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## **UMOJA DEBATE LEAGUE'S DEBATE SUMMER CAMP RETURNS FOR A THIRD YEAR**

Umoja Debate League is excited to announce the return of its annual Debate Summer Camp for the third consecutive year! In partnership with the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, we are offering a free 10-week debate camp. The camp will focus on developing transferable life skills, with debate as our vehicle to foster critical thinking, conflict resolution, and confidence. Community engagement will also be a key component of the program. We are excited to have 60 students join us for this enriching experience. Our program includes interns from Western Michigan University and Hampton University. Additionally, we have partnered with Grow Detroit Young Talent to include local youth working with us this summer.

The camp begins on June 17th. This year, we are excited to expand our program to include high school students. Middle school sessions will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays, high school sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and every Friday will be dedicated to Friday Funday, where both middle and high school students will participate in educational field trips within the community. These field trips include visits to Umoja Village, Google, Stock X, Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, and the African World Festival, among others.

"I love that the Umoja Debate League is centered on using competitive interscholastic debate as a tool to drive student interest in learning about the city of Detroit. Our young people are motivated by the fun of the game to develop comprehensive and persuasive speeches on topics ranging from city ordinances to federal policy to Pan-Africanism. With that being said, I think the best part of this summer will be taking our kids out of the classroom and into the community where they will have an opportunity to learn about organizations and businesses that are doing incredible work in their own backyard. Through Umoja, students will cultivate relationships that will bloom for a lifetime," said Brooke Kimbrough, Umoja Debate League Program Manager.

Umoja Debate League is committed to providing a supportive and stimulating environment where youth can grow their debating skills and develop meaningful connections within their community. We look forward to an engaging and impactful summer for all participants.

**About Umoja Debate League:** *Umoja Debate League is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that uses debate as our vehicle to teach Detroit youth ages 11-18 transferable life skills, such as critical thinking, confidence, conflict resolution, increased literacy, and self-expression. We provide youth with opportunities to articulate their thoughts and ideas to an audience, develop interpersonal skills within a team environment, and become transformational leaders.*

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