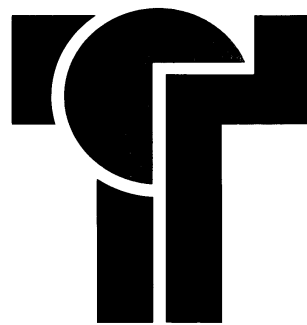


**City of Tempe**

**Mayor's Youth Advisory  
Commission**

**Youth Town Hall Report**

**2012**



**Dear Mayor and City Council:**

**This has been another productive 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. We developed and provided the "Get Fit, Don't Sit Healthy Habits" project which promoted the importance being fit and healthy eating to elementary school aged children. The project was very well received by Kid Zone students and we hope to continue similar community service projects in the future.**

**Our annual Town Hall allowed youth and community leaders to exchange ideas on issues concerning youth. A summary of the dialogue that occurred and recommendations made at Youth Town Hall 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,**

**Dirk Fenstermacher, Chair  
Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission**

**Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission  
2011/2012 Officers**

**Dirk Fenstermacher  
Chair**

**Jeremy Cappello Lee  
Vice Chair**

**Jesica Ast  
Administrative Recorder**

**Dominic Bonelli  
Treasurer**

**Anjali Nair  
Youth Town Hall Chair**

**Chris Vega  
Community Service Project Chair**

**Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission  
2011/2012 Members**

**Katie Barone  
Raquel Camarena  
Tyler Foggatt  
Brooklyn Gauthier  
April Hutchins  
Amanda Milovich  
Zach Mitchell  
Ben Moffat  
Will Morgan  
Ashley Noble  
John Osgood  
An Tran  
Grayce Whiting  
Humza Zubair**

# **Tempe City Council**

**Mayor  
Mark Mitchell**

**Vice Mayor  
Onnie Shekerjian**

**Council Members  
Robin Arredondo-Savage**

**Shana Ellis**

**Kolby Granville**

**Joel Navarro**

**Corey Woods**

**Tempe Youth Town Hall**

**Report**

**Presented by**

**Anjali Nair**

**Youth Town Hall Chair**

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

This was Tempe's thirty-second year to sponsor Youth Town Hall, which was held Wednesday, February 23, 2012 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 “**Addressing Bullying**” and two other groups discussed “**Enhancing Driving and Pedestrian Safety.**” The remaining two groups addressed “**Preventing Marijuana Use.**”

After enjoying welcoming comments by then Mayor Hugh Hallman participants met in their issue groups. They began discussion of their assigned topic 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 each other.

The Youth Town Hall Report is available to various agencies, organizations, schools and service clubs to review and use as a planning tool in our community. We hope that Youth Town Hall will continue to be a success and a model on how to effectively get input directly from youth on issues that impact them.

**CITY OF TEMPE YOUTH TOWN HALL AGENDA**

**Thursday, February 23, 2012  
Westside Community Center  
715 West Fifth Street**

- 8:10 - 8:30**      **Registration**                      **Front of Westside Community Center**  
*Continental Breakfast provided*
- 8:30 - 8:50**      **Opening Session** Westside Community Center Gymnasium
- Welcome**                      -                      **Dirk Fenstermacher, MYAC Chairperson**
- Comments** -                      **Mayor Hugh Hallman, City of Tempe**
- Instructions**                      - **Anjali Nair, Youth Town Hall Chairperson**
- 9:00 – 11:40**      **Committee Sessions** - Breaks will occur at the discretion of each committee.
- Committee A - "Addressing Bullying - 1"**  
                    Westside Community Center – Sunset Room
- Committee B - "Addressing Bullying - 2"**  
                    Westside Community Center – Riverside Room
- Committee C - "Enhancing Driving & Pedestrian Safety- 1"**  
                    Westside Community Center – Los Vecinos
- Committee D - "Enhancing Driving & Pedestrian Safety- 2"**  
                    Westside Community Center – Computer Lab
- Committee E - "Preventing Marijuana Use -1"**  
                    Westside Community Center – Lindon Park Room
- Committee F - "Preventing Marijuana Use - 2"**  
                    Westside Community Center – Art Room
- 11:40 – 12:30**      **Lunch** – Provided to all participants at the Westside Community Center  
*Catered by Dilly's Deli*
- 12:35 – 1:40**      **Committee Sessions Resume - Discussion Wrap-Up**
- 1:45 - 2:05**      **Closing Session** – Westside Community Center Gymnasium
- Committee Summaries**  
                    *Each committee representative will give a 3 to 5 minute summary.*
- Closing Remarks** – **Anjali Nair, Town Hall Chairperson**



