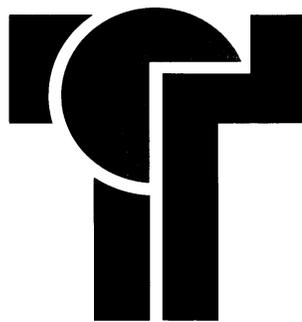


City of Tempe

**Mayor's Youth Advisory
Commission**

Youth Town Hall Report

2011



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 provided the "Reading Rocks" program, which promoted the importance of reading to elementary school aged children. The project was very well received by Kid Zone students and we hope to continue "Reading Rocks" and other 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. Our successes could not have been achieved without your support.

Sincerely,

**Nicholas Gaitan, Chairperson
Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission**

**Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission
2010/2011 Officers**

**Nicholas Gaitan
Chairperson**

**Maria Eller
Vice Chairperson**

**Kaylee Wong
Administrative Recorder**

**An Tran
Treasurer**

**Lauren Milovich
Youth Town Hall Chairperson**

**Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission
2010/2011 Members**

**Katie Barone
Jeff Darge
Dirk Fenstermacher
Varun Gregory
Rafael Gutierrez
Ben Moffat
Will Morgan
Anjali Nair
Ashley Noble
David Reynolds
Katrina Rodrigues
Kristen Rund
Marcos Souffle
Grayce Whiting
Humza Zubair**

Tempe City Council

**Mayor
Hugh Hallman**

**Vice Mayor
Joel Navarro**

**Council Members
Robin Arredondo-Savage**

Shana Ellis

Mark Mitchell

Onnie Shekerjian

Corey Woods

Tempe Youth Town Hall

Chairperson's Report

Presented by

Lauren Milovich

Youth Town Hall Chairperson

February 17, 2011

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 to offer recommendations for practical solutions to these issues.

This was Tempe's thirty-first year to sponsor Youth Town Hall, which was held Wednesday, February 17, 2011 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 **Environmental Sustainability** and two other groups discussed **School Dropout**. The remaining two groups addressed **Teen Sexual Pressure**.

After enjoying welcoming comments by 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 17, 2011
Westside Community Center
715 West Fifth Street**

- 8:00 - 8:30** **Registration** Front of Westside Community Center
Continental Breakfast provided
- 8:30 – 8:50** **Opening Session** Westside Community Center Gymnasium
- Welcome - Nicholas Gaitan, MYAC Chairperson
- Comments - Mayor Hugh Hallman, City of Tempe
- Instructions - Lauren Milovich, Youth Town Hall Chairperson
- 9:00 – 11:40** **Committee Sessions** - Breaks will occur at the discretion of each committee.
- Committee A - "Environmental Sustainability - 1"**
 Westside Community Center – Sunset Room
- Committee B - "Environmental Sustainability - 2"**
 Westside Community Center – Riverside Room
- Committee C - "School Dropout - 1"**
 Westside Community Center – Los Vecinos
- Committee D - "School Dropout - 2"**
 Westside Community Center – Computer Lab
- Committee E - "Teen Sexual Pressure-1"**
 Westside Community Center – Lindon Park Room
- Committee F - "Teen Sexual Pressure- 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**
- 1:40 - 2:05** **Closing Session** – Westside Community Center Gymnasium
- Committee Summaries**
 Each committee representative will give a 3 to 5 minute summary.
- Closing Remarks** –Lauren Milovich, Town Hall Chairperson

Environmental Sustainability – 1

Discussion Group Summary:

Our discussion group began by defining environmental sustainability. Recycling, utilizing reusable items, conserving resources, alternate energy, and reducing paper use were all identified as contributing to a sustainable environment. Our group then focused on ways we can assist our community and the world to become more environmentally sustainable. Three areas of focus were identified: 1) educating our community (especially teens and younger children); 2) reducing use of energy at school and home; and 3) conserving other natural resources.

Recommendations:

1. Create “Going Green: It’s Cool to Conserve” clubs on school campuses.

The group felt existing school recycling clubs do not have much visibility, are limited in scope, and fragmented across schools. Creating “Going Green: It’s Cool To Conserve” clubs across a number of school campuses would provide stronger visibility, focus on other sustainability efforts in addition to recycling, and provide a cohesive message to students. The “Going Green” clubs would work with other existing school clubs to educate students and staff on how they can contribute to environmental sustainability. This could include co-sponsoring events, such as prom and football games, to ensure greener events.

