

## Acclaimed author to speak at Big Y

SPRINGFIELD - Timothy Black, author of a critically acclaimed book about three brothers growing up on the streets of Springfield's North End, is scheduled to speak Tuesday at an event sponsored by the Mass Mentoring Partnership.

It is his first speaking appearance in Springfield since the publication of his book "When a Heart Turns Solid Rock: The Lives of Three Puerto Rican Brothers On and Off the Streets."

Black was originally scheduled to speak in February, but the event was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

He is to speak from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at Big Y Food Headquarters, 2145 Roosevelt Ave. His appearance is sponsored by the Mass Mentoring Partnership, Big Y Foods and the Regional Employment Board of Hampden County, Inc.

Brown's book presents an 18-year study of three Springfield brothers and the social forces and economic conditions they face as teens and adults in Springfield. It was named the Best Book of the Year by The Washington Post.

Black will speak on his experiences conducting research and answer questions about his role as a mentor at times to each of the three brothers.

Katie Stebbins, Western Massachusetts Director of Mass Mentoring Partnership, said Black's book "underscores the importance and incredible life-changing impact a mentoring relationship can have on a young person."

Seating is limited and advance registration is required. For information, contact Emily Porter at (413) 796-2372 or by e-mail at [eporter@massmentors.org](mailto:eporter@massmentors.org).

