

Media Advisory

The Mappers are Coming! Alexandria Youth Kick Off Community “YouthMapping” Project in the City’s West End July 6 Press Event Will Feature Youth Mappers, Local Officials and Opportunity to Accompany a Mapping Team on an Interview

For release
June 28, 2010

Contact: Mary-Jane Atwater, 202-316-1198
Noraine Buttar, 703-746-3670
Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
of Alexandria www.preventitalalexandria.org

When: Tuesday, July 6, 10 am

Where: Burke Branch Library
4701 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22301

What: Press conference to kick off youth-led “Community YouthMapping” project in Alexandria’s West End, followed by an opportunity to accompany a team of youth mappers to their first interview at BB&T Bank, 233 South Van Dorn Street.

From July 6-August 13, teams of trained youth mappers—20 teens, ages 15 to 18, who are supervised by adult team leaders—will visit Alexandria’s West End to conduct formal interviews with managers and leaders of businesses, nonprofit organizations, faith-based communities, City sites and City schools. They will ask about existing programs and services as well as explore perceptions about such issues as youth substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and gang activity. Mappers, who were selected by youth services organizations in Alexandria, will enter the research data in a database and develop a presentation with the findings of their research, including existing resources and service gaps. This information will be accessible to youth, service providers, community organizations, City and School officials, and residents.

Community YouthMapping is organized by the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) with Office on Women and Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy; Alexandria Community Services Board; Alexandria Police Department; Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities; Alexandria Sheriff’s Department; Community Lodgings; JobLink; Alexandria Youth Council; Northern Virginia Urban League; the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria; and the Alexandria Libraries.

Speakers:

William D. Eulle, Mayor, City of Alexandria

Beatrice Thomson, TC Williams High School student and YouthMapper

Allen Lomax, Chair, Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

###