

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2010-2011



Winston-Salem



CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL



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Human Relations Director

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YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

PURPOSE



The purpose of the Council is to give the youth an opportunity to become more aware of local government, and become involved in the community by participating in community activities a minimum of 40 hours each year.

MISSION

Serve as a conduit between city government and younger constituents. The Youth Council's core focus is youth civic engagement by way of community programming, youth-oriented activities, contribution of at least 40 volunteer hours per school year to government-related initiatives, projects, and programs, dissemination of information to the community regarding topics that are important and relevant to the youth in our community, and to advise the City Council and the Human Relations Department on matters that relate to the community's youth population.

HISTORY

In March of 1989, the, then, Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen unanimously approved a resolution to establish a Youth Advisory Council. The purpose of the Youth Advisory Council, as outlined in 1989, is to provide the City Council with recommendations on a variety of subjects and to give youth the opportunity to become more aware of local government. At that time, the Board of Aldermen stated that the Youth Advisory Council should be diverse, inclusive, and representative of the Winston-Salem high school student population.

In May of 1989, nineteen members began a one-year term of service as the original Youth Advisory Council under the direction of the Recreation and Parks Department. In June of 2010, the Youth Advisory Council was reorganized under the Human Relations Department by resolution of the City Council.

DUTIES

- (1) Actively promoting the participation of the youth in city government programs and activities;
- (2) Promoting positive human relations among all youth;
- (3) Providing channels of communication among all populations;
- (4) Encouraging youth to become better trained and qualified for employment opportunities;
- (5) Performing duties consistent with general law as may be assigned it from time to time by the City Council; and
- (6) Performing such other duties as necessary to enforce the powers assigned to it.

THE COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP TO CITY GOVERNMENT

The government of the City of Winston-Salem and the general management and control of all its affairs are vested in the City Council and the Mayor. The City Council appoints the City Manager who is the administrative head of City government and is responsible for the administration of all departments of City government. The City Council is also the appointing authority for members of the Youth Advisory Council.

The Council keeps the City Manager and the City Council informed of its activities. To further that communication, the chairperson or a designated member of the Council shall appear annually before the City Council to provide them with information on the pulse of the youth community and a yearly progress report on Council programs and projects.

The Council makes recommendations to the City Council concerning projects and programs relevant to the youth of Winston-Salem.

THE COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE STAFF

The Council's relationship with the Human Relations staff involves advising staff regarding youth-oriented and youth-developed programs, concerns, and issues. During the process of initiating programs and conducting youth outreach, the Youth Advisory Council calls on the staff for technical assistance and research into matters.

THE COMMISSION'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMUNITY

The Youth Advisory Council is the body through which youth concerns can be relayed to City officials. The Youth Advisory Council brings information to its peers on the happenings of city government that pertain to the youth.



YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL 2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Youth Council Member		High School
Parker	Chang	R.J. Reynolds High School
Brandon	Crady	Parkland IB Magnet School
Jonathan	Cunningham	Jacket Academy at Carver
DJ	Debnam	East Forsyth High School
Jamie	Gorham	Salem Academy
Sierra	Gulley	Early College of Forsyth
Matthew	Heyer	Mt. Tabor High School
Lillian	Kautz	Forsyth Country Day School
Grace	Lassiter	Bishop McGuinness High School
Rae-Yao	Lee	Reagan High School
Kyle	Leopard	West Forsyth High School
Bryan	Martinez	Atkins High School Complex
Natasha	Morales	Glenn High School
Regina	Mundy	Paisley Magnet School - High School Program
Jacob	Peller	Triad Academy
Jordan	Sapp	North Forsyth High School
Alex	Smithdeal	Calvary Baptist Day School
Jakkia	Taylor	Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy
Tiffany	Turner	Carver High School
Emily	Vontsolos	Career Center

**Youth
Advisory
Council
Committees:**

Community Projects: (Alex- Chair) DJ Debnam, Jamie Gorham, Matthew Heyer, Lilly Kautz, Grace Lassiter, Jakkia Taylor

Public Relations: (Jordan Sapp- Chair, Regina Mundy- Vice Chair) Brandon Crady, Jonathan Cunningham, Tiffany Turner

Government Affairs: (Rae-Yao Lee- Chair) Parker Chang, Sierra Gulley, Natasha Morales, Jacob Peller, Emily Vontsolos

MANAGEMENT'S COMMENTS

WANDA ALLEN-ABRAHA, HUMAN RELATIONS DIRECTOR



The Human Relations Department is very pleased to serve as the administering department of the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council. The mission of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is to serve as a conduit between city government and younger constituents. The Youth Council's core focus is youth civic engagement by way of community programming and youth-oriented activities; a contribution of at least 40 volunteer hours per school year to government-related initiatives, projects, and programs; the dissemination of information to the community regarding topics that are important and relevant to the youth in our community; and to advise the City Council and the Human Relations Department on matters that relate to the community's youth population.

The YAC's purpose is to provide a venue for youth between the ages of 14-18 to have an active means of civic engagement in local government. General duties will include, but will not necessarily be limited to:

- (1) Actively promoting the participation of the youth in city government programs and activities;
- (2) Promoting positive human relations among all youth;
- (3) Providing channels of communication among all populations;
- (4) Encouraging youth to become better trained and qualified for employment opportunities;
- (5) Performing duties consistent with general law as may be assigned it from time to time by the City Council; and
- (6) Performing such other duties as necessary to enforce the powers assigned to it.

