



# CITY OF ROANOKE NEWS

## Roanoke's First Youth Summit Set for August

The Roanoke Youth Summit will kick off on Aug. 2 at William Fleming High School. The goal of the event is to give youth in the city a voice, and make them aware of the tools needed to lead a successful life.

Someone once said "It takes a village to raise a child." Despite the changes in our society, the thought behind that adage has not changed. It is the inspiration behind the City of Roanoke's Youth Services Initiative. Spearheaded by Roanoke City Council Member Anita James Price, the initiative serves as a tool to advocate for the needs of youth and their families with the objectives of positive youth development through planning, collaboration, coordination and implementation of services. The city is focused on the following four key initiatives identified by the National League of Cities' (NLC) Institute on Youth, Education and Families: opportunities to learn and grow, a safe neighborhood to call home, a healthy lifestyle and environment, and a financially fit family in which to thrive.

The NLC calls upon local government leaders to set measurable goals or targets that identify key opportunities for addressing challenges in their communities. The upcoming Roanoke Youth Summit is an opportunity to learn needs in our community from some of those most affected, our youth.

Council Member Price will host the summit on Aug. 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at William Fleming High School. The event is free of charge and open to rising 8th through 12th grade students in Roanoke City Public Schools. Parents and/or guardians of the youth participants are also invited to attend.

The purpose of the summit is to provide a place where young people and their parents or guardians can learn about various services available to youth and families, make students aware of the tools needed to help contribute to their success in life, and allow students to have their voices heard regarding the services they need to best help them grow into tomorrow's leaders of our community.

"We want to hear from our youth. We want them to know they have a voice, and their voice is an integral part of how we provide services to youth and families," says Council Member Price.

The day will begin with a series of discussion groups youth can attend on the following topics:

- Teen Dating and Making Good Life Choices
- Cultural Diversity and Bullying Prevention
- Substance Abuse Prevention
- Our Media Driven World (A look at how media and advertising affect our everyday choices)
- You Don't Know Me But I Know You (Internet Safety and how much is too much to put on-line)
- Be Proud of Your Selfie (Maintaining a positive self-image and preventing eating disorders)

The day will end with activities geared toward youth. Free breakfast and lunch will be provided.

For more information or to register, Call Aisha Johnson at 853,2333,  
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or visit <http://www.facebook.com/roanokeyouthsummit>