2. Sponsor “Going Green Week” at schools.

A “Going Green Week” at schools would actively involve student bodies in environmental sustainability efforts. The week-long activities would be planned by the proposed “Going Green” club at each school in partnership with Student Council, DECA, and other interested clubs and would coincide with Earth Day. Activities could include information and seminars from outside groups, recycling drives, and a bike/walk to school day.

3. Promote a youth driven “Green Awareness” walk.

A youth planned and organized City-wide “Green Awareness” walk could be held. The proposed “Going Green” clubs could plan this in partnership with local businesses, the City, Arizona State University’s Global Institute of Sustainability, and other existing efforts. This walk would heighten community awareness of green practices, as well as recognize and support youths’ efforts to promote environmental sustainability.

Environmental Sustainability- 1

**Facilitators: Matt Torres
Kaylee Wong**

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

Youth Participants

Annika Andersen	McClintock High School
Anthony Andrade	Fees Middles School
Francesco Callicotte	Connolly Middle School
Kelsey Cartwright	Corona Del Sol High School
Cydnie Durham	Compadre High School
Rebecca Ericson	Kyrene Middle School
Sean Ewen	Corona Del Sol High School
Lauren LaGiola	Corona Del Sol High School
Taylor Rainey	Gililland Middle School
Michael Rivera	Tempe Accelerated High School
Ferris Saad	McClintock High School
Max Yang	Kyrene Middle School

Adult Participants

Linda Littell	Tempe Union High School District
Denise Lopez	Magellan Health Services
Rochelle Wells	Tempe Elementary School District Governing Board

Environmental Sustainability – 2

Discussion Group Summary:

Our group began by identifying the top environmental sustainability issues. These included paper usage, pollution, trash vs. recycling and littering. Our group then focused on ways we can improve youth and adult perspectives on the importance of environmental sustainability and how we can encourage actions that promote a greener environment. The group was in consensus that programs that educate and motivate community members to participate in more environmentally responsible lifestyles would be the most effective way to have long term impact.

Recommendations:

1. Host a City-wide Community Environmental Club.

The City could host a Community Environmental Club that includes a youth representative from each school. The City-wide club would unite smaller efforts/clubs and could partner with the City and community organizations to sponsor organized events and activities that would educate residents and increase awareness. Club activities could include planting and maintaining an urban garden, community clean-up, and providing green practices education at community events, on school and community websites, and through media outlets.

2. Promote City-wide paper use reduction.

The City, school districts, Arizona State University, Rio Salado Community College, and local businesses could partner to promote the reduction of paper use in our community. Initiatives could be encouraged and supported for paperless communication, such as piloting a text-book free school campus similar to Empire High School in Tucson, AZ.

3. Develop community-wide media campaign.

A community-wide media campaign emphasizing the importance of environmental sustainability and green practices could be developed and implemented. This campaign would utilize a number of media outlets, including Channel 11, local schools, Arizona State University, City and school webpages, billboards, and movie theatre ads. The campaign could be funded through donations and fundraising activities.

Environmental Sustainability – 2

**Facilitators: Tricia Gilman
Maria Eller**

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

Youth Participants

Hannah Brabson
Zachary Brisson
Natasha Burrell
Paul Elvira
Brady Fellows
Melina Garibovic
Ben Imadali
Anderson Medlen
Olivia Montoya
Refugia Mori
Lani Redmond
Clark Shaeffer
Isabel Strouse

Connolly Middle School
McClintock High School
Corona Del Sol High School
Marcos de Niza High School
Connolly Middle School
McClintock High School
Corona Del Sol High School
Gililand Middle School
Corona del Sol High School
Compadre High School
Corona Del Sol High School
Fees Middle School
Kyrene Middle School

Adult Participants

Bob Anderson
Michelle Helm

Derek Hoffland
David Palmer
Carmen Sanchez

Tempe Union High School District
Tempe Union High School District Governing
Board
Tempe Union High School District
City of Tempe – Recreation Division
City of Tempe – Recreation Division

School Dropout – 1

Discussion Group Summary:

Our group began by identifying some of the reasons youth drop out of school. Factors identified included being academically unprepared to be successful in school, an increased number of required credits to graduate which can cause youth who already feel overwhelmed and/or inadequate to give up, inability to understand the long-term consequences of dropping out of school, lack of parental support, disconnection with school, peers, and teachers, bullying, and economic factors. Participants acknowledged that dropping out of school adversely impacts both the individual and the community-at-large. Our group then focused its recommendations on ways to encourage students to remain in school.

