

Plainfield students relish mayoral roles

By Christina Giannantonio|The Star-Ledger

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Plainfield students Jams Perez, Savion Wilson, Yaneth Portillo, mayor Adrian O. Mapp, Rafiya Smith, Derrick Moreno, Denise Shipman, program coordinator, Katherine Rivera and Jordan Harris at Plainfield City Hall for the Mayor for a Day program. Plainfield Schools

PLAINFIELD -- On March 23, Academy for the Arts and Advanced Studies student Savion Wilson stepped into the shoes of Plainfield Mayor Adrian O. Mapp and temporarily took over the reins at city hall.

Wilson was one of the students taking part in the Plainfield Public Schools' "Mayor for a Day" program, and he was chosen to be mayor.

The program, sponsored by the Plainfield Mayor's Office and the Plainfield Public School District, gave students the opportunity to visit city hall, where they spent the day shadowing city administrators and getting a glimpse of how city government works. Attending the program with Wilson were fellow PAAAS students Katherine

Rivera and Jordan Harris, Rafiya Smith and Derrick Moreno from Barack Obama Academy for Academic and Civic Development, and Jams Perez and Yaneth Portillo from Plainfield High School.

As mayor, Wilson also had the opportunity to interview Mapp about recent incidents affecting students such as crime, a student walk-out to protest school budget cuts, and education.

Mapp then addressed the students, reminding them "Anyone of you can be the Mayor of this City, a U.S. Senator, a Legislator in Trenton. The sky is the limit and I want you to know that."

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