Spring Hill third-grader discusses anti-bullying campaign, community garden with mayor

SPRING HILL, Tenn. – At age 8, Leylah Grimes, of Spring Hill, has her mind on ways to create more harmony in the world and bring us all a little closer together in Spring Hill.

In that vein, the Allendale Elementary student met this week with Spring Hill Mayor Rick Graham at City Hall to briefly discuss two ideas close to her heart – anti-bullying and a citywide garden.
Leylah has started an anti-bullying organization called the Stop Bullying Club and writes a related blog: http://leylahandzoesperakoutloud.blog.com. She knows it’s an issue that can hit close to home for any elementary, middle or high school student.

Leylah hopes to assist the mayor in helping Spring Hill children learn to appreciate and respect one another by learning about their various cultures and racial contributions; challenges with disabilities; limitations of poverty; and the differences in life in urban areas compared to rural ones. She wants to encourage her peers to find ways to share in and learn from the strengths, joys and hardships in every child’s environment and how to be supportive of classmates and friends regardless of their backgrounds.

Mayor Graham showed his deep support for her efforts on both fronts, vowing to help Leylah to get out the word as she expands her efforts.

The mayor and city staff also will be working with her to help determine a good location for a community garden, another way to bring together our local population.

“In light of the things going on in places like Ferguson, Mo., I sincerely appreciate Leylah’s efforts to help bring together her classmates and encourage everyone to look past their differences at a very young age,” Mayor Graham said. “That is something we need more of throughout the world. I will be working closely with Leylah to help her get out her message in Spring Hill, and to find the right spot for a community garden.”

In her efforts, Leylah notes this Bible verse:

“The wolf will live with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the goat. The calf, the young lion, and the fatling will be together, and a child will lead them.” –Isaiah 11:6