Recommendations:

1. Develop “Reason To Stay” student video.

The three school districts could partner together with their students to make a “Reasons To Stay” video. The video would include reasons to stay in school, examples of strategies they can use to help them be successful, and information on how to get help if they need it. The video could be shown during 8th grade registration and freshman orientation.

2. Implement a peer mentoring program at the high schools.

The high schools could develop a peer mentoring program for new and/or struggling students. The program would be promoted as a club and its purpose would be to create an environment within the school that is welcoming and helps students feel encouraged, connected, and part of the school. The club would incorporate a program called “If You Really Know Me,” which helps students see the similarities they have in common with other students. Club peer mentors would help participants navigate school, including sitting with them at lunch, and assisting them in joining clubs and groups.

3. Offer economic impact information to students.

The high school district could develop and implement an educational component that provides facts on the long term financial impact of dropping out versus staying in school. A video developed by students and school faculty would be an effective way to provide this information. The educational component could be offered in required health classes and would give students a clear idea of the financial impact that dropping out has over their lifetime.

School Dropout- 1

**Facilitators: Mickie Berry
David Reynolds**

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

Youth Participants

Omar Arafa	Corona Del Sol High School
Carmen Beltran	Compadre High School
Sara Bent	Gililand Middle School
Aashini Choksi	Kyrene Middle School
Rolinda Craddock	Tempe Boys and Girls Club
Hannah Dinell	Corona Del Sol High School
Claudia Nguyen	McClintock High School
Alyssa Pike	Corona Del Sol High School
Luis Ramirez	McClintock High School
Gabriela Reyes	Marcos De Niza High School
Javier Torres	Tempe Accelerated High School

Adult Participants

Susan Edwards	Tempe Union High School District
Randy Lazar	Tempe Union High School District
Nancy Rodriguez	City of Tempe – Municipal Court
Mindy Udall	Connolly Middle School

School Dropout – 2

Discussion Summary:

Our group began by discussing some of the reasons students drop out of school. The group identified three main causes: 1) Family History - parent dropped out and/or doesn't support higher; 2) Economic - parent relies on the older children to babysit younger siblings while they work and/or youth must work to help sustain the family financially; and 3) School Related Issues - student feels inadequate, "stupid", unable to function in a learning environment, is bullied, or has no confidence in the school environment. Our group then focused on ways to encourage students to remain in school.

Recommendations:

1. Provide adult mentoring programs for middle school students.

After-school adult mentorship programs pairing adult volunteers with middle school students identified as at risk could be implemented by a local community organization or civic group. The adult mentors could provide homework support, assist the student in developing academic goals, and engage them in fun activities after-school. The program could be modeled after the Boys and Girls Clubs of America "Goals for Graduation Program," or the existing program could be expanded.

2. Offer lunch-time support club in the schools.

A club that provides academic, emotional, and motivational support to encourage students to continue higher education learning could be offered during lunch-time. The club could be established at schools with higher populations of struggling students. The club would be staffed by school faculty volunteers who could possibly be compensated with a stipend under Title 1 funds.

3. Offer links to resources on school district and City websites.

Each school district and the City could add a link on their websites to provide information on the resources available in Tempe for teachers, students, and families that support students' academic success.

School Dropout- 2

**Facilitators: Isela Blanc
An Tran**

**Communities in Schools
Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission**

Youth Participants

Adrianni Delgado
Ramses Esquer
Hannah Gur Arie
Christopher Hamilton
Kendric Knorr
Paula Nunez
Alexis Purnell
Luis Ramirez
Selina Ruiz
Christopher Tate
Franklin Zyriek

Tempe Boys and Girls Club
Tempe Top Youth Leader & McKemy M.S.
Corona Del Sol High School
Gililand Middle School
Connolly Middle School
Compadre High School
McKemy Middle School
McClintock High School
Fees Middle School
Corona Del Sol High School
Kyrene Middle School

Adult Participants

Jon Evans
Stephanie Harbour
Tonia Smith
Susan Voirol

City of Tempe – Police Department
Compadre High School
Tempe Boys and Girls Club
Tempe Union High School District

Teen Sexual Pressure - 1

Discussion Group Summary:

Our discussion group first focused on the reasons teens experience sexual pressure amongst their peers. Multiple media venues, including social networking (Facebook, Twitter, and texting), television reality shows, music, and famous people's behaviors were identified as contributing to this pressure. The group then discussed some of the ramifications of succumbing to sexual pressure, which can include getting STD's, pregnancy, abortion, depression, victimization, and loss of trust and esteem. The group was in consensus that there is a lack of accessible education for youth on how to address sexual pressure

1. Provide comprehensive sex education class in the middle and high schools.

The required class would cover a semester and expand upon topics already currently provided in health class. The class should include relevant information on healthy relationships, how to effectively address sexual pressure, how to protect yourself, and the possible consequences of sexual activity. The class could incorporate guest speakers, including those from relevant community organizations and teen parents.

