



*“Young people with the power and voice
to shape the future of Hampton”*

Annual Report of the Hampton Youth Commission
Fiscal Year 2005-2006

Hampton Youth Commission

Every year the Hampton Youth Commission assembles a well-trained, diverse and dynamic group of up to 25 youth to represent the voice of young people in Hampton from both public and private high schools. Their vision is . . .

"Young people with the power and voice to shape the future of Hampton."

Through work sessions, public meetings, committees, project workgroups and extensive contact with their peers, this team of high school-aged youth tackles issues important to young people. The primary areas of focus are captured in the young people's own component to the city's Comprehensive Community Plan.

In another strategy to promote the goals of the HYC, Commissioners operate their own grant program, appropriating funds to Hampton's non-profit and grassroots organizations in the form of Initiative Grants (up to \$2500) and Service Projects in honor of National Youth Service Day (up to \$500).

Commissioners also serve as liaisons to adult boards and commissions to ensure a youth voice in city-wide decision-making. They also meet with other commissions and city officials to have input into plans and proposals.

The 2005 - 2006 year was very successful for the work of the Commission. Four public meetings were held with an average attendance of 50 youth as guests. Young people had the opportunity to meet City Council candidates, explore employment and

Community Plan Topics

Caring Relationships

Positive interactions and relationships in the community that have an impact on youth.

Youth Space

Places to go and things to do that are accessible and youth-friendly.

Employment and Careers

Work opportunities for teens and being prepared for the workforce of the future.

Transportation

Getting around in a youth-friendly, accessible transportation system.

Leadership

Youth share in leadership opportunities with adults.

Life Skills

All young people will acquire the necessary skills to be successful in everyday life.

volunteer opportunities in their community, voiced their opinions about improvements, gained skills and knowledge about career and future planning and brainstormed ideas for the city's new Multi-Purpose Youth Center.

Commissioners had the opportunity to represent Hampton by presenting at National League of Cities Congress of Cities and the Search Institute National Conference.

2005 - 2006 Youth Commission

Kamilah Barnette	Junior, BHS	Community Plan
Ryan Cerone	Junior, KHS	Teen Center
Lauren Elder	Senior, BHS	Appropriations
Anne Harris	Junior, HRA	Teen Center & HYC Chair
Gregory Harrison	Junior, HHS	Community Plan
Portia Henry	Senior, PHS	Appropriations Chair
Daniel Joseph	Senior, HRA	Community Plan
Bradford Knight	Freshman, HHS	Community Plan
Clarence Lacy Jr.	Senior, BHS	Appropriations
Heather Martin	Junior, KHS	Appropriations
Jasmine Martin	Junior, HHS	Community Plan
Victor Mason	Senior, PHS	Community Plan Chair
Matthew Milby	Senior, HHS	Community Plan
Tom Mitchell	Senior, BHS	Appropriations
Alex Pope	Senior, PHS	Community Plan
Brittany Rogers	Junior, BHS	Community Plan
Morgan Saunders	Junior, KHS	Teen Center
Jaron Scott	Freshman, BHS	Community Plan
Joy Stanley	Junior, PHS	Appropriations
Tiphonie Sutton	Senior, KHS	Teen Center Chair
Mark Tsao	Junior, KHS	Teen Center
Levar Whitaker	Senior, PHS	Teen Center

Staff:

Sarah Rodriguez	Senior, HHS	Youth Planner
Will Bane	Junior, PHS	Youth Planner
Tamarra Smith	Senior, BHS	Secretary

= 23 Commissioners and 3 staff.

