

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 10, 2015**

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## ***Public discussions to help devise new plan to improve the future of youth in Little Rock***

LITTLE ROCK – The youth population in The City of Little Rock stands at 47,000 of which 23 percent reside in poverty and nearly 350 are reported homeless. These youth are considered at-risk for making choices that could damage future opportunities for success and a quality life.

To counteract potential negative outcomes, the City has begun a new process to implement constructive alternatives that will lead to positive results for the children, youth, and families in Little Rock. The development of a comprehensive Youth Master Plan, led by an advisory committee of local youth-related advocates, aims to devise action steps based on best practices for increasing opportunities for the youth of Little Rock while improving their quality of life.

**WHO:**

- Youth Master Plan Advisory Committee: **Tammie Cloyes**, Arkansas Department of Education; **Ron Copeland**, UALR University District Partnership; **Mark DeYmaz**, Pastor, Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas; **Scott Gordon**, Arkansas Children's Hospital; **Paul Kelly**, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families; **Kareem Moody**, Pulaski Tech Network for Student Success; **Laveta Wills-Hale**, Arkansas Out-of-School Network; **Sheena Lewis**, DIVAS, Inc. and Children, Youth & Families Commission Chair; **Beth Echols**, Gill Law Firm and Children, Youth & Families Commission Member; **James W. Lagrone**, Retired Pastor and Children, Youth & Families Commission Member; **Jo Thompson**, AR Department of Human Services and Children, Youth & Families Commission Member
- **Bruce Moore**, City Manager, City of Little Rock
- **Dana Dossett**, Director, City of Little Rock Department of Community Programs
- Youth Master Plan Consultants: **Lori McClung** and **Rebecca Cohen** - Advocacy and Communication Solutions LLC; **Cory Anderson**, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation; **Joseph Jones**, Social Justice Institute, Philander Smith College
- Concerned Little Rock citizens

**WHAT:** Youth Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

**WHEN:** Tuesday, September 15, 2015 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**WHERE:** Metro Plan Board Room, 501 West Markham, Little Rock, AR 72201

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