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PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE:**

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March 20, 2012

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TOWN HALL MEETING TO ADDRESS UNDERAGE DRINKING

ROCKFORD – The City of Rockford Human Services Department, in conjunction with the Rockford Alcohol Free Teens (RAFT) coalition, will host a Town Hall Meeting on Underage Drinking, Thursday, March 29 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at the Rockford Park District Board Room, 401 S. Main St.

City of Rockford staff, expert panelists and a representative from the Illinois Liquor Control Commission will discuss facts, trends, and methods to help combat underage drinking in our community. Youth, parents, service providers, elected officials and other concerned citizens are encouraged to attend.

According to Rockford School District #205 students responding to the 2010 Illinois Youth Survey, 37% of 10 graders reported using alcohol in the past 30 days. Additionally, 19% of 12th graders reported they attended school drunk or high in the past year. Of those same 12th grade students, 47% of them reported that alcohol is “very easy” to get and reported only 33% of most adults in their neighborhoods think it is “wrong” for kids their age to drink alcohol.

“Our goal is to use the Town Hall meeting to raise awareness of the critical issues regarding underage drinking, and to learn how we can work together to combat this nation-wide public health crisis affecting our community,” said Delicia Harris, Prevention Specialist with the Community Health and Prevention program of City of Rockford Human Services Department.

Funding for this event is provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), a Federal member of the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking. RAFT is funded in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

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