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Date: 05/02/2016 11:45 AM
Subject: Fwd: Thank you for Partnering with Kids at Hope for Spring Break 2016

Dear Mr. Mimms,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for partnering with the Roundtable of St. Lucie County for the Kids at Hope Spring Break Camp, hosted at Riverwalk and Old City Hall from March 22-24, 2016. Because of your support, we were able to host 50 Fort Pierce teens for a free three day workshop, teaching them conflict resolution skills and building relationships between youth in the community and law enforcement. We also were able to teach the youth how to access the free bus system provided to students with a library card or student ID. Many of these youth are from families that cannot afford to travel during Spring Break, so it was wonderful for them to have safe fun activities to engage in during their time out of school.

I especially want to thank Mike Reals and Michelle Kubitschek for their support with their project. They welcomed us at Riverwalk with open arms, and Michelle was instrumental in ensuring that everything ran smoothly. In fact, we would not have done a 3 day Retreat without Mike Reals' suggestion. We initially met to ask him if we could use the building for one day, and he encouraged us to do a multiple day retreat, pointing out how important it is for our youth to be positively engaged when not in school. He also emphasized that he wanted the young people (many of whom live in the Lincoln Park area) to know that the buildings and properties belonging to the City of Fort Pierce are there for them. They are important residents of the community and they are welcomed in government spaces.

One of the workshops we did was to bring 20+ youth together with 16 officers from FPPD, SLCSO, PSLPD and the Dept of Juvenile Justice to participate in a workshop called Bridging the G.A.A.P. (Gaining Appreciation by Adjusting Perspectives), in which youth and law enforcement talked about police/youth relationships in the community. The discussion became real very quickly, as police and youth shared their perspectives openly and honestly. The consensus from both sides was positive, and the teens suggested that we do more of these events and even have a basketball game between youth and police at a local basketball court. This summer, if we can locate the resources for the project, we are hoping to provide Bridging the GAAP conversations throughout Fort Pierce.

I have attached a link to the video of the Kids at Hope Spring Break Retreat, including portions of the Bridging the G.A.A.P. workshop. Please share it with the Mayor and Commissioners so they can see the work that the City is already doing in conjunction with community partners. The video is about 13 minutes long, and the Bridging the GAAP workshop starts at 5:09. At the end of the video, (13:47), you can see all the partners who collaborated in this project. We would love for this video to be shared on the city's government channel as well, and we have photo/video permission from parents of all the youth depicted herein.

<https://youtu.be/iWqt7UcsQYU>

Please forward this email to the Mayor and Commissioners, and read at a Commissioners Meeting if appropriate.

Thank you again for your support,

Shaniek Maynard, Executive Director
Roundtable of St. Lucie County