

GOVERNING BODY AGENDA ITEM

Name/Department: Catherine Morretta/Parks and Recreation

Topic: Proclamation identifying October 20, 2011 as “Lights on Afterschool Day”.

Brief Summary of Topic: The Department of Parks and Recreation is requests the reading of the attached proclamation identifying October 20, 2011 as “Lights on After school Day”. The department was awarded a \$1,000.00 grant to implement a one evening event at the community center and one of the requirements is to have the Governing Body proclaim the event day as “Lights on After school Day”.

Thank you for your consideration.

Keeping the Lights On After School: A Proclamation

WHEREAS, the citizens of **Manassas Park** stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop their social, emotional, physical, cultural and academic skills.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.
- Build stronger communities by involving our students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of our young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among children, youth, families and adults.
- Engage families, schools and diverse community partners in advancing the welfare of our children.

WHEREAS, **the Manassas Park Office for Teens** has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults.

WHEREAS, *Lights On Afterschool*, a national celebration of afterschool programs on October 20, 2011 promotes the critical importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, their families and their communities.

WHEREAS, more than 28 million children in the U.S. have parents who work outside the home, and 15.1 million children have no place to go after school.

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, **Frank Jones, Mayor** do hereby proclaim October 20, 2011, as "*Lights On Afterschool Day*"; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this **Mayor** enthusiastically endorses *Lights On Afterschool* and commits our **community** to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.