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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VML Announces Winners of the 2016 “If I Were Mayor” Essay Contest

(January 19, 2017) -- Each fall, the Virginia Municipal League (VML) invites all Virginia 7th graders to participate in its “If I Were Mayor” essay contest. The essays describe what the students would do as mayor to make their cities and towns great places to live.

This year, more than 1,200 essays were submitted by students from across the Commonwealth.

Governor Terry McAuliffe will present the awards to this year’s eight regional winners at a special ceremony to be held January 25 at the Library of Virginia in Richmond.

The winners are:

Statewide winner: Jerry (Trey) N. Mitchell III of Lawrenceville

Region 1: Dillon McReynolds of Abingdon

Region 2: Andrew Middleton of Covington

Region 3: Sadie Dryden of Buena Vista

Region 4: Skyla Rain of South Boston

Region 5: Liv Scappa of Falls Church

Region 6: Maha Laiq of Warrenton

Region 7: Jerry (Trey) N. Mitchell III of Lawrenceville (statewide winner)

Region 8: Terrence Massenburg of Portsmouth

About VML’s “If I Were Mayor” Essay Contest

The annual “If I were Mayor Contest” invites seventh graders from throughout Virginia to submit essays describing what they would do if they were mayor of their hometown. Entries are due around December 1 each year. The essay contest is a key component of VML’s civic education programming, which seeks to teach schoolchildren and adults how local government works and how they

can become involved in making their communities better places to live, work and play.

About VML

The Virginia Municipal League is a statewide, nonprofit, nonpartisan association of local governments established in 1905 to improve and assist local governments through legislative advocacy, research, education and other services. The membership includes all 38 cities in the state, 160 towns and eight counties. See www.vml.org.

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