

Introduced by: Councilmember Searcy

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

**RESOLUTION 2018-52
APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE 2018-2019 YOUTH COUNCIL
AND REVISING THE COMPOSITION OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL
BY AMENDING RESOLUTION 2017-50**

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2017, the City Council adopted Resolution 2017-50 to establish the Takoma Park Youth Council; and

WHEREAS, the nine-member Youth Council serves 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; and

WHEREAS, application for membership in the Youth Council is open to Takoma Park residents in grades seven to 12; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 2017-50, Youth Council members are to represent 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; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that selection of members for appointment by ward, and limiting membership to no more than two from any one ward, can conflict with efforts to have the members represent a cross-section of the City's youth; and

WHEREAS, the City Council in its 2018 Priorities committed to improving systems for Council-appointed committees, including working to ensure diversity among committee members; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has committed to applying a racial equity lens in a systematic way in its decision-making processes with the goal of continuing to build an inclusive, equitable community and ensure a vibrant and healthy community for all Takoma Park residents pursuant to Resolution 2017-28; and

WHEREAS, historically, representation on Council appointed committees has been low for Wards 4, 5, and 6; and

WHEREAS, Wards 4, 5, and 6 have a greater percentage of residents of color than other wards; and

WHEREAS, an amendment to Resolution 2017-50 is necessitated to allow the City Council to use its discretion in determining how many applicants may be appointed from a ward; and

WHEREAS, Youth Council terms begin on November 1 and end on October 31 of the next year; and

WHEREAS, the Youth Council has recommended that member terms be changed to begin in September and end in August of the next year to better accommodate school schedules; and

WHEREAS, the schedule for appointments and term expirations is set in the Youth Council Charter and can be formally addressed by the City Council and Youth Council by amending the Youth Council Charter during the 2018-2019 term; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the applications submitted for the 2018-2019 Youth Council and has selected 10 applicants to serve on the Youth Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Section 3 of Resolution 2017-50 is amended as follows:

SECTION 3. As established in the Youth Council Charter, the Youth Council shall be comprised of nine to 11 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 to five members shall be appointed at large. The City Council will actively recruit and appoint members from traditionally under-represented Wards 4, 5, and 6. 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Council endorses the change in terms for the Youth Council and shall undertake a review of the Youth Council Charter in coordination with the Youth Council to determine if other amendments are needed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following individuals are appointed, effective immediately, to the Takoma Park Youth Council for a term that will expire on August 31, 2019:

1. George Ashford Ward 2
2. Elliot Davey Ward 1
3. Mintesinot Getachew Ward 6
4. Adelaide Harris Ward 2
5. Asha Henry Ward 6

6. Jason Kaplan Ward 1
7. Kiran Kochar McCabe Ward 6
8. Eliza Van Camp Ward 5
9. Kamilla Sorenson Ward 3
10. Rafayel Charkoudian Rogers Ward 2
11. Vacant (reserved for Ward 4 resident)

Adopted on this 7th day of November, 2018.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk