

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police

May 25, 2012

Essay Contest Winners and Honorable Mentions
Global Harmony Through Personal Excellence, Inc.
3925 Livingston Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20015-2921

Dear Winners & Honorable Mentions,

Congratulations to you! It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on your award-winning essay for the Twenty Fourth "Celebration of Youth" Essay Contest. This contest was opened to all DC public school students in grades 4 through 9. Many students read about this contest, but your choice to enter it has paid off because you are one of the winners. Your choice to step up to the plate and do the extra things in life will greatly pay off for you as you grow older and wiser.

The theme this year was about your biggest challenge and how you are dealing with it. Your essay touched the hearts of those who read it and shows that you are a strong person with determination and the will to overcome any challenges that come your way. I admire you and your strength to write about your challenges. There are so many people who have had really big challenges at your age and they grew up to become famous. A little boy who could barely speak, grew up to have a famous voice. He was hired by Disney to be the voice of The Lion King. Another famous person who sometimes did not have food to eat at night grew up to be a famous singer, dancer, actress and judge on American Idol. Now she helps other young people who are hungry.

No matter your situation, you can rise above it and you can have a wonderful story to share with others when you are a teenager or adult. Never give up hope and continue to be a strong person who believes you can climb over any challenges that come your way. I have also had challenges in my life, but I decided to work hard and to go to college to have a better life. The best part of my life is that I get to write letters to young people like you. Keep up the good work and know that people like me care about you and wish you the very best!

Sincerely,


Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police, Washington, DC

