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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**10,000 STRONG BOSTON MOVEMENT ORGANIZES TO IMPACT COMMUNITY
Group Seeks to Address Violence and Cultivate Emerging Leadership
SUNDAY JUNE 22nd 2008 – FRANKLIN PARK PLAYSTEAD – NOON-6PM**

Boston, MA – In response to recent acts of random violence and community cries for Peace and Justice, local organizers have mobilized to hold 10,000 Strong Boston on Sunday June 22nd at the Playstead in Franklin Park. The 10,000 Strong Boston event is held in the spirit of the Historic Million Man March and subsequent Million Woman March, Million Youth March, Millions More Movement and the even more recent 10,000 Men Philly held in Philadelphia October 2007.

“We have been describing it to people like a ‘mini-million man march for Boston’ but we have made some key adjustments to strengthen its impact in Boston.” explained convener Jamarhl Crawford, Boston Chapter Chairman of the New Black Panther Party and Publisher of the Blackstonian Community Newspaper. Crawford continued, *“Many people were critical of the original Million Man March’s focus on men only. We recognize that women must be a part of whatever is being done in our community. They are Mothers, Daughters, Sisters, Aunts. They are the working woman, the backbone of the family and far too often the single parent head of household who is the primary caregiver for the children of our community. We have created an all inclusive movement and moment in which all of our communities can stand in unity. 10,000 Strong Boston is Cross-Generational, Cross-Cultural and Multi-Faith. Whether you are Christian, Muslim or Rasta, Young or Old, Male or Female, Black, Latino, Cape Verdean or Asian, we are all impacted by the same issues of crime, drugs, guns, violence, unemployment, police and prisons. We have suffered together as part of the problem and now we will stand together as part of the solution.”*

10,000 Strong Boston will be a day long event featuring many speakers ranging from Christian & Muslim clergy to professionals, organizers and community activists. Themes will focus on self-empowerment, conflict resolution promoting gang truces, CORI reform, domestic violence, prison reform, youth development and education.

Confirmed speakers include: Rev. Gregory Groover (Charles St. AME), True See Allah (Nation of Islam), Pastor Bruce Wall (Global Christian Ministries), Rev. William Dickerson (Greater Love Tabernacle), Senator Dianne Wilkerson, Councilor Chuck Turner, Councilor Charles Yancey. More to be announced see website for updated information.

10,000 Strong Boston has issued a “Community Contract” as a “Call to Action”, the contract calls for an end to violence and a city wide gang truce. It demands accountability and responsibility for the leadership of the community. The contract demands that radio stations adopt a balance campaign and cease playing music derogatory towards the community. It stresses the need for educational reform and urges the Boston Public Schools to adopt a “truth-based curriculum that is culturally accurate and incorporates a true Black/African history, Latino history, and an updated and true American history.”

For a detailed look at the 10,000 Strong Boston “Community Contract” please see the website: www.10000strongboston.com

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