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Common Council Recognizes David Graham and Ron “Cook” Barrett, Cofounders of Gang Prevention Teen Nite

ALBANY, NY –The Albany Common Council on June 22 recognized David Graham and Ron “Cook” Barrett, cofounders of Gang Prevention Teen Nite, for their enduring commitments to community service and youth nonviolence. For 23 years, the pair has worked to provide recreational and educational alternatives to gang activities for Albany kids.

“They wanted to create a kid-friendly environment. They were given 30 days. It’s still going,” **Councilmember and Teen Nite volunteer Derek Johnson** said. “It was beautiful because it was the whole city,” Johnson said. “Not only did they make an impact on the teens, but they made an impact on adults that were working with teens. [The recognition] is long overdue.”

“It would just be love, encouragement, leadership,” **Teen Nite alum Shaleem Love** said. “We had the freedom, and we chose Teen Nite.”

“Teen Nite was leave your colors at the door and your egos there too. And that was because of the two gentlemen who gave of themselves freely,” **Council President and Teen Nite alum Corey Johnson** said. “They showed us that everybody, every kid in this city belonged.”

More than 20,000 14-to-21-year-olds have participated in the Gang Prevention Teen Nite since its founding. Program alums have gone on to become artists, athletes, public servants and more.

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