# **Addressing Bullying - 1**

## **Discussion Group Summary:**

Our group began by identifying the victims of bullying, where and how they are bullied, and the impact of bullying, which includes depression, self-mutilation (cutting), and even suicide. Our group also shared personal stories on how bullying has impacted their lives, and how bullying can negatively affect school environment. Youth participants were in consensus that bullying is often seen by their peers as “no big deal” or “entertainment” where students record fights, post it to YouTube, and also share it on social networking sites. The group felt that some youth are afraid to report bullying as they fear the bullying will get worse or that their parents will take away their electronic devices which youth value highly. The top issues identified by our group were a lack of awareness by adults – parents, teachers, and youth leaders - of the extent of bullying and also youth who do not report bullying to adults.

## **Recommendations:**

### **1. Offer parent education to increase awareness on social media and bullying.**

Teens online interactions impact how safe they feel and how they interact with each other. Workshops could be offered by the schools in partnership with the City and/or community agencies that educate parents about common social networking websites and usage and how they are associated with bullying. The workshop curriculum should be developed with input from youth. Parents who attend the workshops would then be in a better position to support and monitor their childrens’ online activities at home.

### **2. Provide training to school staff on bullying and prevention/intervention skills.**

Bullying could be reduced school-wide by having more staff trained on bullying and how to enforce no tolerance school policies. Schools could implement staff training through already occurring staff meetings. Students should be invited to consult with faculty on developing the training. Schools professional development funding could be utilized to support the training.

### **3. Implement a school text line or call line for reporting bullying issues.**

A text line or call line could be implemented at each school to provide students with a safe way to report school issues, including bullying. School districts could provide a cell phone to school administrators for this purpose. District technology funding or

maintenance and operations funding could be utilized, and fundraising could also occur through a bully prevention club, to support the lines.

**4. Create and implement public service announcements on bullying.**

Public service announcements that increase awareness of bullying and its negative effects on youth could be created and provided in schools, on the City's Channel 11, in local movie theatres, and through other local media outlets. School Gay-Straight Alliance Clubs could create the PSA's in school video production or news crew classes, where equipment and resources are already available. They could also partner with other educational institutions and organizations to develop the PSA's.

# **Addressing Bullying- 1**

**Facilitators: Amanda Hamm  
An Tran**

**Kyrene School District  
Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission**

## **Youth Participants**

Christian Brown  
Tyler Curry  
Jonathan Garza  
Jazin Hodge  
Hannah Iskandar  
Lyuban Kapko  
Amber Kennedy  
Gabriel Lopez  
Miya Luccs  
Nicole Riley  
Emelia Rosario  
Nia Smith  
Darya Tehranchi  
Tyler Thompson

Fees College Preparatory Middle School  
Tempe High School  
Tempe Preparatory Academy  
Connolly Middle School  
Corona del Sol High School  
Tempe Preparatory Academy  
McClintock High School  
Gililland Middle School  
McClintock High School  
Compadre Academy  
Tempe High School  
Tempe High School  
Kyrene Middle School  
Corona del Sol High School

## **Adult Participants**

Stephanie Armstrong  
Larry Baggs  
Barbara Bratina  
Benjmain Husig  
Rochelle Wells

Tempe Union High School District  
Tempe Police Department  
Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Dept.  
ASU  
TESD Governing Board

# **Addressing Bullying - 2**

## **Discussion Group Summary:**

Our group began by identifying the various types of bullying experienced by students. These include verbal, physical, cyber, non-verbal and exclusion. The group then focused on the ramifications of bullying for the victim. There was consensus that bullying creates low self-esteem and can result in serious problems including depression, poor academic performance, suicidal ideation, and completed suicide. Our group then discussed how the issue of bullying is handled by teens, parents and school officials. The group felt there was a lack of awareness by school staff and parents on how widespread bullying has become, especially in social media. Teen group members felt bullying is often viewed as “just part of life” and that it should instead be taken more seriously by both adults and youth. While there are clear bullying policies and consequences established at all three districts teen participants felt school administrators were inconsistent in taking action in bullying cases and in the sanctions given to bullies. Our group was in consensus that youth and adults need more information on bullying and how we can all more effectively address it.

