

LORAIN COUNTY DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT
225 Court Street, 4th Floor
Elyria, Ohio 44035

Judge Sherry L. Glass
Judge Frank J. Janik
Judge Lisa I. Swenski

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**JUVENILE COURT HOLDS ITS FIRST
ANTI-GUN AND GANG VIOLENCE PROGRAM GRADUATION**

Lorain County, Ohio, April 25, 2023

Lorain, Ohio- The Lorain County Juvenile Court has partnered with ReNOUNce DeNOUNce, a long-standing anti-gun and gang violence program, to provide interventions to high-risk youth in the cities of Lorain and Elyria. The Juvenile Court received an \$81,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Youth Services to provide a program to help reduce violent offenses and address the increase in cases involving weapons with juvenile offenders in Lorain County.

Administrative Judge Sherry Glass stated that “ReNOUNce DeNOUNce is yet another new tool that the Juvenile Court is using to address those offenses. We will continue trying to use every tool at our disposal to address juvenile related gang and gun offenses.”

On April 20, 2023, the first class of youth successfully graduated from the program, which was held at the LCCC Lorain Learning Center at City Center. Each youth completed a 10-week curriculum facilitated by certified Violence Interrupters and Gang Specialists. Juvenile Judge Frank Janik explained that “each Violence Interrupter has significant knowledge and experience with gang activity and has a skilled ability to relate to these youth of Lorain County who are court-involved. This program focuses on conflict resolution, cognitive thinking, and avoiding peer pressure.” After graduation, ReNOUNce DeNOUNce will provide aftercare services and maintain contact with each participant for mentoring and support. Juvenile Judge Lisa Swenski added, “We will continue to think outside the box to come up with creative and cost-effective means to deal with these matters and fulfill our legal obligations as juvenile judges to attempt to rehabilitate juveniles while keeping the community safe.” All three Juvenile Judges stressed that this program is NOT used as a substitute for detention, either at the Lorain County Detention Home or in commitments to the Ohio Department of Youth Services, for those youth who present a threat to community safety.

Visit our website at www.lcdrc.org and our Lorain County Domestic Relations Court Facebook page to find out more about youth programming offered in Lorain County.