

## **Keeping the Lights On After School: A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, the citizens of the (insert name of city) stand firmly committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities because they:

- Provide safe, challenging, and engaging learning experiences that help children develop social, emotional, physical and academic skills.
- Support working families by ensuring their children are safe and productive after the regular school day ends.
- Build stronger communities by involving students, parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, families and adults.
- Engage families, schools and community partners in advancing the welfare of our children.

WHEREAS, the City of (insert name) has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children become successful adults.

WHEREAS, *Lights On Afterschool*, the national celebration of afterschool programs held this year on October 23, 2014, promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the lives of children, families and communities.

WHEREAS, more than 28 million children in the U.S. have parents who work outside the home, and 14.3 million children have no place to go after school.

WHEREAS, many afterschool programs across the country are facing funding shortfalls so severe that they are being forced to close their doors and turn off their lights.

WHEREAS, the City of (insert name) is committed to investing in the health and safety of all young people by providing expanded learning opportunities that will help close the achievement gap and prepare young people to compete in the global economy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, (insert name of Mayor), do hereby proclaim October 23, 2014, as "*Lights On Afterschool Day*"; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this mayor enthusiastically endorses *Lights On Afterschool* and commits our city to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that ensure the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all children after school.