Although the YAC was established in 1989 under the leadership of Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian H. Burke, the Human Relations Department was designated as the administering department for the YAC in June 2010. Since that time, the YAC has been restructured in order to enhance its focus and goals. Specifically, each member of the YAC has been charged with fulfilling 40 hours of community service during the course of the school year. To that end, each month focuses on a different topic that relates to the YAC's mission and the community at-large. Topics have included civics, government, housing, and the environment.

The YAC has thrived this year and has established itself as a welcome youth voice in the community. Their hard work has been recognized by the Winston-Salem Foundation's Youth Grantmakers by way of competitive funding for their annual project, the Youth Expression Wall. We are excited to continue to see the YAC flourish in the future.

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

I. Goal: Community Education

- Gain better knowledge of community issues, organizations, and services.

MONTHLY FOCUS/PRESENTATIONS	
September – Diversity and Education Presentation: Ryan Eller, CHANGE Mustafa Abdullah, CHANGE	February – Leadership and Mentoring Presentation: Jenny Viars, Human Relations Commission Chair
October – Civic Engagement Presentation: Robert Coffman, Forsyth County Board of Elections	March – Nonprofit Community Presentation: Milton Rhodes, Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County
November – Interfaith Presentation: Nathan Parrish, Interfaith Advocate Pastor, Peace Haven Baptist Church	April – Environment Presentation: George Stilphen, Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful
January – City Government Presentation: Mayor Allen Joines	May – Economic Development, End-of-Year Project- Youth Expression Wall

II. Goal: Community Service and Volunteerism

- Participate in 40 hours each of community activities and service.
- Connect to youth population through written publication.
- Produce annual project that is a benefit to the community.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOURS – See Appendix B
ESTIMATED TOTAL HOURS COMPLETED: 500

See Appendix A for copy of newsletter

Annual Project: This school year, the Youth Advisory Council selected a free expression wall as its annual project. The Council has received grant funding for the project from the Winston-Salem Foundation's Youth Grantmakers in Action group. They have received approval from City Council to complete the project. The project is slated for completion on June 3, 2011.

III. Goal: City Government Participation: Gain knowledge of city government processes by Interfacing with city government officials.

MEETING PURPOSE	CITY OFFICIAL(S)
Mid-Year Report	CDHGG Committee of City Council
Founder Award Presentation	City Council/Council Member Vivian H. Burke
Local Government Presentation	Mayor Allen Joines
Expression Wall Resolution	Recreation and Parks Commission
Expression Wall Informational Briefing	City Manager Lee Garrity
Expression Wall Resolution	CDHGG Committee of City Council
Expression Wall Resolution	City Council
Annual Report Presentation	CDHGG Committee of City Council

2010-2011 MAJOR PROGRAM /PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- **NC League of Municipalities Conference:** The Youth Advisory Council attended the Youth Summit during the annual NC League of Municipalities Conference, which was held in Winston-Salem this year. At the conference, they attended leadership training and networked with North Carolina youth councils.
- **Human Relations Student Awards Banquet:** The Youth Advisory Council assisted the Human Relations Commission in hosting the 31st Annual Human Relations Student Awards Banquet. Youth Advisory Council members served as greeters and seated guests during the program.
- **Winston-Salem Foundation Youth Grantmakers in Action Funding:** The Youth Advisory Council applied for an approximately \$500.00 grant to pay for paint for the youth free expression wall, which was selected by the Youth Grantmakers in Action of the Winston-Salem Foundation. The grant requires the members to complete the steps of planning and executing the project on their own but with adult supervision.
- **Expression Wall:** The opening of the free expression wall is scheduled for June 3, 2011. Any member of the Winston-Salem community will be able to paint artistic work on the wall, although it will be marketed to the youth.



WINSTON-SALEM YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL 2011-2012 OUTLINE OF GOALS

For the fiscal year of 2011-2012, the goals of the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council will focus on the following ten goals:

1. To **maintain the Expression Wall project**;
2. To **continue learning about the community** through community presentations at monthly meetings;
3. To **continue developing the YAC newsletter**; and
4. To propose an **end-of-year project** for the 2011-2012 school year.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

The Youth Advisory Council recognizes the need to continue fostering an environment that initiates and supports multiracial and multi-ethnic dialogue and understanding in the youth community. We respectfully request your support of the following recommendations:

1. The Youth Advisory Council recognizes the importance of building and maintaining effective lines of communication between city government and the community. By improving the dialogue with our diverse community groups, city government can ensure that the City of Winston-Salem fosters an environment that is conducive for an atmosphere in which the youth voice is heard. In carrying out its strategic goals, the Youth Advisory Council will **increase its outreach efforts in all areas of the community and will seek input from the City Council on issues or concerns in their respective wards**. We ask that the City Council support the YAC's goals in this effort.
2. We ask that the City Council **support the Youth Advisory Council's goal of building a stronger relationship with City officials**.

The Youth Advisory Council appreciates the continual support it has received from the City Council. Your continued support will only strengthen the Youth Advisory Council's efforts in working on behalf of all the citizens in Winston-Salem.

APPENDIX

A. Opportunities for Community Service/Volunteer Hours