AGENDA ITEM IRS#4

DATE 11-08-07

Memorandum

Tempe

Community Services

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Tom Canasi, Community Services Manager, (480) 350-5305

Date: November 8, 2007

Subject: Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission Annual Report

Tempe's Youth Advisory Commission celebrated its twenty-seventh anniversary of serving the community and representing Tempe's youth this year. Over the years, the Commission has become a model for civic involvement and has been replicated by other communities around the state of Arizona.

On Thursday, November 8, 2007 the Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission (MYAC) will present their 2006-07 annual report. 2007-08 MYAC Chairperson Allie Gorton and MYAC Vice Chairperson Kimberly Trugen will be presenting the information. An overview of this year's Youth Town Hall and a summary of the resulting recommendations will be provided.

City of Tempe

Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission

Youth Town Hall Report

2007

Dear Mayor and City Council:

This has been another exciting year for the Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission (MYAC). Activities organized by MYAC have allowed Tempe's youth to contribute their ideas and assist in the continued development of our city. We would like to thank you for your on-going support of our Commission and its projects.

The events sponsored by MYAC this year were very successful. Student Government Day emphasized the importance and effectiveness of community involvement. High school students were given the opportunity to experience first hand the inner workings of government by shadowing city officials and by participating in a mock City Council meeting.

Our annual Town Hall allowed youth and community leaders to exchange ideas on issues concerning youth. A summary of the dialogue that occurred and the recommendations made are detailed in this report. These recommendations are the original ideas of Tempe's youth to solve problems facing our community.

On behalf of the Commission I would like to thank you again for your dedication and commitment to the youth of Tempe. The successes we have had could not have been achieved without your support.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Trudgen, Youth Town Hall Chairperson
Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission

Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission
2006/2007 Officers

Ben LoBrutto
Chairperson

Jesse Bradbury
Vice Chairperson

Allie Gorton
Administrative Recorder

Carmen Gammage
Treasurer

Rebecca Gammage
Student Government Day Chairperson

Kimberly Trudgen
Youth Town Hall Chairperson

Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission
2006/2007 Members

Arianna Acosta
Alex Austin
Joseph Fraley
Cecilia Iole
Leslie Klein
Caitlin Long
Katelyn Murphy
Corie Owens
Scott Tippett
Gonzalo Vichilis
Samantha Willard

Tempe City Council

Mayor
Hugh Hallman

Vice Mayor
Hut Hutson

Council Members
Ben Arredondo

Barbara Carter

Shana Ellis

Mark Mitchell

Onnie Shekerjian

Tempe Youth Town Hall

Chairperson's Report

Presented by

Kimberly Trudgen

Youth Town Hall Chairperson

February 21, 2007

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission sponsors Tempe's Youth Town Hall each year in order to bring together youth and adults from the community to discuss issues of concern to Tempe's youth and offer recommendations for practical solutions.

This was Tempe's twenty-seventh year to sponsor Youth Town Hall, which was held Wednesday, February 21, 2007 at the Westside Community Center. To ensure input from all sectors of our community, representatives from high schools, middle schools, service clubs, youth organizations, community centers, local businesses, the police department, and juvenile court were invited to participate.

Participants were divided into six discussion groups covering three topic areas. Two groups discussed **Underage Drinking** and two other groups discussed **Internet Safety.** The remaining two groups addressed **Theft/Shoplifting.**

After a welcome by Mayor Hugh Hallman, and a keynote address by Scott Lang, of Scott Lang Leadership Seminars, participants met in their groups. They began discussion of their assigned topics by defining the problem and possible contributing factors. Groups then made recommendations for solutions and focused on those that were practical and could be easily implemented. Youth spokespersons from each of the discussion groups presented their committee's recommendations to all Town Hall participants in the closing general session. These presentations gave those in attendance the opportunity to gain understanding and insight from one another.

The Youth Town Hall Report is available to various agencies, organizations, schools and service clubs for review and as a planning tool in our community. Youth Town Hall provides both youth and adults the opportunity to communicate openly with one another about important issues that affect them. It is hoped that Youth Town Hall will continue to be the model and success it has been in the past.

CITY OF TEMPE YOUTH TOWN HALL AGENDA

Wednesday, February 21, 2007
Westside Community Center
715 West Fifth Street

8:15 - 8:45	**Registration**	Front of Westside Community Center Continental Breakfast served
8:45 - 9:20	**Opening Session**	Westside Community Center Gymnasium
	Introduction	- Ben LoBrutto, MYAC Chairperson
	Welcome	- Mayor Hugh Hallman, City of Tempe
	Keynote Address	- Scott Lang, Scott Lang Leadership Seminars
	Instructions	- Kimberly Trudgen, Youth Town Hall Chairperson

9:30 - 12:00 **Committee Sessions** - Breaks will occur at the discretion of each committee. Refreshments will be available in the meeting rooms.