2. Offer a parent education series

A series of parent education workshops that include how to talk to your teen about difficult topics, how to set limits with your teens, and on teen social networking could be provided through the school districts, City, or a community organization. The series could be held on a school campus or at a central location in Tempe.

3. Provide social networking/media education to students.

Education on safe social networking could be provided on school campuses through computer and other classes, or by providing weekly after-school student media clubs. The information provided should include what's appropriate and what isn't to share on Facebook, tweeting, and texting. Reality television show clips could be utilized to emphasize inappropriate and unrealistic messages given to youth.

Teen Sexual Pressure- 1

**Facilitators: Kecia Walsh
Kristen Rund**

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

Youth Participants

Mia Khan
Riley Kilfoyl
Alex Little
Brianna Munoz
Cami Rowan
Claudia Ruiz
Leon So
Tyler Thompson
Edgardo Lopez Valle
Amalia Vasquez
Shanice Ware

Corona Del Sol High School
McClintock High School
Marcos De Niza High School
Compadre High School
Kyrene Middle School
Tempe Accelerated High School
McKemy Middle School
Corona Del Sol High School
Tempe Boys and Girls Club
Compadre High School
Marcos De Niza High School

Adult Participants

Jimmy Gutierrez
Amanda Hamm
Maria Holmes
Sanja Sobo
Esther Williamson

Chicanos Por La Causa
Kyrene School District
Association for Supportive Child Care
EMPACT-SPC
ASU MSW Student Intern

Teen Sexual Pressure - 2

Discussion Group Summary:

Our group began by identifying factors that contribute to teen sexual pressure. Peer pressure plays an important role in how teens perceive sex and relationships as does the media through music, advertising, films and television. The group also focused on how gender expectations impact teens' experiences. Teens in the group also discussed the pressure of fitting in and being accepted and how difficult it is not to follow the crowd. The group also felt that teens in a relationship are especially pressured. Some of the consequences of giving in to teen sexual pressure include dropping out of school, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases. Teen participants shared that for the most part they felt uncomfortable discussing the topic with parents and primarily relied on friends for support or a trusted adult. Participants were in consensus there is a need for more education about sex, how to respond to pressure, and more ways to readily access accurate information.

Recommendations:

1. Provide teacher seminar on teen sexual pressure.

Participants felt teachers could be a source of information and support for teens experiencing pressure but most lack the information and skills needed to be effective. The school districts could develop training for teachers which would give teachers information and strategies to effectively address this topic. In order to ensure the information provided is relevant the training curriculum would incorporate the results of a student survey administered to gain teen insight on teen sexual pressure.

2. Implement peer education support group.

Teen participants agreed it is easier for some teens to speak to other teens rather than adults. Schools, or a community-based organization, could utilize trained youth to be part of a teen peer education group. The peer group would be available to provide information and be a sounding board for teens. The group could travel among campuses.

3. Provide support groups.

An afterschool weekly support group led by a counselor available on campus could be offered for students who do not have a trusted adult they can turn to. The support group would give teens a safe environment to discuss issues, including sexual pressure.

Teen Sexual Pressure - 2

**Facilitators: Peggy Goldberg
Nicholas Gaitan**

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

Youth Participants

Rodrigo Alatorre
Leslie Almeida
Bianca Delgado
Rodrigo Flores
Alexis Ford
Jevin Hodge
Natalie McKee
Amanda Milovich
Brianna Noble
Kyra Palmer
Oscar Rivera Ramirez
Carrie Tate
Tom Thornton

Tempe Top Youth Leader & Connolly M.S.
Tempe Accelerated High School
Tempe Boys and Girls Club
Fees Middle School
Marcos De Niza High School
McClintock High School
McClintock High School
Corona Del Sol High School
Compadre High School
Kyrene Middle School
McKemy Middle School
Corona Del Sol High School
Marcos De Niza High School

Adult Participants

Isabel Flores
Margaret Mountain
Bronwyn Paes

City of Tempe – Recreation Division
Tempe High School
TUHSD – Adolescent Pregnant & Parenting
Program

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.