

New Text Message Number Announced for Teens

Text Questions with keyword SEX, DRUGS, or GANGS to 30644

Starting September 1, the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP), Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) and the Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force will launch a new text message number for youth to ask questions about sex, love, relationships, drugs, alcohol and gangs. Teens can text the word SEX, the word DRUGS, or the word GANGS to 30644 and receive answers to specific questions about these topics. ACAP, SAPCA, and Gang Prevention coordinators and trained staff will answer teens' questions within 24 hours.

The new text message number will replace the current Teen Text Message Line managed by ACAP for the past three years. The new texting service will offer youth the opportunity to ask questions about substance abuse and gangs, in addition to love, sex, and relationship issues. In the future, ACAP, SAPCA, and Gang Prevention hope to expand to even more topics youth are concerned about in Alexandria.

The Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy works collaboratively for and with youth to achieve lifetime success through active involvement and personal commitment. ACAP strives to sustain a reduction in adolescent pregnancy and the consequences for its youth through culturally and age- appropriate education, advocacy, technical assistance, direct service prevention programs and public awareness. For more information about ACAP, visit www.alexgetreal.com or contact Becky Griesse at Rebecca.griesse@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.5030.

SAPCA is an alliance of more than 80 members representing parents, youth, schools, City health and recreation agencies, nonprofits, media, businesses, faith communities, policymakers and law enforcement whose mission is to engage the entire community in reducing youth substance use and abuse in the City of Alexandria. SAPCA was created in 2007 as part of the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria (<http://www.alexhealth.org/partnership>). Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille is SAPCA's honorary chair. Information about SAPCA, including membership, is available at <http://www.alexhealth.org/partnership/sapca.html>.

The Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force is a group of community members and representatives – co-chaired by Mayor William D. Euille and Councilman Rob Krupicka – that works in conjunction with City and Schools leadership to remain informed about local and regional gang suppression, intervention and prevention concerns and initiatives; provides education and encourages involvement within the community; and identifies programs, opportunities and legal matters in order to mitigate issues related to gangs and violence and to support youth, families and the entire community. The Task Force works in collaboration with the partners across the region within the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force and in collaboration with efforts within Maryland and the District. For more information about the Gang Prevention

Community Task Force and to find out how you can receive help or learn how to become involved and/or help by volunteering as, for example, a mentor for a child, contact Gang Prevention & Intervention Coordinator, Mike Mackey, at 703-746-4144 or mike.mackey@alexandriava.gov or visit www.alexandriava.gov/gangprevention or www.preventgangsnova.org (703-GET-HELP).