

My name is Aleisha Marie Arroyo – Rolon. I am twelve years old, a citizen of Lebanon, and I am a 7<sup>th</sup> grader attending Lebanon Middle School. The community is important to me. Here is my blueprint for making the community a better place to live.

The first thing I would change is school safety. Why would I change school safety? Last year there were many incidents involving, drugs, code reds, and bomb threats. I think that all schools in Lebanon should have metal detectors. I think it should not matter how long it takes to get checked as long as the students are safe. I believe schools should have cameras too. If a student is in a class and he or she gets accused of something someone else did, its on tape. That is all I have to say about school issues.

I have noticed that graffiti has become an issue for the community. Bridges by creeks and buildings are getting destroyed from vandalism. Our community does not look like a wonderful place to hang out anymore. Stores should make policies that only people of a certain age would be allowed to buy spray paint. I would also like to gather other people who want to change the community and repaint the graffiti on buildings and bridges.

Play grounds are fun to hang out and play with their friends. But lately, kids have been finding guns at the parks, and it is getting dangerous. Adults could take time to watch children playing basketball, baseball, and other games. Owners of the parks should have places to dispose cigarettes because people just throw them around on the ground leaving them for kids to pick them up and put them in their mouths.

Candy cigarettes are giving kids a bad message. With them being sold in stores it's telling kids it is okay to smoke. For example, candy cigarettes taste good, so children think the real ones will taste better. Today kids believe anything they hear and see. Parents who smoke are being bad influences on their kids. If you want to smoke please do not do it in front of your children or in front of someone else's children. Smoking in front of other people gives them second hand smoke, so they don't even have to put the cigarettes in their mouth to be affected by smoke. I think cigarettes should be illegal. I know cigarettes are a big issue for me, and that is why I want to share my concerns.

This blueprint may not happen but I think using my imagination and creativity is important to produce change. I think if I put forth my best effort into all of my ideas, they just may happen.