Committee A - "Underage Drinking - 1"
Westside Community Center – Sunset Room

Committee B - "Underage Drinking - 2"
Westside Community Center – Riverside Room

Committee C - "Internet Safety - 1"
Westside Community Center – Los Vecinos

Committee D - "Internet Safety - 2"
Westside Community Center – Computer Lab

Committee E - "Theft/Shoplifting -1"
Westside Community Center – Lindon Park Room

Committee F - "Theft/Shoplifting - 2"
Westside Community Center – Art Room

12:00 - 1:00 **Lunch** – Provided to all participants at the Westside Community Center
Catered by Dilly's Deli

1:00 – 1:55 **Committee Sessions Resume - Discussion Wrap-Up**

2:00 - 2:30 **Closing Session** – Westside Community Center Gymnasium

Committee Summaries
- Each committee representative will give a 3 to 5 minute summary.
- Closing Remarks – Kimberly Trudgen, Town Hall Chairperson

Underage Drinking - 1

Discussion Summary:

Our discussion group began by identifying the primary factors that contribute to underage drinking. These factors include easy accessibility to alcohol, peer pressure, permissive parental attitudes, pervasive advertising encouraging use, celebrity and personal role models who use/abuse alcohol, distorted perceptions of alcohol use due to media glamorization, unsupervised social events and ignorance of the negative consequences of underage drinking. Parents' personal alcohol use and/or lack of understanding about the physical and social implications of their underage teens' use of alcohol may also be a contributing factor to underage drinking.

Our group then identified some of the adverse consequences of alcohol use and abuse including loss of friendships, involvement in violence, unwanted sexual encounters, motor vehicle accidents, injuries, fatalities, alcohol overdoses that can result in hospitalizations, brain damage and death. Our group was in agreement that uninhibited choices made under the influence of alcohol not only aversely affect the user's lives but also others in our community. Last, our group focused on the need for preventative measures to address underage drinking.

Recommendations:

1. **Provide public service announcements that focus on the consequences of underage drinking.**

   An educational campaign on the consequences of underage drinking could be implemented by the City and/or other special interest groups such as community coalitions, parent-teachers organizations and faith based groups. This campaign could utilize multi-media outlets such as television, radio, newspaper and the internet. The campaign would raise teen and community awareness about the personal, physiological, ethical and social repercussions of underage drinking.

2. **Provide education on alcohol use and abuse in early elementary school.**

   Since the average age when youth first try alcohol is 11 years for boys and 13 years for girls education on the risks of early use of alcohol should begin in early elementary school. This education could be provided by the schools or by nonprofit organizations, parent-teacher organizations, the City or other interest groups.

3. **Provide parent education on underage drinking.**

Parent education could be provided at elementary and high schools, parent-teacher conferences and informational fairs at City community centers. The education should focus on the snowball effect of early alcohol use, how use can lead to other risky and destructive behaviors and how to discuss underage drinking with their children.

Underage Drinking - 1

Facilitators: Tricia Gilman	**City of Tempe - Community Services**
Corie Owens	**Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission**

Youth Participants

Ashley Anderson	Tempe High School
Logan Bellew	Marcos de Niza High School
Heather Bender	Corona del Sol High School
Desirae Crespo	McClintock High School
Erin Higgins	Connolly Middle School
Ryan King	McClintock High School
Olamide Ogunde	Escalante Center – Teen Leadership
Joseph Pongyesvia	Compadre High School
Jake Sondrup	McKemy Middle School
Ben Teoh	Tempe High School
Leah Valenzuela	Corona del Sol High School

Adult Participants

Lindsey Ashmore	Governor's Division for Community & Youth Development
Jennifer Drury	Guadalupe Youth & Young Adult Programs
Zita Johnson	Tempe Union High District Governing Board
Kathleen McLemore	Kyrene Middle School
Tamara Primera	Tempe City Attorney's Office
Wendy Resnik	Tempe Connections Advisory Board
Torre Valentine	Community Bridges

Underage Drinking -2

Our discussion group began by identifying contributing factors to underage drinking. Peer pressure, rebellion towards rules and authority, unsupervised parties, friends of legal drinking age, fake ids, and parents' unlocked liquor cabinets were some of the contributing factors our group felt influenced underage drinking. Our group then identified measures that could prevent or minimize youth from consuming alcohol underage. These include the need for alcohol prevention education for all middle school students, parent and adult education one teen alcohol use, support groups and supervised activities for teens.

