

# Project Narrative – anc1D 2008 Small Grants **anc1D** mount pleasant, dc

**Title:** In 15 words or less, give a title that describes the project's main beneficial result.

Youth Sleuth -- Wrapping our Minds Around Needs of At-Risk Youth in MP

**Narrative:** 500 words or less, all on this page. Label paragraphs - A: Group. B: Project. C: Benefits. D: Leverage.

**A: Group.** Residents Concerned about Youth in Mount Pleasant

We're several decade residents of Mount Pleasant. We all live or work near parks or recreation sites and observe local youth. (Bancroft basketball court, Park Road Park, Lamont Park). We have backgrounds in working with rough youth (retired police officer, residential manager, etc.)

**B: Project.**

There is a lot of controversy about how to deal with at risk youth. We seek a happy medium of engagement and fairness between the extremes of tough vigilanteism and expecting the police, city agencies & schools to do it all. We believe that effective problem solving comes out of understanding and engaging with the evidence of what we see, and using a network of resources to construct possible alternatives and solutions.

Current trends:

1. High school kids using the H2 bus system create disturbances at the Park Road Park. They bully other kids, they pelt homes and vehicles with eggs, they rough-house, and intimidate folks in the park and bus-stop.
2. A group of kids are stealing UPS parcels off of residential porches.
3. There is an individual who suffers from autism and a whole family with disabilities bullied by a youth gang.
4. Kids who attend the CHEC (Columbia Heights Educational Campus) are bullied in the afternoons as school ends by MS13 who try to pressure them to join. Not just with fists, but bats and knives.
5. Kids who use recreation sites (like Bancroft Basketball Court) attempt to band together to withstand the injuries of the gangs and are mistaken by the police as gangs, then broken up. They stay at home with video games.
6. There are rough mixed male/female groups that congregate locally, and reports of 14 year old girls getting abortions.

We seek a budget for printed materials. We will need to pay for some local travel as we visit schools (Wilson High, which is part of the H2 route). We may want to buy T-shirts, Caps to create more presence. We'll need to rent space to sponsor an event. We want to be able to shore up good recreation (sports equipment) and help provide safe travel paths (maps). We'll work with MPD to insure safety and presence, and list the recreation opportunities. It's key that groups continue to fight to regain the 16<sup>th</sup> and Lamont soccer field and restore community soccer!

**C: Benefits.**

Send out a message that Mount Pleasant is not an easy score for crime. With many good civic organizations and individuals, the presence could be stronger. Work with AMP grass roots collaboration with police, ANC, DPR and social agencies. We'll explore mentoring and tutoring with John Wade, another multi-decade contributor. Improvement of the business district. Improvement of the recreation spaces. Celebration of youthful talent in festivals and civics. More presence of our youth in local jobs, local politics, and elected office.

**D: Leverage.**

We will try to contact groups that were once more present in the neighborhood, groups that performed services like the Guardian Angels. This project would likely impact several hundred youths and eventually over 1000.