

Youth Representative Program

Vision

Mission

Goals

March 9, 2005

VISION

- **What is the purpose of Youth participation in government?**
 - **Gain Youth perspective and input?**
 - **Expose Youth to government?**
 - **Prepare Youth to be better Citizens?**
 - **Encourage Youth to give back to their community?**

VISION

- **Examples:**

- *Young people with the power and voice to shape the future of [the City].*

- Hampton, Virginia

- *The Youth Council is to provide [the City's] youth with a voice in local government.*

Troy, Michigan

VISION

- **Examples:**

- *The Mayor's Youth Council promotes standards supporting leadership opportunities for youth to enhance understanding on how government functions and to encourage productive citizenry skills.*

▪ Grand Rapids, Michigan

VISION

Rochester Hills, Michigan

Involving youth in government by providing a greater understanding through active participation.

MISSION

- Determine the means to implement that Vision:

- What?

- How?

MISSION

- **Examples:**

- *To provide an opportunity for Youth to have a formal role in the City's decision-making through a representative commission that addresses Youth issues.*

- Hampton, Virginia

- *The Youth Council serves as a conduit between the local governments and their younger constituents by giving them a voice to bring all issues, great and small, to the forefront.*

- Farmington Hills, Michigan

MISSION

- **Examples:**

- *Act as a voice for [the City] youth to city government to plan a better future for when it is in our hands.*

- Grand Rapids, Michigan

- *To advise Council on issues related to the youth of the [City], to serve as youth ambassadors for the City, and encourage and promote the education of youth regarding city government and citizen participation.*

Troy, Michigan

MISSION

Rochester Hills, Michigan

Expose local Youth to the workings of local municipal government through committee attendance and participation.

EXISTING PROGRAM

- **Serve on Communication Committees.**
- **Participate in discussion.**
- **Periodically report to City Council.**

PROPOSED CHANGES

- **Create separate Youth Council which will meet monthly**
- **City Council Vice President to serve as a Liaison between Council and the Youth Council**
- **One City staff member to support Youth Council**

PROPOSED CHANGES

- **Youth Council to select three projects related to City's Goals and Objectives**
 - **Council will provide a list for possible projects**
 - **Additional options may be presented by Youth Council to AIS Committee for approval**

PROPOSED CHANGES

- **Youth-appointed representatives to serve on Council Communication Committees**
 - Representation on Committees based on projects selected
 - Individual Selection based on individual strengths and interests
 - Youth Members will be required to attend Communication Committees on a quarterly basis; may attend additional meetings if they desire

PROPOSED CHANGES

- **Establish operating budget**
- **Youth Council and City Council to meet bi-annually.**

PROPOSED CHANGES

- **Selection Process:**

- ✓ **Interview Team consisting of One Council Member**
 - ✓ One Administrative Staff Member
 - ✓ One Citizen Representative from Communications Committee
 - ✓ Two Youth Representatives currently serving

PROPOSED CHANGES

Selection process continued...

- ✓ **Candidates evaluated based on**
 - ✓ Application quality
 - ✓ Adult reference and interview
 - ✓ Representation
- ✓ **Appointment**
 - ✓ Interview Team makes recommendation to City Council;
 - ✓ City Council makes appointments

INITIAL GOALS

- **Establish the following:**
 - **City Council:**
 - ✓ **Operating structure of the Youth Council**
 - ✓ **Provide list of potential projects to Youth**
 - **Youth Council:**
 - ✓ **Bylaws, Rules and Procedures**
 - ✓ **Attendance Policy**
 - ✓ **Officers**
 - ✓ **Committee Appointments**
 - ✓ **Select three projects related to City's Goals**

City Council Decisions

- **Grade/Age of participants?**
 - **Recommendation from other communities:**
 - ✓ **Freshmen/Sophomores**
 - **Staff recommendation:**
 - ✓ **Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors**
- ***For your consideration:***
 - ✓ **Can be redefined once program is established and recruitment increases.**

City Council Decisions

- **How many members?**
 - **Recommendation from other communities:**
 - ✓ No more than 15 members
 - **Staff recommendation:**
 - ✓ 13 members
- ***For your consideration:***
 - ✓ **Manageable at 13 members (current year).**
 - ✓ Two from each Council District
 - ✓ Five At-large members

City Council Decisions

- **Length of Terms?**
 - **Recommendation from other communities:**
 - ✓ Two-Year Terms
 - **Staff recommendation:**
 - ✓ One-Year Terms with the opportunity for reappointment;
 - ✓ Maximum serving two years
- ***For your consideration:***
 - ✓ Two-year term promote continuity.

City Council Decisions

- **Youth Council Budget?**

- **Recommendation from other communities:**

- ✓ From \$500 to \$8,000 annually

- **Staff recommendation:**

- ✓ \$1,200 annually

- ✓ Budget will cover such items as T-shirts, mailings/postage, food, swearing-in ceremony, orientation, conferences, miscellaneous projects.

- ✓ Staff will pursue possible funding options through grants and foundations

Youth Council

Questions?

Thank You