

# Mayor's Youth Leadership Council

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Youth Services Bureau, Stamford, Connecticut

## Rihanna...Body Art Photos

### **"Sign Our Letter"**

That's what Olivia Demetros, Annie Drowne, Eunice Chun and Nina Ormaza of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council (MYLC) said over and over to students at Stamford High on March 20. "We need you to sign our letter to Rihanna," said Olivia. "We're asking her not to make a hasty decision when it comes to getting back with Chris Brown."

Tori Hynd, Fortesa Isafaj, Kaitlyn Fitzpatrick and Morgan Ilaw of MYLC helped out by walking around the cafeteria and getting students to go to the MYLC table so Annie and the others could explain the letter. The response? We had 219 students sign. "People were great," said Eunice. "Some refused, which is fine, but most were in favor of what we were doing."

### **"It's Not Always Picture Perfect..."**

#### **MYLC Curates an Art Exhibit**

Westport Arts Center from April 3 to May 3

"I cannot believe how many photos we have to choose from," said Dorit Burshtein of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council. "The exhibit is going to be great."

Dorit was talking about the body art photos that the Westport Arts Center will exhibit for a month starting in April. For two hours on Sunday, March 22, Dorit and Andrea Soto, another member of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council, sifted through dozens of photos with Danielle Cavanna, the Director of Education for the Westport Arts Center. "It is not going to be easy selecting photos for the show," said Andrea. "They are all so good."

The photos are not your run-of-the-mill images. Members of MYLC wrote slogans and statistics about teen dating violence on their arms, necks and faces. Photos were taken and each photo was turned into a huge poster. The three-dozen posters have been on display at schools, businesses and libraries.

We staff each display, which is a great opportunity to talk to people who stop to look at the posters. People looking at the posters - that's all we need. We tell them the tell-tale signs of teen dating violence, and give them a resource card they can use to help someone who is in an abusive relationship.

The body art exhibit, which we are calling "It's Not Always Picture Perfect, will be on display at the Westport Arts Center from April 3 through May 3. The opening night reception is on April 3 at 6:30 PM. The center is located at 51 Riverside Avenue in Westport.

For more information about the exhibit or the Westport Arts Center, please call Danielle Cavanna at 203.222.7070.

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For more information, please contact:  
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