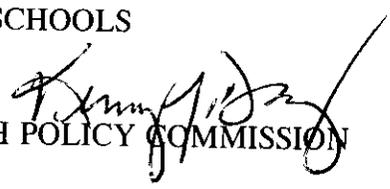


City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 3, 2001

TO: THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER
HERBERT BERG, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

FROM: MAYOR KERRY DONLEY, CHAIR, YOUTH POLICY COMMISSION 

SUBJECT: A CALL TO ACTION TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY FOR YOUTH

The members of the Youth Policy Commission will convene a special Commission meeting with members of the City Council and the Alexandria School Board:

Wednesday, May 23, 2001, 7:00 p.m.
Minnie Howard Ninth Grade Center
3801 West Braddock Road
Refreshments will be available at 6:30 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to brief you on the results of the developmental asset survey, which was conducted with secondary school students in December 2000. The survey results will be presented by James R. Vollbracht, who will help us interpret them and identify the next steps in implementing a local initiative to improve the assets of our youth.

James R. Vollbracht is a trainer, speaker, and author with over 20 years of experience empowering individuals, communities, and organizations to support the positive development of youth. As the past Director of Training for the Search Institute's Healthy Communities Youth Initiative, Mr. Vollbracht is experienced in the design and implementation of a wide range of developmental asset-based presentations for organizations and communities.

Based on the research findings from the Minneapolis-based Search Institute, developmental assets are the building blocks that all children need to grow up to be competent, caring, and healthy adults. (See Attachment I.) The Commission believes that the asset-building model, which identifies 40 factors for young people's growth and development, is the most promising framework for mobilizing the entire community to take action in shaping young people's lives.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Youth Services at (703) 838-0990. Thank you for your continued commitment to Alexandria's youth and families.

We have also scheduled a community presentation of the survey results on **May 24, 2001, 7:00 p.m.**, also at the Minnie Howard Ninth Grade Center. Your presence at this event as well as the briefing on May 23, 2001 would help to underscore your commitment to initiatives aimed at strengthening our youth.