Recommendations:

1. **Implement mandatory alcohol prevention education beginning in 6th grade.**

   District-side mandatory alcohol prevention education could be incorporated in school curriculums. The education would focus on the positives of not drinking as well as utilize real stories of teen use/abuse and facts about adverse consequences of drinking.

2. **Sponsor a safe driving support group**

   Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD), Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD) or another local agency could establish a safe driving program to reduce the number of youth driving drunk. The program would provide a ride to youth who need it and it would incorporate an educational component on alcohol use and abuse. Youth who use the service would be charged a nominal fee of $2-$3 or be required to volunteer for SADD.

3. **Provide fun alternative activities for high school and middle students as an alternative to attending parties**

   Additional organized, supervised, alternative night activities for teens could reduce the number of drinking parties. The events could be organized by schools and the City and could include a dance following a football game or city-wide events for students.

Underage Drinking – 2

Facilitators: Sanja Sobo	**City of Tempe – Community Services**
Ben LoBrutto	**Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission**

Youth Participants

David Aragon	Compadre High School
Derek Felten	Corona del Sol High School
Breanna Hale	Gililland Middle School
Michael Hernandez	Kyrene Middle School
Natalie Jones	Fees Middle School
Gabriela Lopez	Escalante Center – Teen Leadership
Fernando Irving Sanchez Molina	Fees Middle School
Garron Park	Marcos de Niza High School
Mandie Vidaure	Corona del Sol High School

Adult Participants

Mercedes Blunt	City of Tempe – Parks & Recreation Dept.
Barbara Miller	County Attorney's Office
Erika Moyen	City of Tempe – Social Services Division
Rick Rager	Tempe Municipal Court
Heather Rennells	Kyrene Middle School
Renae Rosales	ValueOptions

Internet Safety - 1

Discussion Summary:

Our group began by identifying a number of areas on the internet where teens and younger children are at risk for victimization. These included identity theft, exploitation by sexual predators, harassment by other teens, and even kidnapping. Most of our student participants knew a teen that had been approached by someone on-line who was probably a predator. There was also agreement in our group that bullying and harassment of others over the internet was fairly common. Another common thread was students felt that adults in their lives were relatively unaware of Internet safety issues and what to do about them.

Nearly all the middle school and high school participants in our group have received some education through their school on internet safety. However, not all areas of risk were covered, including the use of unsecured wireless internet, protecting passwords, and "phishing". All student participants were in agreement that adults have much less knowledge and experience with the Internet then them. They also felt that elementary and middle school students were especially at risk because they do not have as much awareness about the problems that can occur when they give away their personal information over the internet. The teens participants expressed a desire for their parents and the parents of their peers to become more technology savvy.

Specific Internet safety concerns identified during this discussion were:

- Sexual predators
- Identity theft/phishing
- Bullying/Harassment
- Kidnapping
- Password security
- Stolen notebooks
- Viruses

Recommendations:

1. **Establish mandatory internet safety quizzes for internet users.**

   The school districts could require youth using their computers to pass an Internet safety quiz on a regular basis. This would reinforce to everyone the need and importance of internet safety.

2. **Provide peer led internet safety education in the schools.**

   Since students are more likely to pay attention to their peers than adults' high school student groups, such as the Teen Angels Club, could go to middle schools and high schools to educate students about Internet safety.

3. **Offer internet safety workshops.**

   School districts could offer workshops on internet safety. Students, campus resource officers, library technicians, and other experts could teach the workshops.

4. **Incorporate the topic of internet safety into English class writing assignments.**

   Internet safety could be used as a writing prompt topic in English classes and then discussed with the class to increase awareness and knowledge.

5. **Provide tips on internet safety in school progress reports.**

   Tips on internet safety and announcements about upcoming workshops could be sent home with school progress reports.

