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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **City of Belleview Celebrates “If I Were the Mayor” Essay Contest Winners at Commission Meeting**

BELLEVIEW, FL — The City of Belleview honored the winners of its “If I Were the Mayor” essay contest at the November 5th Commission Meeting. Mayor Christine Dobkowsky announced the winners, each of whom received a Certificate of Achievement signed by herself and City Administrator Sandi McKamey, along with a gift card as a token of the city’s appreciation. In a highlight of the evening, the Mayor read essays by the 1st place winners from both grade levels, presenting their ideas and vision for the city.

The essay contest, which invited students in grades 4-8 to imagine themselves in the mayor’s role, inspired thoughtful responses on leadership and community improvement. This year’s winners impressed city officials and attendees with their unique ideas for a brighter Belleview.

#### **Grade 4-5 Winners:**

- **1st Place:** Eyan Antich
- **2nd Place:** Elliott Stephenson
- **3rd Place:** Charlie Small
- **Honorable Mention:** Vivian Larroque

#### **Grade 6-8 Winners:**

- **1st Place:** Abigail Stephenson
- **2nd Place:** Lilla Smith

Mayor Dobkowsky expressed her admiration for the students’ work, saying, *“Each of these essays showcased a unique, thoughtful perspective on what it means to serve our community. The ideas these young people shared were heartfelt, insightful, and gave us a glimpse into the future leaders they may become. They showed true creativity and understanding of the values we uphold as a city.”*

Events Manager Robert Vass, who facilitated the contest, remarked, *“It’s truly inspiring to see our youth thinking about the importance of community service and leadership. Each participant shared ideas that reflected real care for Belleview and its residents. This contest not only gives students a voice but encourages them to think critically about the ways they can contribute to a better future.”*

The City of Belleview extends its congratulations to all winners and participants and is grateful for their enthusiastic contributions. This annual contest continues to showcase the voices and visions of young residents who care deeply about their community.