HYC Highlights 2005 - 2006

- ☆ Recruited, trained and placed 23 commissioners. Held a successful Boot Camp and Retreat to prepare them for their roles in the upcoming year. The three working committees were Appropriations, Community Plan, and Teen Center.
- ☆ During summer 2005, the Community Plan committee continued their research to evaluate businesses as being "youth-friendly" according to criteria developed by the HYC and incorporated in the "Youth Friendly Guidebook." On August 9, 2005, "Youth Friendly" businesses were invited to attend a breakfast where they were recognized in Council Chambers. Businesses received "Youth Friendly" stickers to hang in their windows and copies of the Guidebook.
- ☆ Former youth commissioners and youth planners traveled to Washington DC with a delegation from Hampton to receive the Innovations in American Government Award. On August 10, 2005 the award was presented at a City Council meeting. Sarah Rodriguez, Youth Planner, and representatives from Neighborhood Youth Advisory Board and Uth ACT accepted the award.
- ☆ Site visits to regional teen centers were conducted in August. Fairfax County was one of the most influential site visits. The group also toured the Job Hut in Manassas which became the basis for Hampton's Career Café established later in the year.
- ☆ The Youth Component of the city's comprehensive Community Plan, updated and co-authored by former Youth Planner Jacob Byrd, was adopted by the Planning Commission and then City Council in February 2006.
- ☆ Brainstorming sessions began with the city's communications department to explore the possibilities of a youth television show to be aired monthly on channel 47.
- ☆ HYC conducted 4 public meetings and 14 work sessions. Averaged 50+ youth from the public in attendance at public meetings.
- ☆ The first public meeting was held in October 2005 where teens explored transportation options in the city. This led to research by the Youth Planners on alternate public transit systems. In December the Community Plan committee hosted the Amazing Race in Norfolk which allowed them to experience the Norfolk Electronic Transit system. The commissioners' positive response to the NET led to recommendations to the Planning Commission to explore this idea.

- ☆ Commissioners participated in the annual "Holly Days" parade exhibiting support and pride in the City of Hampton and caring relationships between youth and adults.
- ☆ Three commissioners attended National League of Cities, representing the City of Hampton in the City Showcase. Many convention participants were highly impressed with Hampton's involvement and commitment to its youth. As a direct result of the Hampton Youth Commission showcase at the convention, other cities have been inspired to establish youth commissions of their own.
- ☆ In December 2005, the HYC Coordinator left the position. In March 2006, a new HYC Coordinator was hired.
- ☆ Over the winter holiday, HYC hosted an event for approximately 75 teens at the Sentara facility to receive input for the new Teen Center.
- ☆ In January 2006, two commissioners were interviewed for a televised discussion on workforce development. This was shown on Channel 47 and received extremely positive feedback.
- ☆ The February public meeting was jointly sponsored with the Superintendent's Advisory Group to hear a presentation on the Hampton City Schools Strategic Plan. Commissioners then created feedback for the Superintendent and held followup meetings with senior staff to work on correlations between the school division plan and the city's Youth Component.
- ☆ On March 27, 2005, HYC hosted their second City Council Candidates Forum. Many attendees have rated the forum to be a continuous success and among the best of its kind. There were over 220 attendees.
- ☆ On March 31, 2006, HYC co-sponsored "*You Can Change the World*," a youth leadership and civic engagement conference, with international youth trainer Derek Peterson. Over 100 local youth participated.
- ☆ During the April HYC work session Hampton's Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Hampton Roads Transit authorities were in attendance to discuss future partnerships and means of collaborating to have products and services more "youth friendly." During the May work session, HYC heard a briefing on Ft Monroe and provided feedback for the planning process.