## **Recommendations:**

### **1. Implement a school-wide informational campaign to students on bullying policies, procedures and sanctions.**

While information on bullying policies, procedures and sanctions are provided in the three school districts student handbooks many students are apparently not aware of these policies, the possible sanctions, and why bullying cases are not all handled the same. Providing a school wide informational campaign on bullying that includes district policies, procedures and and sanctions would address existing student perceptions that enforcement and sanctions are inconsistent. It would also increase the likelihood that students would seek help from school personnel to address bullying.

### **2. Provide adult education and training on bullying.**

The school districts, City, and/or community agencies could provide trainings, workshops, and other informational sessions to school personnel, parents, and caregivers on current trends in bullying and how to effectively identify and address bullying. The school personnel trainings should also emphasize existing district policies and sanctions for bullying and how to effectively and consistently enforce those policies.

### **3. Implement peer mediation programs to address bullying.**

Peer mediation programs, such as the Ambassadors Program at Gilliland Middle School, could be implemented in all middle and high schools. The program could be overseen by an adult and have students trained to address actual bullying situations and other teen interpersonal conflicts. The program would also help promote a school environment that does not tolerate bullying and give teens valuable problem-solving and conflict resolution skills.

# **Addressing Bullying – 2**

**Facilitators: Kristen Scharlau  
Ben Moffat**

**City of Tempe – Community Services  
Mayor’s Youth Advisory Commission**

## **Youth Participants**

Priscilla Clark  
Maria Eller  
Kylie Homes  
Blake Jones  
Aaron Kassing  
Sonia Malek  
Gillian Monty  
Ferris Saad  
Massiah Smith  
Avery Tomasi

Fees College Preparatory Middle School  
McClintock High School  
Kyrene Middle School  
Corona del Sol High School  
Connolly Middle School  
Tempe Preparatory Academy  
Kyrene Middle School  
McClintock High School  
Marcos de Niza High School  
McClintock High School

## **Adult Participants**

Angela Alvarez  
Kimberly Law Woods  
Cheryl Starky  
Susan Voirol

Association for Supportive Child Care  
Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Dept.  
Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Dept.  
Tempe Union High School District

# **Enhancing Driving & Pedestrian Safety – 1**

## **Discussion Group Summary:**

Our group began by identifying the top reasons drivers and pedestrians become distracted. These include high emotions, loud music, texting, making and receiving phone calls, and simply not paying attention to the road. We were in consensus that Tempe streets are pedestrian friendly and so we primarily focused on how to improve driver safety. Our group felt that increasing awareness of the dangers of distracted driving is key to assisting teens and adults to become more attentive on the road.

## **Recommendations:**

### **1. Partner with local movie theatres on a distracted driving awareness campaign.**

While there are some existing media messages that focus on the dangers of using your cell phone while driving they are not very visible. PSA's or still ads in movie theatres are one way to reach a larger audience of teens and other drivers. The City and/or other relevant agencies and organizations could partner with local movie theatres and other media outlets to show existing media messages on distracted driving. New media messages could also be developed.

### **2. Provide family forums on distracted driving.**

The school districts, the City, law enforcement agencies, students, community organizations, victims, and parents could partner to provide a forum on distracted driving that targets families/teens. The forum could be hosted at schools and would include information on the dangers of distracted driving and tips on driving safety. The forums could also have participants agree to and sign a pledge to promote safe driving within their family.

### **3. Enhance high school driver's education curriculum.**

High schools that offer driver's education class could revise their curriculums to provide an in-depth discussion on the dangers of driving while distracted. In existing curriculums driving while impaired or texting are only briefly discussed. If greater emphasis is placed on these topics young drivers will have greater awareness of the risks of distracted driving and may reduce unsafe driving practices..

# **Enhancing Driving & Pedestrian Safety - 1**

**Facilitators: Isela Blanc  
Will Morgan**

**Tempe Community Council  
Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission**

## **Youth Participants**

Aniesia Acevedo  
Matthew Askins  
Nataly Cruz  
Mohammad Halloam  
Monay Marshall  
Christopher Moffitt  
Kaitlin Scowen  
Alex Shaw  
Andy Zhou

McClintock High School  
Corona del Sol High School  
Marcos de Niza High School  
McClintock High School  
McClintock High School  
Tempe Preparatory Academy  
Corona del Sol High School  
Marcos de Niza High School  
Kyrene Middle School

## **Adult Participants**

Jayson Matthews  
Mark Wertsching

Tempe Community Council  
Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Dept.



