Doyle, an East Oakland Urban Services MUN delegation member, ran for and was elected Vice-President of the International Court of Justice. This conference was the precursor to MUN Summit in Pasadena, California.

Believing in the talent of these exceptional youth, Councilperson Brooks sponsored the team's attendance at the 5th Annual MUN Summit in Pasadena, CA. At the conference, the youth met in their committees as ambassadors and discussed topics like AIDS, global warming, Weapons of Mass Destruction, and much more. In addition, they wrote and presented a resolution about how the MUN should solve these global issues. Bianca James was awarded the Citizenship of the World award, an award only given to two outstanding youth a year at the MUN summit.

Next month, five (5) members of the East Oakland Urban Services delegation will represent the USA at the world camp in San Francisco, CA. "I am so proud of all of our delegates from the East Oakland Urban Services YMCA; it has been truly rewarding to watch the development and growth of these phenomenal youth. I know they will continue to make significant contributions to their local community and the world," said Councilperson Brooks.

The youth will arrive today (July 14, 2006) at the San Francisco International Airport at 4:12pm on United Airlines Flight #901.