

FOR IMMEDIATE FOR RELEASE

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The Official Atlanta Citizen Review Board 2018 Art & Essay Contest

For Virtually Any Citizen in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area
Interested in Expressing Their Views about Relations between
Police and Citizens

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“If I were a police officer, I would be...” is the theme of the 2018 Atlanta Citizen Review Board (ACRB) Art & Essay Contests (A&EC) for virtually any citizen in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area which begins today.

The enthusiastic response by citizens eager to express in art and the written word their feelings about law enforcement resulted in four times as many entries in 2017 than the year before. The contest is open to all grade levels and all age groups.

We all have seen news headlines that have focused on mistrust between citizens and police. ACRB’s aim is to foster better relations and lessen the possibility that future incidents of urban unrest will occur. The agency investigates and mediates alleged cases of police misconduct by sworn officers of the Atlanta Police Department (APD) and Atlanta Department of Corrections. But it also has a mandate to educate the public regarding citizen oversight of law enforcement and individual rights.

The ACRB Art and Essay Contest has over the years targeted one of the most vulnerable members of our community, children and teenagers, who far too often are caught in a dangerous crossfire of mistrust and misinformation. But in 2017, for the first time, entire family members were all able to compete and express their feelings with a stroke of a brush or a pen. The contest provides a platform for all citizens to be heard, unhindered by anything other than their imagination, skills and experiences.

Winners receive gift cards, certificates and an awards reception at Atlanta City Hall. The reception honors not only all the winners, but also their families, school counselors, teachers, principals and librarians who assist and encourage the students during the event. The catered reception at Atlanta City Hall is followed by a special televised recognition ceremony during a meeting of Atlanta City Council where contest winners are recognized, and the winning school with the most entries receives a proclamation signed by the full council membership.

The contest will officially begin on Monday, December 4, 2017. All winners will be announced Monday, April 9, 2018 and notified via certified US Mail by April 16, 2018. For more information, please visit www.acrbgov.org, contact Melisa Reese/Charles Curry at 404 865 8622, or e-mail: mreese@atlantaga.gov/ccurry@atlantaga.gov. If your school is interested in participating, expect an ACRB acknowledgement call and on-going communication to keep you updated on the contest.

The Atlanta Citizen Review Board is an agency of the City of Atlanta