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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UNIVERSITY CITY TO HOST
'REGIONAL INITIATIVE ON YOUTH' FORUM ON JULY 12TH
Conference Will Address Recreational and Outreach Program Needs
of Local and Regional Youth**

UNIVERSITY CITY, Mo., July 1, 2011—University City Mayor Shelley Welsch will host the first 'Regional Initiative on Youth' open-forum discussion at 6 p.m. on July 12, 2011 at the Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania Ave., in University City.

Local and regional dignitaries who have expressed interest in participating in the conversation include: mayors from throughout the St. Louis metro region; staff members from St. Louis City and County governments; representatives from the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE), the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the Regional Arts Council, and Youth In Need; leaders from youth organizations; Beyond Housing; religious leaders; and representatives from Real Talk. In addition, all residents throughout the St. Louis metro region have been invited to participate in the forum and share their opinions about recreational opportunities and outreach programs that should be created or enhanced for area youth. All age groups are encouraged to attend.

"This is an opportunity for parents, area leaders and our youth to come together and facilitate an open discussion about pertinent issues affecting the future generations of leaders," said Mayor Welsch. "The goal is to better understand the needs of our area teens and young adults to create both recreational and outreach opportunities to meet their needs and expectations. I am excited to see where the discussion will lead us."

While the July 12th event is slated to be the first in a series of meetings addressing the needs of St. Louis-area youth, the 'Regional Initiative on Youth' forums are just one part of a focused effort to improve opportunities for the adolescent and young adult population in University City and the surrounding metro area.

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“The push for change is very strong in the St. Louis metro region, especially as it relates to the issues affecting our youth,” said Mayor Welsch. “The feedback from the ‘Regional Initiative on Youth’ forum will help to fulfill our endeavor to provide more resources for our teenagers and young adults. In addition to hosting the July 12th event, I’ve also appointed a Task Force on Seniors & Youth to survey the youth of University City and to better understand their needs. The survey will be offered for use throughout the region if meeting participants wish to do so.”

Anyone wishing to attend the forum discussion on July 12th should RSVP to Mayor Welsch via email at mayor@ucitymo.org or by phone at 314-505-8606.

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