



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
LEADING BOLDLY, WORKING TOGETHER*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL
PLANS ANNUAL YOUTH SUMMIT**

ROCKFORD, IL. – March 29 2010-Tonight at City Council, Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey was joined today by the members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) to announce the plans for the Fifth Annual MYAC Youth Summit to be held on April 17, 2010 at Cliffbreakers located at 700 West Riverside Blvd. from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m...

This year's summit, entitled "*Leader's Today*", will focus on the development of individual and group leadership skills as well as civic engagement and the change that can occur through the grass roots involvement of community members. "Young people often say that they can't get involved in the community or that there is nothing to do in Rockford. This is their opportunity to become engaged and lend a voice in making a difference," stated MYAC Chairperson Mark Blazer. "Youth have a voice but may not know how to express themselves in a way for community leaders to pay attention," he added.

The youth summit will provide workshops to teach these skills to its participants. This highly interactive youth summit will provide an opportunity for youth to learn more on becoming leaders within themselves, within a group, and within the community. There will be an opportunity to discuss current youth related issues with local city leaders such as Mayor Morrissey and Representative Charles Jefferson and State Senator Dave Syverson. Participants will be given the opportunity to tackle current issues in this community and provide their results to community leaders.

In addition, this is an excellent opportunity for youth to learn more about exciting future youth events to come this summer. Numerous agencies will be available to discuss their services and resources for youth.

This event is free and lunch will be provided. Interested youth wishing to participate must register at 815-987-5685.

MYAC' mission statement is engaging and empowering Rockford's high school youth to affect positive change for themselves, their families and their community.

MYAC is funded by City of Rockford Human Services Department, Community Services Block Grant - ARRA, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

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2010 MYAC Members:

Mark Blazer (Chairperson) Boylan High School

Patrick Schiller (Vice-Chairperson) Auburn High School

Jake Schneider (Treasurer) Boylan High School

Zandie Shields Auburn High School

Aaron Gesmer (Secretary) Auburn High School

Evan Weyrauch Rockford Christian

Lashay Hamilton Auburn High School