



Andy Sanchez Selected as 2008 Junior Mayor

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Out of a field of 119 entries, Andy Sanchez of Gaithersburg Elementary School has been selected as Gaithersburg's Junior Mayor. The announcement was made at the Mayor and City Council meeting on May 5.

Earlier this year 4th grade students throughout the City were invited to submit essays describing what they would do if they were mayor. The contest is sponsored statewide by the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and the Maryland Mayors' Association. The specific theme this year was: "If you were Mayor, what types of services and community activities would you offer your citizens, and how would you promote your community to attract more visitors?"

MML selected one winner from each of its 11 districts throughout the state. The winner from the Montgomery/Howard County district was not a Gaithersburg resident. However, all 119 local entries were also reviewed by the City's [CHARACTER COUNTS!](#) Steering Committee and six finalists were identified. The students were invited to City Hall for a final round of interviews, out of which Mr. Sanchez was selected.

When asked during his interview why he should be selected as Junior Mayor, Mr. Sanchez replied that "I am responsible, I care for other people, I'm honest, and I'm very respectful." He even indicated that he thought he might want to be a mayor some day, and being a Junior Mayor might give him a boost before he runs for office!

The Junior Mayor will be invited to participate with Mayor Sidney Katz in several public events throughout the year. For more information on the Junior Mayor program contact Gaithersburg's Human Services Division at **301-258-6395** or humanservices@gaitersburgmd.gov.

"If I Were Mayor . . ." 4th Grade Essay Contest Winner City of Gaithersburg 2008

Being the mayor of Gaithersburg would allow me the opportunity to go and visit all the schools in my city and let the children know what high expectations I have of them as citizens of a CHARACTER COUNTS! City. I would just tell them that as Gaithersburg citizens they are members of our town and are responsible for keeping our community a good place for everyone to live in and for others to want to come and visit.

With every freedom goes great responsibility and as the mayor I would show everyone who voted for me how I would live my life as a proud American. I would have a cable channel show where I would talk about current events happening in our city. I would ask people from all different professions to come and volunteer their time to help train other citizens who are in need of jobs. I would ask the City Council to come up with ideas on how we could encourage people to come and visit our city. We could advertise on the cable channel and have a call-in session for people to suggest ways to get other people to visit Gaithersburg. We could expand the existing Teen Center and possibly build a Community Center for

students who attend Gaithersburg Elementary School so they would be able to go to their after-school at a low cost.

I would also encourage everyone to try to make Gaithersburg more of a green city by planting more trees, walking or riding our bikes more about town and have bike paths and walkways built for citizens to use so they will not have to drive to the mall or the grocery store. Global warming is a serious problem we are all facing and as the mayor I would try to come up with realistic ideas we could all practice to help our environment. I would ask retailers to give discounts on bicycles or helmets to encourage everyone to get out and ride bikes rather than jump in their cars to go from place to place.

As mayor, I would brainstorm all the ways we could get people to visit Gaithersburg and have a poster contest to show everyone what a great city we live in and all the wonderful things you can come and see when you stay here for a vacation. It would help the economy of our city by using all the wonderful things we have here as a means of getting other people to visit. We are so close to Washington, DC and only a short Metro ride away from many of this nation's wonderful attractions.

As mayor I would tell as many people as I possibly could about our wonderful, quiet community and all the treasures we have to share with all our visitors.

Andy Sanchez
4th Grade Student
Gaithersburg Elementary School