

July 24, 2017

Shelby City Council  
419 East Street  
PO Box 186  
Shelby, IA 51570

To the Shelby City Council

My name is Kaylee Rivera. I know you all already know me from being on the Shelby Youth Council, volunteering for different activities in Shelby, and being involved. I wanted to share with you that I am a State of Iowa representative for the Be Strong Bullying Program. My journey toward this began four years ago when I was in 7th grade and I experienced bullying. Many people experience bullying around the world, but not many speak out. I was not chosen for Be Strong because I was bullied, I was chosen because I decided to speak out.

I started my journey by creating an Anti-Bullying and Positive Behaviors Campaign designed to help raise awareness. I decided that it needed something more and I created the STARS Program designed to help prevent bullying in schools. I have worked with my school to bring people together to decide how they want to conquer bullying at Tri-Center Schools.

I have also become an Ambassador of the Love Yourself Project based out of New York that spread self love through arts and crafts. I hosted many workshops making origami hearts and educating others how they can find something they can love about themselves. Through my efforts I was named Love Yourself Project Ambassador of the year.

This brings me to the Be Strong. My Superintendent and High School Principal noticed my efforts and nominated me to be a Be Strong representative for Iowa. I accepted this honor to become a representative and wanted to share with each of you.

I know within the City of Shelby there are different forms of bullying. The main form I see is vandalism. This indirectly affects everyone that has worked so hard to make

Shelby a great place to live. As a member of the Shelby Youth Council, there are many ways we can help provide activities and communicate how these inappropriate behaviors have been noticed and we won't be discouraged from doing what is good for our community. We do many fundraisers and plan activities, like the movie night, to help bring the community together. I encourage you as the Shelby City Council and Shelby Mayor to continue to support these type of activities and reinforce inappropriate behaviors like vandalism is not acceptable.

As the Shelby Youth Council comes together again, we need to recruit new members as we have lost a few due to graduating. With the support of the Mayor and City Council by nominating youth in the community to join and become members of the Youth Council, this can provide leadership opportunities, community service hours, and create new friendships. As the Youth Council meet and bring fresh, fun, and new ideas, please continue to listen and help them. Thank you for your support and I look forward to planning and implementing more fun and positive activities for our community.

Respectfully,

Kaylee Rivera  
Be Strong Representative  
Love Yourself Ambassador  
Shelby Youth City Council Reporter  
Shelby Trailblazer 4H Vice President  
Shelby County 4H Youth Committee Member  
Tri-Center High School Student Council