- ☆ On April 28, 2006, the Commission cosponsored the 3rd Annual Uth ACT Rally at Mill Point Park. The rally attracted over 300 attendees.
- ☆ HYC received a proclamation from City Council marking April 29, 2006 as National Youth Service Day in Hampton.
- ☆ HYC assisted in the creation of Career Café to provide young people with resources and training for employment and higher education after high school. Members met with representatives from the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development to provide ideas for the plans, and provided a representative for the development process. In May 2006, the Café currently located at the Coliseum Mall had its grand opening and over 300 youth have already been served.
- ☆ On May 10, 2006, the Commission was informed that the funding for their appropriations program would be continued. Many youth and adult representatives from local organizations and businesses spoke on behalf of the Commission at the budget hearings to provide awareness of the impact the HYC has in the several youth communities in Hampton. The HYC greatly appreciated the support given.
- ☆ A non-traditional approach to hosting a public meeting was created as the commissioners brought the year to a close. On May 22, 2006, at new Hampton Convention Center, the Commissioners hosted the "Island of Opportunities" where young people in the city were provided mass information regarding civic engagement, volunteer and service opportunities from local non-profits and organizations. With the fun Hawaiian luau theme, mixed with great food and entertainment, there were over youth 120 attendees.
- ☆ Throughout Spring 2006 through the early part of this summer, HYC has recruited and appointed 15 new commissioners to join the ranks along with 8 returning commissioners. The Coalition for Youth and Planning departments have also hired a new Youth Planner and HYC Secretary.
- ☆ One of the major projects that will be carried over to next year will be the golf tournament benefiting the new teen center. After months of planning and solicitation of donations, the tournament will be held on September 16, 2006.

Committees

The Youth Commission was divided into three committees: Teen Center, Community Plan, and Appropriations. By dividing the group into smaller committees, the members have an opportunity to channel their energies in more personal interests and commissioners gain a more inclusive understanding the work of the commission as a whole.

Teen Center Committee

The initial planning for new state of the art Multi-Purpose Youth Center began with a survey conducted with over 600 high school students concerning activities, programs and other resources that they would be interested in having in the 'Teen' Center. This survey sought to receive information on teen interests in the arts, culture, athletics, education (academic and vocational), "free space" areas, personal growth and development, and special events such as dances, meeting spaces, planned trips, support services, and communications.

The committee hosted an awareness event for the new teen center at the Sentara Health and Fitness Center to raise excitement and seek further input in programs and space use.

In Spring 2006, the committee began intensive planning and organizing of their first Golf Tournament as a benefit to raise awareness, community support, and capital for the center. The tournament is scheduled to be held on September 16, 2006 at The Hamptons golf course.

Community Plan

Community Plan committee held a public meeting on transportation to gather information young people's perceptions of public transportation. The data collected, along with that from previous surveys and focus groups, added to the teens' research on effective alternate methods of public transportation.

After making site visits to Blacksburg, VA and Norfolk, VA to observe their methods of public transportation, the committee members in partnership with the Planning Department submitted a C-MAQ grant for the development of a shuttle system in Hampton similar to that of Norfolk.

The Commission also met with representatives of the Hampton Roads Transit Authority to brainstorm and discuss options that would increase the number of teen bus riders, make the bus riding experience more "youth-friendly" and seek other possible improvements that could make the bus riding experience more pleasurable for the general public.

The committee also continued their efforts to discover, acknowledge, and promote "youth-friendly" businesses. The teens evaluated over 200 businesses to determine whether they are youth friendly according to the Youth Friendly Guidebook. The committee will continue to evaluate businesses and seek to assist those that are deemed "not youth-friendly" with resources to enhance their services towards young people. The goal for 2006-2007 is to evaluate community organizations and places such as non-profit programs, community centers, and libraries.

Appropriations

The Appropriations Committee was tasked with allocating city funds to be used for youth and adult partnership programs to benefit the community. This year, the committee members chose to focus on the developmental assets that they felt needed to be better represented in Hampton: Cultural Competence, Life Skills, and Service to Others. All of the programs that the committee chose to fund had to focus on at least one of these assets and represent a youth and adult partnership as a means to improve the community.

Eighteen programs were funded for a total of \$21,484. With the data that has been collected thus far, over 2165 young people (elementary, middle and high school aged) participated in a grant funded project. An additional grant of \$1455 was made to create Project Citizen, a service learning curriculum which will eventually take place in all Hampton City Schools eighth grade civics classes. This is part of the Sustainability Plan created through the Kellogg Foundation grant three years ago.

HYC offered a special grant this year for an organization to set up a babysitting service for families displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Although a number of organizations expressed interest and requested applications, no one applied.

The complete annotated list of grants for FY06 is attached.