

October 30, 2011

# MYLC Notes



## We Will Do Just About Anything

### *Dating violence and bullying in Stamford*

Yep, that's Siedah Altidor of the Mayor's Youth Leadership Council (MYLC) in the cell phone costume at Stamford High on October 28.

"It's so funny watching people's reactions as they walk by," said Siedah. "But that's the point. We grab their attention with a funny costume and then we hand them a flyer with a message about dating violence and bullying."

Sure, we had some people dismiss the activity as another

"MYLC thing," but a lot of people thought it was pretty cool.

"I think it was a big hit," said Emily Bajus of MYLC (holding the sign in the photo). "I was a little surprised by the number of people who thought we were advertising cell phones as physical weapons in dating violence; ya know, hitting a girlfriend or boyfriend with the phone. That happens in some relationships, but we were focusing more on texting as a

weapon in bullying and dating violence. It's such an easy thing to use to harass or emotionally/verbally abuse someone."

In fact, according to Liz Claiborne and Teen Research Unlimited, 65 percent of teens surveyed report that a dating partner has checked up on him/her 10-20-30 times per day on a cell phone.

*The next issue of MYLC Notes looks at Halloween and dating violence.*