Internet Safety - 1

Facilitators: Lynette Stonefeld	**Tempe/Kyrene Communities in Schools**
Scott Tipppett	**Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission**

Youth Participants

Emily Foree	Marcos de Niza High School
Sara Hayden	Corona del Sol High School
Ali Lutz	Fees Middle School
Alyssa Martinez	Tempe High School
Taryn Mayer	Compadre High School
Diana Romero	Escalante Center – Teen Leadership
Leticia Sanchez	Marcos de Niza High School
Ildefonsa Solaiza	Connolly Middle School
Clint Vierra	Kyrene Middle School

Adult Participants

Jim Lemmon	Tempe Elementary School District Governing Board
Christopher Macaluso	Tempe Elementary School District
Ariel Mori	Guadalupe Youth & Young Adult Programs
David Schapira	Arizona House of Representatives
Maja Aurora Switzer	City of Tempe – Escalante Community Center

Internet Safety - 2

Discussion Summary:

Our discussion group began by reviewing the background information provided to them on internet safety. Youth and adults in our group commented they did not realize how much information they were giving out over the internet and also how information given on the internet sites such as MySpace could be used to bring harm individuals. Discussion then focused primarily on the positives and negatives of MySpace and similar internet sites. Group members felt these sites were positive as they provide youth and adults with a way to communicate with one another and develop friendships. However, both youth and adults agreed that internet sexual predators are very prevalent and youth can be victimized through these internet sites. The group also focused on cyber-bullying. Many adults in our group commented this was the first time that they were educated about the bullying issues that happen online. All agreed that cyber-bullying is a major problem.

Our group then focused on youth access to computers. They noted that most school computers have firewalls which block out inappropriate web sites. Both the youth and the adults in our group were in agreement that most internet safety issues happen on home computers. However many parents are not aware of internet safety issues and resources. Our group was in consensus that education is the key to ensuring internet safety and this education should begin in elementary school.

Recommendations:

1. **Provide internet safety information through city mailings such as the water bill.**

   Information and tips on internet safety could be inserted in the City water bill and other mass mailings. The purpose would be to provide information to parents who receive the bill since parents are the main source for preventing internet victimization of their children.

2. **Implement mandatory internet safety education in the schools.**

   Elementary, middle and high schools could establish mandatory internet safety education. The purpose would be to educate students about the dangers of the internet and how not to become victimized by providing too much information. This education could be peer led and provided by Phone Friend or similar peer leadership organizations. The education could be offered during health class, assemblies or freshman orientations.

3. Offer an education video on internet safety.

The school districts could create or purchase an educational video on internet safety that could be shown to all students in school. Similarly the City could show an educational video on Channel 11.

4. Develop a Public Service Announcement contest on internet safety.

A public service announcement contest for youth on internet safety could be sponsored by the Maricopa Association of Governments or another organization. The purpose of this contest would be to heighten public awareness of internet safety. Participation in the contest could be part of an extracurricular activity or community service hours for students.

Internet Safety - 2

Facilitators: Amanda Franklund	**Peer Solutions, Inc.**
Allie Gorton	**Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission**

Youth Participants

Steven Arroyo	Gililland Middle School
Kimberly Bradley	Fees Middle School
Ashley Laidlaw	Corona del Sol High School
Suri Lopez	Tempe High School
Mitchell Lyons	Kyrene Middle School
Julia MacDonald	Marcos de Niza High School
Malika Martin	Kyrene Middle School
Kay Shaeffer	Fees Middle School
Calin Solomon	McKemy Middle School
Tim Taylor	Marcos de Niza High School

Adult Participants

Bob Blatz	Boys and Girls Clubs of the East Valley
Julie Hackman	Kyrene Middle School
Emily Harris	Tempe Elementary School District
Nanette Lubin	Valley of the Sun United Way
Lisette Robles	Association for Supportive Child Care
Christina Tremaine	Tempe Elementary School District

Theft/Shoplifting - 1

Discussion Summary:

While theft and shoplifting from stores and in the community was discussed, the main focus of our group's discussion was on theft of property at school. Students indicated that theft of personal property is common. Factors identified as contributing to theft include youth not thinking it's wrong to steal, the pressure to have i-pods and other expensive times, not understanding the consequences of theft, and not using common sense in safeguarding personal property. Participants agreed that a combination of education, consequences and increased security could be effective in reducing theft at schools, but personal awareness and responsibility must also be emphasized.

Recommendations:

1. **Implement or continue integrity instruction programs.**

   Programs such as "Character Counts" should be part of the school curriculum. The curriculum should be evaluated and updated on a regular basis with input from students as to content. More classroom discussion and role-playing, as opposed to simply viewing videos, was felt to be most effective.

2. **Have police presentations in schools.**

   The school resource officer at each school could present a program in the classroom or at an assembly informing students of the problems and consequences of theft. These presentations should give facts and statistics about theft, the consequences of theft, and information about how to avoid being a victim.

