

DORCHESTER

At a 9/11 vigil, a call to end violence on a closer front

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In Boston and across the nation, last Monday was a day for remembering those who died in the terrorist attacks of 2001. As the sun set on Grove Hall in Dorchester, 500 people met at Freedom House to march and hold a vigil not only in their honor, but for one of their own who fell to a different kind of violence.

Herman Taylor III was 18 when he was shot and killed on Humboldt Avenue July 12, the city's 37th murder victim of the year. His friends and family have established the Herman Taylor III Memorial Fund to send youths to sports camps, and his death has mobilized nearly two dozen groups, both in the city and in Belmont, where the popular Taylor was to be a senior at Belmont High, to work toward peace. At the candlelight vigil, the 9/11 anniversary was observed, but much of the talk was about the future, and how Taylor's death should be a turning point for the city.

"We are using our pain and anger and transforming it into peace and action," said Clementina Chery of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. "If we don't, then all we will be doing is continuing the cycle of violence. We're saying, 'It's stopping with us.'"

Taylor's family shares that hope. "If we can start with one or two kids . . . I'll start with one," said Taylor's mother, Sarah Coleman. "That'll mean something."

"He was just the best uncle in the world, and I don't think he deserves the way he was treated on that day that he passed away," said his niece, Caiana Luse, 10. "I think because of this march, everyone will start bringing peace to the world."

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