

# SEAN REEVES

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I am a three-time convicted felon, who has spent the younger portion of his life involved with drug dealing and gun violence. In 2011 my oldest son was killed in New Haven due to gun violence and I have spent the last 10 years of my life learning how to not only survive this horrific life experience, but also learning how to advocate to my community member about change and correcting the patterns of life that are causing our communities and families so much harm. I have worked alongside many organizations such as Project Longevity, NHPD, U.S. District and States Attorney's as well as probation to provide one message, change is possible, but it all begins within. I have become a very important figure within the communities of New Haven, not just Newhallville where I was born and raised now for 48 years. I am also a single father of a young daughter whose mother succumbed to the disease know as Sickle Cell the following year after the death of my son. My passion to end gun violence is not just something that I know needs to happen and should not exist to this magnitude, but also this fight is personal because I understand the parts that I have once played and the level of influence I and others that I have become familiar with can help alter the direction of our community over a period. I have built many great relationships throughout the City of New Haven on every level that I am very confident I am fit for this job.

## EXPERIENCE

### 2012 – TO DATE

#### **PUBLIC SPEAKING,**

Have been public speaking for more than 5 years for many local non-profit organizations throughout the city of New Haven, Town of Hamden, Bridgeport and Hartford on topics relative to addressing gun-violence and how to address correcting this issue.

### 2013 – TO DATE

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, S.P.O.R.T. ACADEMY INC.**

I am Co-Founder of a local grass-roots non-profit organization called S.P.O.R.T. ACADEMY INC. (Street Poets Cipher Real Truth). We provide lessons in Life Skills through the game of chess, using it as a developmental tool for youth in areas of

- Decision Making
- Problem Solving Skills
- Social and relationship-building skills
- Focus and Concentration along with other key elements to help combat ADHD in youth. Mentoring, Basketball, Financial Literacy as well as help with areas like reading and math are also offered.

### 2012 TO DATE

#### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ORGANIZING, FATHERS CRY TOO!**

I am an active member of Fathers Cry Too, a Men's Support group centered around Fathers of Homicide. Not having any other support groups that are centered and geared towards fathers of

homicide and more towards mothers, this organization has been the perfect place for me to help gather and begin to heal myself and find new value for life.

## EDUCATION

MONTH YEAR

**HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**, CAREER EDUCATION CENTER

Graduated with a high school diploma and attended some college.

## SKILLS

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Able to work independently or with others
- Commitment to reducing gun violence
- Some experience with facilitating meetings and trainings, and/or coordinating coalitions
- Self-motivated
- Comfortable working with survivors of gun violence.
- Team player comfortable working in an incredibly rewarding, fast-paced, quickly evolving environment

## ACTIVITIES

I am a very active member throughout the community, with a passion for life and helping others begin to pick themselves up and learn how to live. I have a clear understanding of the developmental problems within my community and how I can help advocate around. I am a business owner within the City of New Haven as well as a father, uncle, and friend to many throughout the city. Their fight is my fight, and my voice now is theirs. Working with organizations like Project Longevity and many others, speaking with Community Stakeholders, Community Leaders and Members has been an ongoing effort for more than 8 years. Helping to build real, sustainable pathways for success has been my vision and passion because I know that poverty is one of the many root causes of gun-violence and to address it is to address the disease itself.