

Memorandum

Human Services Department



Date: September 30, 2016
To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Marie Raymond, Education Coordinator
Through: Naomi Farrell, Human Services Director
Subject: Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission Six-Month Update

PURPOSE

The purpose of the October 13, 2016 presentation is to provide a six-month update on the Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission and follow-up on the Youth Town Hall. Human Services Education, Families and Youth Development staff will be present to address the Council and to respond to any questions.

BACKGROUND

As Council is aware, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission (MYAC) was established in 1980 in response to the problems youth often face. While discussed as part of the problem, youth had no voice in local government and were not included as part of the solution. Tempe recognized the importance of youth input and created an advisory commission. Youth Town Hall is an annual event planned and sponsored by the Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission (MYAC). Youth Town Hall gives teens the opportunity to have direct input into policy affecting them and experience the results.

Youth Town Hall brings students together in Tempe with community decision makers, including school board members, civic and business leaders, public service agencies, and elected officials. Youth and adults exchange ideas and propose viable solutions for issues facing Tempe's youth. Recommendations generated at the annual Town Hall are published in the Youth Town Hall Report. The report is presented to the Tempe City Council for possible action or policy changes. The report is also widely disseminated in our community. Over the years numerous Youth Town Hall recommendations have been implemented.

MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

At the recent September 27, 2016 Commission Meeting, Commission Members elected the following officers:

Nomith Murari – Chair

Daniel Bish – Vice Chair

Sophia Gonzalez – Youth Town Hall Chair

Emma Moriarty – Treasurer

Carter Miller – Administrative Recorder

Liam Huggins – Community Service Project Chair

The Commission has worked steadily on the Concrete Impacts by Tempe Youth (C.I.T.Y.) Garden and is currently working to recruit new volunteers and bring community awareness to volunteer opportunities for youth in Tempe. In addition, MYAC is working with College Connect to develop a Financial Literacy piece among youth in Tempe based on a request from the 2016 Youth Town Hall discussion group on promoting successful futures. MYAC members are currently planning for the 2017 Youth Town Hall and will provide an update on progress.