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**WEST SUBURBAN & CHICAGO LEADERS ANNOUNCE CONCERT AS PART OF
NATIONAL “CONCERT ACROSS AMERICA TO END GUN VIOLENCE”**

Nationwide event to be held Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017

(BERWYN, IL. – SEPT. 8, 2017) As gun violence continues to plague the Chicago area and the nation, a group of residents and non-profit leaders commenced an annual local concert event as part of the national Concert Across America to End Gun Violence. This year’s event will be held on Sunday September 24th, 2017, at Wire in Berwyn, IL.

The concert will run from noon to 10:00 pm, and feature music performances by Marcus Alexander, Fernando Jones, Jodi and David Walker, Michael Palmer and Friends, Mani Jurdan and the Huey Gang, School of Rock Oak Park, The Velvet Jimis, Dg Sax Experience, Ifficial Reggae Movement, Chai Tulani, and Isaiah Makar. There will also be spoken word performers, and a special dance performance from The Roots To Fruit Dancers.

“Gun violence is not isolated to a few Chicago neighborhoods, but becoming increasingly pervasive in all our communities. We cannot depend on politicians or government agencies to end gun violence. All communities, city and suburban, must work together to change the conditions fueling this epidemic and support organizations that are working in our communities to end this cycle of violence at its root; our youth,” says Loren Middleton, event organizer.

Proceeds from this year’s concert benefit BUILD Chicago, which has helped young people in Chicago’s toughest neighborhoods escape the cycle of violence since 1969. In 2016-17 BUILD reached 3,356 young people Isa year in Austin, Humboldt Park, and other low-income communities, including intensive mentoring to 605 of the city’s highest-risk youth. BUILD helps transform youth lives with nationally recognized services that include violence prevention, after school programs, visual arts and music, preparation for post-secondary education and the world of work.

“Concert Across America Chicago-Berwyn couldn’t have come at a better time for us,” said BUILD Executive Director Adam M. Alonso. “To counter the violence epidemic, we’ve dramatically expanded our work, especially in Austin -- the city’s most violent neighborhood in 2016. The good



news is that we are seeing positive results with our youth and the community as a whole. But we need to continue and grow the work. Every young person deserves a chance to go as far as their talents and hard work can take them. Step one is to be safe from gun violence.”

Tickets are \$25. For more info, to make a contribution, sponsor the event, or to buy tickets, visit: <http://www.concertacrossamericachicago-berwyn.com/concert-2017/>

The Concert Across America Chicago-Berwyn is produced by The Veltway Corporation, www.veltway.com, in partnership with The School of Rock Oak Park.

About the Concert Across America

The Concert Across America will take place on Sunday, Sept. 24th. The 25th of September was designated by Congress in 2007 as a day of remembrance for murder victims. The date was adjusted due to respective Concert logistics around the country. This nationwide event will bring together a network of organizations, activists and artists with the dual goals of keeping guns out of dangerous hands and making the issue of illegal guns top of mind for members of Congress, the President, and the American people. Boston was the first city to announce, spearheaded by [Stop Handgun Violence](#). For more information visit www.RememberSept25.org.

About BUILD

BUILD’s mission is to engage at-risk youth in the schools and on the streets, so they can realize their educational and career potential and contribute to the stability, safety and well being of our communities. Since 1969, BUILD has helped tens of thousands of young people in Chicago's most violent neighborhoods to create successful lives and find positive alternatives to the violence and risky behaviors that rob them of their potential. BUILD reaches over 2,000 youth each year, with a focus on Austin, Humboldt Park/West Town, Fuller Park/Grand Boulevard, Hermosa, and East Garfield Park.