

Good day. I am Donté from Donte's Boxing Gym, and I am writing in to express the need of boxing programs to be included in budget talks. I personally have benefited from what getting into boxing can do for anybody looking to improve their lives. Through boxing, I have learned how to be more confident, learn how to lead (through various responsibilities in the gym), and how to teach others. It has fundamentally been the best activity of my life. Now, I share what I know to youth all over the county. I am teaching boxing fitness classes through MCPS (Beyond the Bell), have worked with the SON program, and have hired ex juvenile offenders to help them learn how to turn their lives in the right direction.

I have now just created my nonprofit called, "Donte's Boxing & Wellness Foundation". This nonprofit is about helping youth become their best self through boxing. We will also be combating the school-to-prison pipeline through offering boxing fitness classes, scholarships for post secondary education, as well as offering SSL hrs through my program. I believe that partnering with the county, will only help youth from all walks of life benefit from the program that I offer. Please allow for youth to benefit from what I have experienced through great leadership, and exposure to opportunity. I would love to work together. Please provide the means to offer the youth a better "pipeline" to success. If I could do it, they can too. Thank you. www.dontesboxinggym.com / www.dontesfoundation.org