

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

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ACTOR, ACTIVIST, AND BEST-SELLING AUTHOR HILL HARPER VISITS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS' JUVENILE UNIT

(Washington D.C.) The District of Columbia Department of Corrections' (DCDOC) welcomes actor and best-selling author, Hill Harper, to the Juvenile Unit Thursday, November 14, 2013. Mr. Harper will be speaking to the juveniles who participate in the Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop and will discuss among other topics his recently released book, *Letters to an Incarcerated Brother: Encouragement, Hope, and Healing for Inmates and Their Loved Ones*. "DOC is continuously excited about our partnership with Free Minds and the great work they do with juveniles in our custody," said Director Faust. "This opportunity is just another example of their commitment to improving the lives of the young men in our custody."

Tara Libert, Cofounder and Executive Director of Free Minds, expects that Mr. Harper's visit will be a positive influence in the lives of the juveniles in the program. "Hill Harper is already a very popular author with the juveniles on the Book Club," said Ms. Libert. "Anytime an author comes to visit, it's very exciting because it motivates the Free Minds members to read and write more. This time is even more exciting, because not only do they get to learn about the craft of writing, they also get to meet a great role model who is successful and still makes the effort to give back to the community."

Letters to an Incarcerated Brother is the fifth book written by Mr. Harper and one that he says seeks to open a dialogue with the incarcerated population. His previous four books have also worked towards achieving his mission of empowering the most underserved populations in our country.

The Free Minds Book Club meets with the juveniles to discuss a variety of books and topics of conversation, promoting creative writing and critical thinking amongst the youth. *Letters to an Incarcerated Brother* will serve as their next reading installment. "We are so excited that Harper's new book focuses on inmates, a population that doesn't often get attention in books or the media. We think the youth on the juvenile block will really connect with the book's compassionate and inspirational message," said Ms. Libert.

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