



Community COMPASS

HAMILTON COUNTY Regional Planning Commission

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACTS: Steve Johns
(513) 946-4500
Pat Hoffmann
(513) 564-0700

High School Students Help Chart County's Future at Community COMPASS Youth Forum

CINCINNATI – Hamilton County is tapping its most precious resources – its youth – in developing a vision that will guide them, their children and their children's children for generations to come.

High school students will gather on the morning of Oct. 9 at Paul Brown Stadium for a Youth Forum, one of 12 Community COMPASS Community Forums.

"Our youth are our future, as well as a valuable source of information," said Jim Wuenker, co-chair of the Community COMPASS Steering Team. "This is a great opportunity for them to get involved and make a real difference in our community."

Community COMPASS is the first effort to develop a comprehensive plan for the county in more than 36 years. The process for developing that plan is designed to be as inclusive as possible, seeking input from people of all ages and backgrounds in creating a clear, directed vision for the future.

Four to six students from every high school in Hamilton County, private and public, have been invited to participate in the Youth Forum. Trained facilitators will separate students into small groups for a focused, intimate discussion.

"In small groups students can openly express their hopes, dreams and concerns about the issues critical to Hamilton County," Jim Wuenker said. "Additionally, they can be assured that their voices are heard, appreciated and incorporated into a plan that works – for all of us."

About Community COMPASS

Community COMPASS is a countywide effort by the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission to bring together all interested groups to plan for the future of the county. Sparked by the Planning Partnership – a union of municipal, county, private and civic organizations – Community COMPASS is working to incorporate the thoughts, ideas and visions of county residents in the development of a comprehensive master plan. A series of Community Forums from Oct. 9-18 will gather ideas, and a Countywide Town Meeting will take place Jan. 12 at Music Hall. Community COMPASS has the unanimous support of the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners. For more information, please visit www.communitycompass.org on the Web or call the information hotline 946-4505.

Community Forum Schedule*

- Tuesday, Oct. 9, at Scarlet Oaks Vocational School Auditorium, 3254 East Kemper Road, Sharonville

- Wednesday, Oct. 10, at Colerain High School Auditorium, 8801 Cheviot Road, Colerain
- Thursday, Oct. 11, at William Henry Harrison High School Auditorium, 9860 West Road, Harrison
- 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 13, at Taft High School, 420 Ezzard Charles Drive, Cincinnati
- Monday, Oct. 15, at Carson School, 4323 Glenway Ave., Cincinnati
- Monday, Oct. 15, at Woodward High School Auditorium, 7001 Reading Road, Cincinnati
- Tuesday, Oct. 16, at Sycamore High School Auditorium, 7400 Cornell Road, Montgomery
- Wednesday, Oct. 17, at Mariemont High School Auditorium, 3812 Pocahantas Ave., Mariemont
- Wednesday, Oct. 17, at Withrow High School Auditorium, 2488 Madison Road, Cincinnati
- Thursday, Oct. 18 at Oak Hills High School, 3200 Ebenezer Road, Bridgetown
- Thursday, Oct. 18, at Aiken High School Auditorium, 5641 Belmont Ave., College Hill

*Unless otherwise noted, all Community Forums will run from 7 to 9 p.m.

Countywide Town Meeting

The Countywide Town Meeting will involve 1,000 residents in analyzing and prioritizing key issues identified in the Community Forums. The Countywide Town Meeting will use a unique blend of conversation and technology, and will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 12, 2002, at Music Hall.

###