



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – September 20, 2017 Agenda Item 1

Voting Session

Resolution Establishing a Youth Council

Recommended Council Action

Consider and adopt the resolution.

Context with Key Issues

The City Council has identified a need to expand youth programming in the City and to engage youth in civic activities. Establishing a Youth Council will bring the perspective of young people in the community to the City Council and City staff. The Youth Council will focus on areas of importance to young people, bring forth issues of concern, and suggest ideas for young people to participate in the community.

Mr. Bryan Goehring, a teacher at Takoma Park Middle School and advisor to the Difference Makers, worked with students to develop a charter for a Takoma Park Youth Council.

The City Council reviewed the charter at the September 6, 2017 work session.

The Youth Council is to be comprised of nine members from grades 7 through 12, representing a cross-section of the City's youth. At least one member, but no more than two, will be appointed from each ward. Three members will be appointed at large. Youth Council applicants will apply in September. The City Council will appoint members after reviewing applications.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All – Expand Youth Programming and Engage Youth in Civic Activities

Environmental Impact of Action

N/A

Fiscal Impact of Action

To be determined.

Racial Equity Impact of Action

We do not believe this action will disproportionately impact any particular group. It may provide an opportunity for young people of color to become actively involved with City government.

Attachments and Links

Draft Resolution Establishing a Youth Council (with the Youth Council Charter attached)

Introduced by:

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION 2017-
ESTABLISHING A TAKOMA PARK YOUTH COUNCIL

- WHEREAS, the City Council has identified a need to expand youth programming in the City and to engage youth in civic activities; and
- WHEREAS, establishing a Takoma Park Youth Council will bring the perspective of young people in the community to the City Council and City staff; and
- WHEREAS, the Youth Council will provide an opportunity for the youth of Takoma Park to acquire a greater knowledge of and appreciation for local government through active participation in the system; and
- WHEREAS, the Youth Council will help the City Council to address problems and accomplish the goals of this community by working directly with youth representatives; and
- WHEREAS, the Youth Council will serve the youth of Takoma Park by: 1) informing the City government of the needs and wishes of youth, 2) planning and implementing social, educational, cultural and recreational activities for the youth; 3) working with the Mayor, City Council, City department heads, schools, civic clubs and service organizations to provide service and leadership opportunities for the youth of the City; and, 4) helping to instill a feeling of positive self-worth and esteem, teaching respect for the rights of others, and promoting community pride.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND:

SECTION 1. The Takoma Park Youth Council is established.

SECTION 2. The first Youth Council Charter is attached to this resolution and incorporated by reference herein.

SECTION 3. As established in the Youth Council Charter, the Youth Council shall be comprised of nine members from grades 7 through 12, representing a cross-section of the City's youth. At least one member, but not more than two, shall be appointed from each ward and three members shall be appointed at large. One of the appointed Youth Council members in the 11th or 12th grade shall be designated by the City Council as the Leader of the Youth Council.

SECTION 4. The City Council shall appoint an adult Youth Council Advisor to work directly with the Youth Council.

SECTION 5. The Youth Council may make amendments to the Youth Council Charter. Such amendments shall be submitted to the City Council for review and approval.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk