

Annual Report of the Hampton Youth Commission

Fiscal/School Year 2006-2007



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

Hampton Youth Commission

In the fall of 2007 Hampton Youth Commission (HYC) will begin it's tenth year of representing the voice of young people in Hampton. This dynamic group of up to 25 high school-aged youth is assembled each year under the vision . . .

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

Power and Voice - HYC '07

- ❖ Implementation of new strategies for the Youth Component of the Community Plan presented to the Planning Commission in October and adopted by City Council in November, 2006.
- ❖ Revision of the HYC Grant Program to award contracts directly to organizations to accomplish specific strategies of the Youth Component.
- ❖ Three public meetings, with an average attendance of 100 youth, providing them a voice on critical issues.
- ❖ 27 organizations designated Youth-Friendly as part of the Youth-friendly Guidebook Project and a new sustainability plan for the project.
- ❖ A youth planning charette to design renovation plans for the new Teen Center and over \$5,000 to kick off the fund-raising.



Community Plan Goals

Caring Relationships in the Community

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

Youth Share Leadership

Youth share in leadership opportunities with adults throughout the community.

Youth Acquire Essential Life Skills

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

Every Young Person Prepared for a Career

Increasing employment for teens and being prepared for the workforce of the future.

Places To Go and Things To Do for Youth

Places and spaces throughout Hampton are accessible and youth-friendly.

Getting Around

Ensuring a youth-friendly, accessible transportation system.

- ❖ A successful Innovations in American Government site visit, hosting teams of adults from across the country, visiting Hampton to learn about Youth Civic Engagement and our Youth Commission.

"It was awesome to see the level of elevated self-esteem that most of the youth that I interacted with hovered in...it was amazing to see and something that I look forward to highlighting and bringing out with our youth. True community strength at its best. Thank you for the opportunity to understand it a little bit more and to see it in action!"

County Commissioner
La Plata County, Colorado

HYC Year in Review 2006 - 2007



- ☆ Recruited, trained and placed 20 commissioners. Held a successful Boot Camp and Retreat to prepare them for their roles in the upcoming year. A Chair, Vice Chair, and Appropriations Coordinator were elected and became the Executive Team for the Commission. Liaisons were designated to important partner groups - Hampton Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Uth ACT, Youthink, Career Café.

- ☆ During summer 2006, HYC staff and Executive Team met in retreat to reorganize and improve aspects of the Commission. Committees were re-vamped to correspond directly with the six goals of the Youth Component of the Community Plan. Three committees were created each dealing with two of the goals. Commissioners then determined the strategies they wanted to address under each goal and were given four options to tackle that issue: Policy, Programs, Partnerships, or Philanthropy (grants).
- ☆ These revisions meant that changes needed to be made to the grant process to infuse a new focus on the grants as a means to accomplish the goals of the Youth Component. The City Council grant allocation was divided evenly among the three committees (with an equal amount reserved for National Youth Service Day in the spring). Each committee determined one or more projects they wished to fund, created a Request for Proposals, interviewed and selected candidates, and issued contracts. This was a very different way of dealing with the grant process that resulted in five grants awarded totaling over \$26,000. The process was challenging for commissioners and will be evaluated this summer for improvements.
- ☆ Strategies were developed for all goals and objectives in the Youth Component, presented to the Planning Commission in October, and approved by City Council in November.
- ☆ A successful Golf Tournament was sponsored in September to raise some initial funds for the Teen Center. Commissioners recruited teams, solicited sponsorships and ended up raising over \$5,000.



- ☆ In addition to Boot Camp and the HYC retreat, Commissioners received training throughout the year in the following areas: public policy, group roles and responsibilities, public speaking, committee leadership and running a meeting.

☆ HYC conducted three public meetings, one grant awards session, and 14 work sessions, averaging approximately 100 youth from the public in attendance at public meetings.

☆ The first public meeting in October was a planning charette for the Teen Center conducted with the design firm, Rancorn, Wildman Architects. Teens explored design and programming options for the new facility then the Youth Planners completed a report of the young people's ideas.



☆ In October, one commissioner attended the Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth conference and presented a workshop on Hampton's youth engagement model.



☆ Four Commissioners attended Congress of Cities of the National League of Cities, representing Hampton in the Showcase of Cities. Will Bane, Senior Youth Planner, participated in a panel on involving youth. As a direct result of the HYC showcase, other cities have been inspired to establish youth commissions of their own.

☆ In January the Mayor visited a work session of HYC to share his proposal for a trade school in Hampton. After extensive deliberation, the group prepared a comprehensive list of issues to share as feedback.

