

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Executive Office of the Mayor

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Mayor Gray Renames District's Youth Leadership Institute in Honor of Marion Barry

Leadership Program Develops Young People into 21st Century Leaders

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Mayor Vincent C. Gray announced today that the Mayor's Youth Leadership Institute (MYLI) has been re-designated as the “Marion Barry Youth Leadership Institute” in honor of the late Councilmember and former Mayor Marion S. Barry, Jr., who passed away on November 23, 2014.

“Among the many causes he championed, Mayor Barry believed strongly in investing in our youth and founded the Mayor’s Youth Leadership Institute in 1979 to give them the tools they need to succeed and impact the future,” Mayor Gray said. ***“It is only fitting that we rename the Mayor’s Youth Leadership Institute in his honor.”***

By way of Administrative Order 2014-338, Mayor Gray re-designated MYLI “to honor the memory of Mr. Barry and his contributions to the governance and progress of the District of Columbia and the welfare of its citizens, which contributions were particularly significant in the nurturing and development of its youth.”

The Marion Barry Youth Leadership Institute (MBYLI) is a four-level, year-round leadership training and development program for young people in the District of Columbia, ages 14-19. The training model emphasizes practical hands-on experience and a holistic approach to developing leaders of the 21st century. Each of the four levels of the training model, Alpha, Beta, Delta and Omega, has a unique focus area:

- The Alpha level focuses on personal growth and development skills;
- The Beta level focuses on community development;
- The Delta level focuses on college exploration and preparation; and
- The Omega level focuses on life skills, career exploration, and places Youth Leaders in internships.

Common training themes throughout the program include:

- Team Building Skills;
- Personal Development;
- Communication Skills;
- Employability Skills;
- Public Speaking;

- City Government Structure;
- Community Service; and
- College/Career Preparation

New participants are recruited in the spring for the MBYLI Summer Intensive Training component. Youth Leaders are selected through a rigorous screening process. The summer portion of training is conducted for six weeks on a local college campus. It includes training seminars, community labs, youth government elections, cultural events, guest speakers and open discussion forums.

The school year component of MBYLI focuses on applying those skills learned during the summer. Activities include community service projects, general body meetings, youth related forums, and additional leadership development training. MBYLI Youth Leaders are also called upon to represent the youth of the District of Columbia at events throughout the city, the country, and the world.

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