# **Enhancing Driving and Pedestrian Safety - 2**

## **Discussion Group Summary:**

Our group began by identifying how teens are distracted while driving and walking. The group was in consensus that a main distractor is reading and sending texts while driving and walking. Other distractions include eating, smoking, listening to music, and talking to other passengers within the vehicle. Jaywalking, especially near schools, was also identified as a problem. Our group then focused on some of the severe consequences of driving and walking while distracted and developed some recommendations to address distracted teen driving and pedestrian safety.

## **Recommendations:**

### **1. Implement a media campaign on the dangers of distracted driving/walking.**

The City and/or other relevant agencies and community organizations could partner on a media campaign on distracted driving/walking while texting to increase public awareness. Youth adversely impacted by texting while driving and walking could appear in the campaign, which could include billboard ads, school announcements and public service announcements. Social media sites, such as Facebook and Twitter, could also be utilized.

### **2. Provide City-wide youth oriented responsible driving community event.**

High school and Arizona State University student organizations could collaborate with the City, local agencies and community organizations, local politicians, community leaders, businessmen, and well known athletes, to provide a large-scale community event that has a responsible driving theme. The event could include informational booths, displays, and presentations on the dangers of distracted driving and on driving safety.

### **3. Explore implementing a city-wide ban on texting while driving.**

Efforts to pass a state-wide ban on texting while driving have not succeeded despite evidence on how dangerous it is. The City of Tempe could explore developing and passing an ordinance that bans texting and driving that is similar to the City of Phoenix's ordinance. Doing so would improve driver safety by increasing awareness about the dangers of texting while driving and would also deter some drivers from texting and driving as it would be against the law and there could be legal consequences for violating the law.

# **Enhancing Driving & Pedestrian Safety – 2**

**Facilitators: Tricia Gilman                      City of Tempe - Community Services**  
**Jeremy Cappello Lee                      Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission**

## **Youth Participants**

Paul Elvira	Marcos de Niza High School
Marjorie Gonzalez	Tempe High School
Lauren LaGioia	Corona del Sol High School
Anais Ramierez	Marcos de Niza High School
Quinn Robertson	Corona del Sol High School
Jovaughn Stiger	Compadre Academy
Alejandro Zavala	Connolly Middle School
Donald Zyriek	Marcos de Niza High School

## **Adult Participants**

Judi Baumann	Tempe City Attorney's Office
Bill Hazell	Tempe Union High School District
Regina Molina	Tempe Elementary School District
Diane Welling	Tempe Union High School District

# **Preventing Marijuana Use – 1**

## **Discussion Summary:**

Our group began by identifying some of the causes of teen marijuana use. Easy accessibility, peer pressure, curiosity, boredom, stress, and using as an escape from problems were identified as the reasons for use. In addition our group felt media influences teen use through its glamorization of the drug and its minimization of the harms and that this plays a large role in 'normalizing' marijuana use. Our group then focused on identifying the consequences of teen marijuana use, which include dependency issues, loss of motivation, poor attention span, low grades, memory loss, and poor family relationships. and solutions to deter use. Youth members felt the use of marijuana during school negatively impacts all students and that school administrations need to take a direct approach in addressing this problem. There was consensus that early prevention education is also needed to help more effectively curb use and should include students, all school personnel, parents and the community as a whole. Our group ended by focusing its recommendations on education, accountability and intervention strategies.

## **Recommendations:**

### **1. Offer marijuana prevention education to youth, parents, teachers and other adults.**

The tri-districts could partner with the City and community agencies to provide students, parents, school personnel with factual information on the effects and consequences of marijuana use. Student education should be age appropriate, relevant, and continuous throughout elementary, middle, and high school. Parent and other adult education could be offered through presentations, public awareness announcements and social media to support a unified, consistent message regarding marijuana use.

### **2. Implement a tri-district school policy on student marijuana use.**

The three school districts could work together to ensure they implement a unified policy on student marijuana use that focuses on non-punitive intervention while also holding students accountable. The policy should keep students in school, if possible, while addressing substance abuse problems through counseling and treatment.

**3. Provide comprehensive intervention services to students possessing and/or using marijuana.**

The school districts could partner with the City or community agencies to provide intervention services for students found in possession of marijuana, or suspected of being under the influence of marijuana, at school. Students could attend an education program focusing on substance abuse and/or health issues. Peer led presentations such as 'Not My Kid' could also be utilized as teens are more willing to listen to others who have had similar experiences. Community service hours could also be required. Students in need of more intensive services could be offered services that assist them in continuing their education, rather than be suspended from school. Parents could be required to attend counseling sessions with their teen. Last, an on campus support group could be provided and available to all students.

