

PIONEER VALLEY PROJECT 2008 ACTION

Come to the Action

THURSDAY, MAY 8
6:30-8:00PM
HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
(235 Eastern Avenue)

Support Our Youth

MAKE SPRINGFIELD A CITY OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUTH

**JOIN OVER 500 PEOPLE FROM ACROSS SPRINGFIELD
TO WIN SUPPORT FROM CITY AND STATE OFFICIALS TO**

FUND A NETWORK OF CONGREGATION-BASED YOUTH CENTERS

- Create a network of congregation-based youth centers in underserved neighborhoods
- Call on our state senators to support \$11.5 million in new funding for youth violence prevention programs.
- Call on Mayor Sarno to fund a network of congregation-based youth centers across Springfield

MAKE SPRINGFIELD SCHOOLS FAMILY FRIENDLY TO IMPROVE STUDENT SUCCESS

- Call on the Springfield School Committee to expand home visits through the PARENTS: Stepping Up As Powerful Partners Program.

SUPPORT CONSTRUCTION JOB TRAINING

- Support Project Labor Agreements for building Putnam and Forest Park schools to guarantee at least 20% construction jobs for inner city people of color.

OPPOSE REPEAL OF THE INCOME TAX: PVP supports fair taxes to fund schools, youth programs, safety and the services our community depends on. We recognize the need to maintain the income tax which funds 40% of the state budget.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE PIONEER VALLEY PROJECT AT 827-0781

Pioneer Valley Project Why The May 8 ACTION for Springfield?

Springfield is failing our youth

- City schools have only a 54% graduation rate
- Youth crime is rising 5-8% a year with middle school children now in gangs
- 44.6% of Springfield children live in poverty, the 6th highest rate in the country
- Springfield has the 2nd highest teen pregnancy rate in the state

People in Springfield need to have a say in these issues that matter for our families

Fund Youth Violence Prevention in the state budget

- PVP is part of the Safe Teens/ Safe Communities Coalition that helped save \$11 million of Shannon Anti-Gang Violence Grants last year. \$1.4 million came to Springfield.
- This year the Coalition persuaded Governor Patrick to put \$11.5 million in additional money for youth violence prevention. We need local legislators to support the governor's budget.
- Prevention saves money: It costs on average \$43,000 a year, or \$117 a day, to incarcerate someone versus \$1600 for an average drug treatment program.

Fund low cost congregation-based youth centers

- PVP member congregations are developing youth centers to reach underserved youth in their neighborhoods.
- Small neighborhood centers are a tradition in Springfield, but most have died out.
- We want Mayor Sarno to commit \$96,000 for the PVP-network of youth centers.

Expand the PARENTS: Stepping Up As Powerful Partners Program in schools

- PVP lead the way to create an effective parent engagement program in Springfield based on building relationships first between schools and parents through home visits.
- This year 20 schools were part of a pilot project that shows that home visits improve attendance and behavior, and increase parent involvement and participation.
- We want the school committee to commit \$100,000 to expand the program next year.

Pass Project Labor Agreements on school construction to create inner city jobs

- Springfield needs living wage jobs – almost 4 in 10 families are poor
- We need to keep Springfield's jobs for city residents – 55% of city jobs now go to commuters
- The Building Trades propose a labor agreement for construction of Putnam and Forest Park Schools to guarantee that 20% of jobs go to people of color from Springfield.
- We want the School Building Committee, School Committee and Control Board to approve this labor agreement.

Oppose the Ballot Initiative to Repeal the Income Tax

- The income tax pays for 40% of the state budget, including schools, youth violence prevention programs, school construction, and local government.
- Massachusetts is 32nd in the country for the share of income that people pay for state and local taxes.
- PVP supports fair taxes **for the Common Good of the Commonwealth**

For more information contact the Pioneer Valley Project at 827-0781