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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Intergovernmental & Public Affairs

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### **Hopewell City Government and John Randolph Foundation Youth Development Initiative**

**Hopewell, VA.** John Randolph Foundation Board member Andy Clark recently gave a presentation to City Council regarding their Youth Development Initiative. The organization's vision are to become an engine for positive change for families and the Hopewell community. In addition, their goals are to address behavioral outcomes with community-wide impact as it relates to child/family behavioral health needs, teen pregnancy, growing obesity rates, school readiness and enrichment activities.

Hopewell Vice Mayor Jasmine Gore recently spoke about the City of Hopewell's interest in strengthening services for city youth at the 2014 National League of Cities in Austin, Texas. She spoke about her service with the John Randolph Foundation (JRF) as a member of the JRF's Steering Committee, organized and spearheaded by the Youth Network Officer, Yawandale Birchett-Thompson.

During the workshop Vice Mayor Gore referenced the new partnership to create a Youth Council with the JRF and Hopewell High School and the importance of supporting community non-profits that harness the strength of Baby Boomers to make community changes. She commends the foundation for stepping up and bringing leaders within the community together to focus on the youth. In addition, city council has made youth initiatives one of the priority items in the 2014-2024 Strategic Plan.

The adoption of the Youth Promise Act Resolution, a resolution to support H.R. 1318 & S. 1307 introduced by Congressman Bobby Scott, creation of a City Council university internship program, establishment of a Youth Council, organizing a Youth Summit, support of the Chamber of Commerce JOBS program, and advocacy for incorporation of Let's Move programs within the public schools.

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