



# City of Seat Pleasant

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Seat Pleasant Health Summit Brings Together Multi-Generational Community Members at the University of Maryland's School of Public Health**

**Seat Pleasant, MD** – On Friday May 11, 2012 Mayor Eugene W. Grant along with the University of Maryland Prevention Research Center at the School of Public Health made history by hosting about 50 students from Central High School, 50 students from Fairmont Heights High School, and 50 local area senior citizens for the 3rd Annual Seat Pleasant Health Summit at the University of Maryland's School of Public Health.

“This crowd represents wisdom, youth, energy and hope” stated Dr. Dushanka Kleinman, Associate Dean for the University of Maryland's School of Public Health in her opening comments. For the first time, Mayor Grant was able to bring his local community members to the University's campus to have a real discussion between those in the community with the least amount of health resources and the University's School of Public Health Professors, PhD's, and graduate students. The Health Summit's sessions were focused on increasing knowledge of health issues and resources in Prince Georges County, health topics covered included: diabetes, exercise, hypertension, periodontal disease, HIV/STD's and proper nutrition.

“The University of Maryland Prevention Research Center staff, affiliate faculty, and volunteer public health students did a wonderful job at engaging our community guests in fun and educational mini-health workshops; and they learned more about community needs. I think this was a wonderful learning opportunity for all involved and solidified relationships between university and community members,” stated Dr. Bradley O. Boekeloo, ScM, PhD, a Professor in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health and also Director of the Prevention Research Center at the University of Maryland, College Park.

After the workshop sessions on the health issues mentioned earlier, the students and seniors moved to the School of Public Health's Auditorium where a “clicker activity” and open mic session occurred. Each attendee, across the spectrum of generations, both high schoolers and senior citizens were given a “clicker” and were asked health questions relevant to their environment, community and county. The results of each answer were immediately shown on a screen so attendees could get a firsthand look at how important data gathering is and how it can be used to help understand the overall health in our county.

“Last week's field trip was amazing! It kept me both entertained and informed about many health statistics I didn't know existed” stated Brion Tillman-Young, a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student at Central High School who went on to add; “ If I could attend this health summit again, I would say yes in a heartbeat. I thank the University of Maryland graduate students for their time and effort to work with us,” concluded Brion.

The open mic session was led by Mayor Eugene W. Grant and the overall question and goal for discussion was asked of all participants; **“How can we take what we've learned to help residents in Seat Pleasant?”** Many

hands went up in the audience once this question was posed. One student even touched upon the topic of safe sex versus abstinence, which is a topic every Prince Georges County teenager has to face. It was also brought up by senior citizens that their community is increasingly become sexually active. “Thanks to this health summit, I was able to learn a lot about safe sex.” Stated James Hall, a 12<sup>th</sup> grader at Central High School, “Additionally, I learned about why it’s important to eat healthy foods and drinks. Because of this on campus experience, I want to attend University of Maryland in the fall,” concluded James.

“I thought the summit was extraordinary, the City of Seat pleasant put on a tremendous event and it turned out to be informational, helpful and as the organizer for local area seniors I know all the senior citizens who attended were very happy they came out to this health summit because they got a lot of helpful health information out of this event,” stated Ms. Jacqueline Battle, a Seat Pleasant resident and organizer for local area seniors, Ms. Battle continued, “We are very appreciative of the City of Excellence and the University of Maryland’s School of Public Health for inviting us to take part in this ground breaking event and we look forward to coming back next year.”

“This 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Seat Pleasant Health Summit provided a much needed service to those in our community who are most adversely affected by health disparities and lack of health resources,” stated Mayor Eugene W. Grant, “This annual event will only continue to grow in number of community attendance and in our reach with other state partners. Our community’s relationship with one of the top Universities in the nation gives us a chance to work together and improve the quality of life for our local area seniors and youth. These are two populations most adversely affected by the lack of health resources in our county. This health summit gave us a chance to empower those who need it most and we will continue to look for opportunities to do so.” concluded Mayor Grant.

This event was sponsored by the City of Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence, Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic States, University of Maryland School of Public Health, and University of Maryland Prevention Research Center. This event was co-sponsored by the Center for Health Literacy, Central High School, Fairmont Heights High School, Department of Behavioral and Community Health, Department of Kinesiology, Eppley Recreation Center, Kaiser Permanente, Seat Pleasant/University of Maryland Health Partnership, Sexual Health Education and Prevention, Health Empowerment Network of Maryland, Inc. and University of Maryland Extension.

**Eugene W. Grant** is currently serving his 8th year as mayor of Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence. During his 8 years as mayor, he has successfully tripled the size of the Police Department, reduced crime by 33%, improved the infrastructure of the city, ended each year with a surplus and raised thousands of dollars for the local elementary school. Mayor Grant serves as the Chairman of the Board for Health Empowerment Network of Maryland, Inc., President of the Maryland Black Mayor's Community Development Corporation, Inc., Chief Executive Officer for Global Development Services for Youth, Inc., and a member of numerous other organizations both domestically and internationally. You can follow Mayor Grant on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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