



NEWS RELEASE
November 14, 2005

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Providence Mayor Cicilline Joins Board of Afterschool Alliance

Mayor is One of Nation's Leading Advocates for Afterschool

WASHINGTON, DC – The Afterschool Alliance announced the appointment of Providence Mayor David N. Cicilline to its board of directors today. Mayor Cicilline has been a national leader in developing citywide afterschool programs.

“We’re delighted to have Mayor Cicilline join our board,” said Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. “His bold leadership on afterschool issues in Providence has set a high standard for his fellow mayors across the country. We look forward to working with him to help promote afterschool for all, in New England and across the country.”

The Afterschool Alliance is working nationally and at the state and local levels to make afterschool programs available to all families by the year 2010. The chairman of the Afterschool Alliance board of directors is Terry Peterson, former Counselor to U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley. California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is the national chair of the Afterschool Alliance’s flagship event, *Lights On Afterschool*, an annual celebration of afterschool programs that this year featured some 8,000 events from coast to coast and at military bases around the world.

In 2004, Mayor Cicilline formed the Providence After-School Alliance, a public-private venture working to develop a comprehensive, citywide system to substantially increase high-quality, affordable out-of-school time learning opportunities for Providence’s children and youth. (The Providence After-School Alliance is unrelated to the Afterschool Alliance, a national organization.)

“I’m delighted to join the board of this vibrant and powerful organization which has a critically important mission,” Mayor Cicilline said. “In Providence and across America, families and communities need more afterschool programs to keep children safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. The Afterschool Alliance is working hard to ensure that no child is unsupervised in the afternoon. I’m proud to join them in that effort.”

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The Afterschool Alliance Board of Directors also includes: Terry Peterson (Chairman), *Director, Afterschool and Community Learning Resource Network*; Herb Sturz (Secretary), *Trustee, Open Society Institute*; Robin Caldwell (Treasurer), *Director of Community Relations, JCPenney Corporation*; Dr. Lucy Friedman, *President, The After-School Corporation*; Glenda E. Hood, *Secretary of State, State of Florida*; Donna Klein, *President/CEO, Corporate Voices for Working Families*; Kenneth C. Montague, Jr., *Secretary of Juvenile Justice, State of Maryland*; Gilbert Moreno, *President/CEO, Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans*; and Kevin Walker, *Associate Vice President - Programs, Pathways Out of Poverty, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation*.

Afterschool programs offer young people safe, enriching, fun and engaging places to spend their afternoons. Youth in afterschool programs have been shown to perform better in school and have greater expectations for the future, while children who are unsupervised in the afternoons are at greater risk of becoming involved with crime, substance abuse and teenage pregnancy.

A groundbreaking study released in 2004 concluded that 14.3 million latchkey children have no adult supervision in the afternoons. *America After 3 PM: A Household Survey on Afterschool in America* was conducted for the Afterschool Alliance with funding from the J.C. Penney Co., Inc. It found that the parents of 15.3 million children say they would send their child to an afterschool program if one were available in their community. *America After 3 PM*, along with a follow-up study examining afterschool and working families, is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

The Afterschool Alliance is a nonprofit public awareness and advocacy organization supported by a group of public, private and nonprofit entities dedicated to ensuring that all children and youth have access to afterschool programs by 2010. The Alliance is proud to count among its founding partners the C.S. Mott Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, JCPenney Afterschool, Open Society Institute/The After-School Corporation, the Entertainment Industry Foundation and the Creative Artists Agency Foundation. More information is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

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