# **Preventing Marijuana Use- 1**

**Facilitators: Mickie Berry  
Chris Vega**

**City of Tempe – Community Services  
Mayor’s Youth Advisory Commission**

## **Youth Participants**

Gabriel Arviso  
Scarlett Boquilla  
Tayler Everts  
Serenity Freeman  
Amy Foulk  
Hannah Gur-Arie  
Reagan Griffith  
Eli Imadali  
Stephany Leon  
Sergio Leon  
Oscar Ramirez-Rivera  
Kaytlyn St Yves  
Macy Zimmick

Marcos de Niza High School  
McClintock High School  
Kyrene Middle School  
Compadre Academy  
Compadre Academy  
Corona del Sol High School  
Marcos de Niza High School  
Corona del Sol High School  
McClintock High School  
Compadre Academy  
McClintock High School  
Tempe High School  
Connolly Middle School

## **Adult Participants**

Christine Busch  
Bobbie Cassano  
Jeremy Edmonds  
Rick Horvath  
Josie Montenegro

Tempe Elementary School District  
Tempe Community Council  
Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Dept.  
Tempe Elementary School District  
Tempe Police Department

# **Preventing Marijuana Use – 2**

## **Discussion Group Summary:**

Our group began by discussing some of the reasons teens use marijuana. Lack of knowledge about the harms of marijuana use, media influences, peer pressure, curiosity, and using as a means to escape personal problems and stressors were all identified as factors. Our group then discussed some of the consequences of teen marijuana use, including brain impairment, poor academic performance, school drop-out, and progression to other drug use. Our group was in consensus that marijuana use is a problem amongst teens, there is a need for youth and adults to have current information on marijuana use, and stronger action is needed by schools to address student use that both holds students accountable and also provides counseling and other services.

## **Recommendations:**

### **1. Explore implementing student drug testing and other enforcement strategies on school campuses.**

Random drug testing of students and random use of police drug dogs to detect marijuana on school campuses would provide a strong message to all students that marijuana use is not acceptable and will not be tolerated on school campuses. It could also assist in deterring student marijuana use.

### **2. Offer an “alternatives to suspension” program for students caught using marijuana on school campuses.**

An in-school suspension program could be developed as an alternative to the typical two-week school suspension given to students caught using marijuana. The program could include community service work, substance abuse education/groups, and referral to appropriate counseling services. This program would hold students more accountable, rather than giving them “free time” away from school, and would also intervention services that address reasons behind the student’s use.

### **3. Provide updated, relevant prevention education to middle school students.**

Since teens typically begin experimenting with marijuana between ages 12 to 14 marijuana prevention education that utilizes updated curriculums and videos should be integrated into middle school classes. School assemblies using “Not My Kid” presenters could also be incorporated into school prevention activities.

#### **4. Implement mandatory middle and high school teacher trainings on teen substance use.**

Teachers are in a position to both observe what is occurring with their students as well as to intervene and provide assistance and resources. Providing training to teachers on substance use, including marijuana, and giving them strategies to intervene with students, would enable teachers to more effectively identify and intervene with students in need of services. Having teachers effectively trained in the area of substance abuse could also create a school environment where teens would be more comfortable to seek help.

# **Preventing Marijuana Use - 2**

**Facilitators: Cassidy Olson  
Jessica Ast**

**Tempe Community Council  
Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission**

## **Youth Participants**

Timothy Brenden  
Natasha Burrell  
Saskia Davies  
Lupita Escobedo  
Steven Garcia  
Mattie Holly  
Alison Kerns  
Matthew King  
Suhani Patel  
Amanda Patikan  
Kayla Phillips  
Andrew Tate

Corona del Sol High School  
Corona del Sol High School  
Corona del Sol High School  
Fees College Preparatory Middle School  
McClintock High School  
Kyrene Middle School  
Compadre Academy  
McClintock High School  
McClintock High School  
McClintock High School  
Tempe Preparatory Academy  
Corona del Sol High School

## **Adult Participants**

Kelly Alexander  
Jon Evans  
Elena Hernandez  
Randy Lazar  
Brandon Romnon  
Ellen Schrader

Kyrene School District  
Tempe Police Department  
Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Dept.  
Tempe Union High School District  
Corona de Sol High School  
Tempe Municipal Court