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**LOCAL PROFESSIONALS ADVOCATE FOR YOUTH VOICE AT
DR. RAYNER BROWNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EVENT**

Baltimore, MD— On Wednesday, January 30th, Community Law In Action (CLIA) and Dr. Rayner Browne Elementary School will spotlight three local advocates to promote the power and importance of youth voice in Baltimore City. Over fifty 6th and 7th graders who participate in CLIA's Youth Action Workshop (YAW) program will have the opportunity to hear unique perspectives on advocacy and the power of speaking out from three diverse professionals.

The morning's speakers include:

- **Shodekeh**, a local celebrity and “beatboxing” enthusiast who has overcome challenges that face the validation of his career as a performer. Beatboxing is genre of acapella music sometimes referred to the 5th element of the hip hop genre, and was recently spotlighted on the last season of *American Idol*.
- **ACLU of Maryland Education Reform** is a group of lobbyists who advocate for education reform throughout the Maryland area; and
- **Laura Furr**, CLIA's Director of Advocacy Programs and a community activist.

These individuals offer a true representation of what it means to be an effective advocate. According to Kate Robinson, the Director of Strategic Initiatives for Social Solutions, Inc, “The young people at Rayner Browne Elementary School have vision. Their vision is crucial to the health of our community. This event gives young people a sense of what is possible and what's a head on the journey to becoming a citizen of change. These young people want to be civically engaged and engaged in decisions that affect their lives.”

Community Law In Action (CLIA) is a nonprofit organization working with youth in the Baltimore region. CLIA's mission is to promote genuine youth voice and active citizenship by developing initiatives to support emerging young leaders as they develop into self-empowered, problem-solving individuals and advocates for social change. CLIA's Youth Action Workshops are interactive sessions designed to harness the natural talents of young people and provide a forum where participants can work to address concerns in their schools and neighborhoods. For more information, please visit www.communitylawinaction.org or call 410-706-3875.

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