

**Mayoral Proclamation
Play Day in the City of Takoma Park
September 26, 2009**

WHEREAS, play is a crucial factor in the overall well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, play spaces and playgrounds within walking distance of children's homes are missing from many communities and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, unstructured, unplanned, spontaneous, and self-motivated play is on the decline; and

WHEREAS, fewer children spend time outside at parks and playgrounds; and

WHEREAS, recess is being shortened or removed from school curriculums; and

WHEREAS, children who play are healthier and suffer less obesity and obesity-related health problems such as diabetes and heart disease; and

WHEREAS, children who play do better in school and develop cognitive skills that are linked to learning and academic performance; and

WHEREAS, children who play learn the social skills that help them become happy and well-adjusted adults; and

WHEREAS, parents, schools, child care centers, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and all interested parties wish to raise this community's children to become healthy, happy, and successful adults.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRUCE R. WILLIAMS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL, RESIDENTS, AND STAFF, do hereby proclaim Saturday, September 26, 2009 as Play Day in the City of Takoma Park; and

FURTHERMORE, I urge all residents to celebrate Play Day and support and maintain play spaces and playgrounds in our community for the well-being of this and future generations of children.

Dated this 20th day of April, 2009.

Bruce R. Williams
Mayor