



## **Youth Involvement Subcommittee**

### Accomplishments To Date: July 2006

- Advocated and changed City of Cambridge law to add 3 youth voting members to the Cambridge Kids' Council, a municipal policy board addressing children, youth and family issues. (2001-2004)
- Mapping Project I (2003-2004): Completed a community assessment and published a Handbook on Teen Drug & Alcohol Use in Cambridge.
- Sent the first Youth Delegates to represent the City of Cambridge at the National League of Cities Conference in 2004 in Nashville, Tennessee and in 2005 and 2006 in Washington, DC where they accompanied Cambridge City Councilors on visits to Capitol Hill to meet with Congressman Michael Capuano on issues relevant to Cambridge.
- Advocated to the City to increase Stipend Rate for youth to \$10/hour. (2003-2004)
- Planned and produced the First Youth Summit in Cambridge in 2004 focusing on Middle School Students: Conducted focus groups to set Summit's agenda; Produced Reports and Videotape on Summit's Results & Recommendations.
- Met with the Cambridge Kids' Council on issues about Community Violence in 2004.
- Established Youth Involvement Subcommittee governing structure and application process for subcommittee membership. (2003-2004)
- Three subcommittee members appointed to serve as youth voting members on the Cambridge Kids' Council. (2005)
- Advocated to the Cambridge City Council to maintain funding for the Youth Involvement Subcommittee and to make the City's Budget Hearings more accessible for student and public participation. (2005)
- Mapping Project II (2005-2006): Completed a videotape to provide a more in-depth look at drug and alcohol use in Cambridge by interviewing youth, community members and City leaders about the issue.

- Advocated for additional need of funds and received a Cambridge Police Department Grant on drug prevention to support the Mapping Project II's efforts in 2005.
- Planned and produced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth Summit in 2005 focusing on Eighth Grade Students: Conducted focus groups to set Summit's agenda; Completed a report of the Summit's outcomes; finalizing a videotape about the Summit.
- Established annual Youth Involvement Subcommittee Retreats to reflect and plan for group vision and focus. (2005 & 2006)
- Met with Mayor Kenneth Reeves to begin planning and mobilizing support for our new initiative to lower the voting age for seventeen-year-old Cambridge residents to vote in local elections. (May 2006)
- Held Cambridge Youth Voting Rally at the Cambridge City Hall and gained support for lowering the voting age from a wide range of Cambridge residents, including youth and adults. (June 2006)
- Following the Youth Voting Rally, the Cambridge City Council voted in favor to request the Massachusetts General Court (state legislature) to enact the home rule petition entitled "An Act to Enable Seventeen-Year-Old Residents of Cambridge to Vote in Local Elections". (June 2006)
- The Youth Involvement Subcommittee is currently working towards carrying the issue of lowering the voting age to the state level. In that process, the Subcommittee met with Representatives Alice Wolf and Timothy Toomey at the State House about the procedures and challenges in making a bill to become law. The subcommittee also was recognized on the floor of the House of Representatives at the State House on July 19 for their advocacy work on giving 17 year olds the right to vote in local elections. (July 2006)