☆ The February public meeting was designed to explore the issue of how young people acquire life skills. Thanks to a partnership with Langley Federal Credit Union for prizes and advertising, the meeting was well-attended and enjoyable. Some of the activities created for that meeting have since been shared with other youth-serving organizations and used in other settings. Results of the meeting were used as information for planning related to the Youth Component.

☆ In March, HYC hosted a delegation from New Hampshire seeking to learn from Hampton in order to improve their youth commission.

☆ Brad Knight, a Sophomore from Hampton High School serving as Vice Chair of the commission was appointed to serve on the Council for Youth, Education and Families of the National League of Cities as one of their four youth representatives from across the country. In his first role as council member he attended the Congressional Cities Conference in Washington, DC and gave input on the direction of the Council for the upcoming year.



- ☆ Throughout the year, HYC sent representation to a number of city and community forums or briefings to represent a youth perspective including the School Safety Forum, a Fort Monroe planning charette, and the city's Communications and IT departments. In addition, Commissioners were featured on *Hampton Live* on WLRT AM and in a documentary for WHRO TV.
- ☆ Sixteen Service Grants were awarded in honor of National Youth Service Day - 6 to school groups, 6 to community-based organizations, and 3 to faith-based youth groups. A reception, 'Thank Youth', was held in the City Hall lobby prior to receiving the annual proclamation for NYSD from City Council.
- ☆ Commissioners supported the Career Café throughout the year, serving in an advisory role and assisting with the re-opening of the center in a new site in Net Center.
- ☆ On April 4, the Commission cosponsored the 4th Annual Uth ACT Rally, *The Power of Youth*, at Mill Point Park. The rally attracted a record 600+ young people.
- ☆ HYC was an integral part of the Innovations in American Government site visit in April in which 10 communities from around the country were chosen to visit Hampton to learn about our youth engagement. Commissioners served as Ambassadors for the guests, conducted a workshop, and were interviewed for a national publication.

HYC Committee Work

The CREW - *Caring Relationships, Youth Share Leadership*

Completed the youth-friendly spaces project, then contracted with Six House to continue it. Surveyed teens and held a public meeting to explore issues of neighborhood safety.

MOVE - *Youth Space, Transportation*

Created Teen Center designs and explored transportation options to make sure the new Teen Center is accessible to all youth.

SP & Associates - *Careers, Life Skills*

Adopted Career Café and served in an advisory role through their first year of operation and subsequent move out of the Coliseum Mall.

- ☆ The final public meeting of the year, corresponding to the site visit, served as a showcase of the HYC for the out-of-town visitors. As a forum on neighborhood safety, commissioners had surveyed their peers regarding top safety concerns and used the results to gain further input at the meeting.
- ☆ This spring HYC recruited and selected 14 new commissioners to join the 12 returning commissioners. The Coalition for Youth hired a new Student Intern to serve as HYC Secretary and the Planning Department hired two new Youth Planners. Since its merger with the Neighborhood Office, another Youth Planner position has been added to work with Neighborhood Youth Advisory Board and solidify the neighborhood youth work closer to the work of HYC.

2006 - 2007 Youth Commission

<u>COMMISSIONER</u>	<u>GRADE, SCHOOL</u>	<u>COMMITTEE, ROLE</u>
Kamilah Barnette	Senior, BHS	SP & Associates
Michael Bock	Freshman, HHS	The Crew Chair
Tiffany Cochrane	Freshman, PHS	MOVE
Kendyl Crawford	Junior, HHS	The Crew
Stefanie Davis	Freshman, HHS	SP & Associates
Gregory Harrison	Senior, BHS	SP & Associates, HYC Chair
Anna Hogg	Sophomore, HHS	MOVE Chair
Terrell Kingwood	Freshman, KHS	SP & Associates Chair
Bradford Knight	Sophomore, HHS	The Crew, HYC Vice Chair
Jasmine Martin	Senior, HHS	Appropriations Coordinator
Jasmine McKinney	Junior, HHS	MOVE
Nadine Nickleson	Sophomore, HHS	MOVE
Mark Pelchat Jr.	Junior, PHS	Appropriations
Brittany Rogers	Senior, BHS	The Crew
Morgan Saunders	Senior, KHS	MOVE
Jaron Scott	Sophomore, BHS	The Crew
Will Spaulding	Junior KHS	Appropriations
Jaclyn Stokes	Sophomore, KHS	SP & Associates
Mark Tsao	Senior, KHS	MOVE
Antony Vo	Senior, HHS	SP & Associates

Staff:

Will Bane	Senior, PHS	Youth Planner
Ivey Hawkins	Junior, HHS	Youth Planner
Cole Smith	Senior, HHS	Secretary

