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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THEY ASKED AND THEY SHALL RECEIVE

Reading, PA – June 4, 2015 – On Friday, June 5, 2015 at 12:00 PM, Mayor Spencer and the Recycling Liaison/Education Coordinator for the City of Reading, Brian Twyman, will be bringing a recycling can to the students at 16th and Haak Elementary School for their playground.

Spencer received dozens of letters of thanks for the trees planted on Arbor Day coupled with requests for a recycling bin, stating things like “I think there should be a recycling bin on our school playground because I see people hiding soda cans in our school flowers and I don’t appreciate that. It’s hurting the earth and me.”

In 2013, The Gilmore|Henne Community Fund received petitions from the students, requesting a new playground and pledging to take care of it if they had one. The Fund worked to obtain permission from the school district and a grant from KaBOOM!, a nationwide nonprofit aimed at providing play within walking distance of every child in the United States, as well as funding from Kautter & Kelley Architects, the Reading Royals Charities Fund of the Berks County Community Foundation, and the Gulati Family Foundation. The students had roles in the entire process, from drawing their dream playgrounds to assembling the new equipment, painting fences, and mulching their new playground.

"Their minds are wondering at this age, so if you can catch them now, you can help them develop what they want to be in life. That's why I take the time to do this," commented Spencer. "As a retired teacher, I believe it's important that the students learn how local government works and the role they can play in making things happen in our City. These students have been consistently involved in their playground and advocating making it the best it can be."

"This recycling bin will be a fantastic new addition to our schools here in Reading," said Brian Twyman. "The future of our environment starts with students, parents, teachers and each of us making better choices for a better future."

Brian Twyman and Mike Schorn are the coordinators for the Mayor’s Environmental Respect Program – a joint effort between the Reading School District and the City of Reading’s administrative staff created to teach an invaluable life lessons to fourth graders in the Reading School District who will eventually become the stewards of our community and our precious environment. Not only do students who participate in the program pass on the practice of recycling to your peers and family members, but they become lifelong advocates for greening our environment.

“Days like Arbor Day, Earth Day and the Great American Cleanup are all opportunities for everyone in the City of Reading to devote time and attention to issues of sustainability and the environment,” continued Mayor Spencer. “By highlighting the importance of recycling in the Reading School District, we can work together to save our natural resources, and encourage students and the community to make conscious decisions every day.”

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