3. **Improve schools' Silent Witness programs.**

   The process for reporting incidents at school could be improved to ensure that students are not subjected to pressure or ridicule from their peers. Reporting incidents by e-mail and conversing with school staff by e-mail rather than being called to the school office was preferred by all students.

4. **Increase student awareness and personal responsibility.**

   Reminders to students to safeguard their personal property could occur through announcements and posters. Students who turn in found property or perform other good deeds in school could be recognized in announcements and newsletters.

5. **Increase security.**

   Schools could identify "hot spots" of criminal activity, such as locker rooms, and have security staff or student volunteers monitor these areas more closely. Schools could consider security cameras at doorways of these areas.

Theft/Shoplifting - 1

Facilitators: Rebecca Bond	**Tempe Connections**
Caitlyn Long	**Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission**

Youth Participants

Marlene Aguilar	Fees Middle School
Monique Charles	Tempe High School
Matt Culbertson	McClintock High School
Tatum Hartwig	Kyrene Middle School
Ashley Luttenegger	Corona del Sol High School
Shelby Martinek	Gililland Middle School
Carly Robertson	Kyrene Middle School
Dulce Segura	Connolly Middle School
David Stout	Compadre High School
Meghan Wentz	Kyrene Middle School

Adult Participants

Christy Alonzo	Governor's Division for Children
Linda Cano	City of Tempe-Adapted Recreation
Eric Coronado	Guadalupe Youth & Young Adult Programs
Ric Garza	The Poisoned Pen Mystery Bookstore, Tempe Resident & Retired Phoenix Police Sergeant
Joe Gibbs	Tempe Resident
Margot O'Donnal	Gililland Middle School

Theft/Shoplifting - 2

Discussion Summary:

Our group discussion began by focusing on why teens steal. The group agreed that peer pressure was one of the most common reasons for teen theft and shoplifting. The group also identified a number of other reasons teens steal, including acting on opportunities, for excitement, because they are too embarrassed, or of not of age, to purchase items (i.e. condoms, alcohol), to make money selling stolen items, and to get back at stores or a parent. Our group then discussed the consequences of theft and shoplifting on the individual, victims, and the community as a whole.

Recommendations:

1. **Establish mandatory theft/shoplifting education for middle and high students.**

   The middle and high school districts as a part of annual mandatory health classes could include information on the problems and consequences of theft and shoplifting. The school resource officers could provide information on the consequences of theft and shoplifting as well as tips on how to avoid being a victim of theft.

2. **Provide peer led workshops on resisting peer pressure.**

   The City, school districts, or private agencies could offer "Teens Talking to Teens" presentations. They would be led by a teen or teen panel. The presenters would be past perpetrators and victims of theft. The presentations would emphasize the impact and consequences of peer pressure and how to stand up for personal values. They could be offered through mandatory school assemblies and/or through the Tempe Union High School District's No Parent Left Behind University.

3. **Provide family groups focused on prevention strategies.**

   Monthly presentations on "prevention awareness" could be developed for family groups, where parents and children would discuss issues commonly facing teens. Teens who have been caught stealing and their families could be referred to the groups. The groups would focus on the influences of negative peer pressure and the consequences of shoplifting and theft. Involving both parents and their teens would improve family communication and awareness.

4. Sponsor a theft prevention awareness campaign on school campuses.

The Tempe schools could make school announcements and hang up posters that remind students to secure their personal property and provide tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of theft. The theft awareness campaign would increase students' awareness of theft in the schools and reinforce their personal responsibility for their property.

Theft/Shoplifting - 2

Facilitators: Mickie Berry	**City of Tempe – Community Services**
Jesse Bradbury	**Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission**

Youth Participants

Cassandra Joquez	Gililland Middle School
Victor Le Mai	Marcos de Niza High School
Leelynn Loessi	McKemy Middle School
Stephanie Pesqueira	Tempe High School
Megan Richwine	Corona del Sol High School
Julio Romero	Escalante Center – Teen Leadership
Mitchel Stover	Kyrene Middle School
Hailey Tropsa	Kyrene Middle School
Kasey Turner	Corona Del Sol High School
Tiffany Veschio	McClintock High School

Adult Participants

Patricia Hillman	Tempe Elementary School District
Jeff Millen	Tempe Police Department
Nancy Taylor	Center for Healing Play, Inc.
Patty Walters	Chicanos Por La Causa

The Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission would like to extend a special thanks to the East Valley Boys and Girls Club - Tempe/Ladmo Branch. Their assistance in hosting this year's Youth Town Hall at the Westside Community Center contributed to the event's success.