



CITY OF HOUSTON

NEWS RELEASE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL WANTS TO HEAR FROM HOUSTON'S YOUTH

Houston, TX (March 17, 2006) – The 2005-2006 Mayor's Youth Council (MYC) is launching a *Youth Survey* to identify the most important issues to Houston's youth. Youth, who reside or attend school in the City of Houston, may complete the survey to have their opinions heard. The survey includes a total of forty-three (43) issues categorized under five (5) major areas: Community After School Opportunities, Crime & Safety, Health Education & Outreach, Traffic/Transportation and Environment. These issues were identified through the group's monthly Youth Council meetings, Town Hall meetings and address areas in which the City of Houston can effect change.

The *Youth Survey* accomplishes three (3) objectives for the MYC:

- Provide a "voice for Houston's youth"
- Report formally to the Mayor and City Council on what Houston's youth think are important issues
- Participate in National Youth Service Day observed on April 21-23

Each MYC member is responsible for obtaining thirty (30) completed surveys for which he/she will analyze the results and report the findings. Additionally, each member will publicize through their school, church, clubs and neighborhood how other youth can express their opinions by completing the survey on-line through the City of Houston website: www.houstontx.gov/houstonyouth. The goal is to get at least 1,500 surveys. The deadline for completing the survey is March 26. **All Houston youth are urged to participate.**

The MYC will produce a report of the results of all surveys submitted and present to the Mayor and City Council on April 25 during the Council meeting. They will also announce their findings and recommendations at a press conference tentatively scheduled just prior to the Council meeting.

It is planned that this survey will be an annual part of the MYC's action plan to ensure that Houston's youth have a voice in city government. The information will be presented to the Mayor and City Council with the recommendation that they utilize it in their policies development and decision-making.

For information contact Mayor's Office for Volunteer Initiatives Program at 713-437-6165.

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