



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

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### *Mayor's Youth Advisory Council Selected to Present at Washington D.C Youth Summit*

ROCKFORD –The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) has been selected to present at the National Youth Summit "Voices in Action" hosted by the U.S. Department of Education at Howard University in Washington D.C. on Saturday, February 26, 2011.

MYAC's presentation, Jumping In Instead of Dropping Out, is a response to the "drop-out factory" image Rockford has recently received in national publications. MYAC will present to youth groups from throughout the country the effective ways with which to use existing city and school structures to promote the benefits of high school and post-secondary education when facing social and economic struggles. MYAC will also outline the steps needed to create similar MYACs in other cities to increase closer relationships with city officials and provide a wider variety of youth involvement and civic engagement.

MYAC is comprised of area high school age youth whose mission is "to engage and empower Rockford's high school youth to affect positive change for themselves, their families, and their community". They also serve as a network that advises Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey of new and emerging issues facing area youth and plan related projects and events. Current members include Noe Delgado, Jefferson High School; Demarkus English and Evan Weyrauch, Rockford Christian High School; Aaron Gesmer, Andrew Ruplin, Patrick Schiller and Lashay Hamilton, Auburn High School, and Zoë Smith and Ally Troia, Guilford High School.

Patrick Schiller, MYAC Chairperson, states, "From educational policy to extracurricular opportunities to neighborhood safety, it is our job to not only stay informed and active in bettering our city, but to provide a medium through which the youth of Rockford can express their concerns and complaints, so often lost in the red-tape surrounding our city's administrative offices, to those in charge, to those who can make a difference...To create a multi-faceted approach to best enact change in the problems and issues most affecting Rockford's youth."

While in Washington, MYAC members will also represent the City of Rockford in discussing youth related issues with U.S. Representative Don Manzullo and U.S. Senator Dick Durbin in private meetings.

MYAC is funded through the Community Services Block Grant program of the City of Rockford Human Services Department.

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