



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

Annual Report of the Hampton Youth Commission

Fiscal Year 2003

Hampton Youth Commission

Every year the Hampton Youth Commission assembles a well-trained, diverse and dynamic group of 24 youth to represent the voice of young people in Hampton. Their vision is . . .

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

Through work sessions, monthly public meetings, committee work 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 Plan.

In another strategy to promote the goals of the HYC, Commissioners operate their own grant program, appropriating funds to Initiative Grants (up to \$2500) and Service Grants (up to \$500).

Commissioners also serve as liaisons to adult boards and commissions to ensure a youth voice in city-wide decision-making.

The 2002 - 2003 year was very success for the work of the Commission. Nine public meetings were held with an average attendance of 50 youth as guests. Commissioners heard and endorsed the report of the Youth Safety Commission and hosted a presentation by the Developmental Assets for Youth team who solicited ideas about how adults can build the 40 developmental assets for youth. Other public forums included youth rights and responsibilities, economic development in Hampton, the Security Plan for the Teen Center, and speakouts on the new Hampton Community Plan.

Commissioners had the opportunity to represent Hampton by presenting at National League of Cities Congress of Cities, the national conference of Healthy Communities Healthy Youth, the national YMCA youth engagement initiative, and the Mid-Atlantic Network for Youth.

Comprehensive 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 -

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

Transportation -

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

2002 - 2003 Youth Commission

Samantha Archey	Senior, BHS	Comp Plan chair, attended NLC
Keshia Ashe	Junior, KHS	Superintendent's Adv Group Liaison
Lydia Bailey	Senior, BHS	Vice-chair, NN Youth Council Liaison
Meredith Blackwell	Junior, PC	Comp Plan
Omar Blue	Junior PHS	Publicity
Dominique Broadnex	Sophomore, BHS	Comp Plan
Constance Brooker	Senior, KHS	Comp Plan
Christopher Cooke	Senior, HHS	Publicity
Jahmil Edwards	Senior, BHS	Comp Plan
Todd Eley	Junior, HHS	Comp Plan
Allison Flores	Senior, HHS	Chairperson
Ashley Gilliam	Sophomore, PHS	Comp Plan
Monique Hollowell	Junior, BHS	Comp Plan
Ashley Huggar	Junior, PHS	Appropriations co-chair
Jessika James	Junior, BHS	Publicity
Meghan Jennings	Junior, HHS	Parks & Rec Liaison
Angela Mack	Senior, BHS	Citizens Unity Commission Liaison
Leah McDowell	Senior, PHS	Appropriations
Kelly Perry	Junior, HHS	Developmental Assets Liaison
Tyeisha Radcliffe	Junior, BHS	Neighborhood Commission Liaison
Emily Shuart	Junior, KHS	Appropriations
Carnai Simpson	Senior, PHS	Comp Plan
Tvonia Thomas	Senior, Hmpt	Christian Appropriations
Eric Wells	Senior, PHS	Appropriations co-chair

Staff:

Rashida Costley	Senior, BHS	Youth Planner
Alicia Tundidor	Junior, BHS	Youth Planner
Whitney Dunlap-Fowler	Senior, BHS	Secretary

HYC Highlights 2002 - 2003

- Recruited, trained and placed 25 commissioners. Held a successful Boot Camp and Retreat to prepare them for their roles in the upcoming year.
- Conducted 9 public meetings and 9 work sessions. Averaged 50+ youth from the public in attendance.
- Conducted one round of funding for Initiative Grants and awarded \$26,399 to 14 organizations. Conducted two rounds – fall and spring – of Service Grants and awarded \$5,847 to 11 organizations.
- Participated in National Youth Service Day through promotion of service activities across the community and receiving a proclamation from City Council.
- Conducted survey of business and organizations to pilot test youth perception of the elements of youth-friendly space. Developed a draft of a guidebook to be used by youth to interact with businesses to help them meet the criteria.
- Worked on the partnership with HRT to increase youth ridership. Provided recommendations that were incorporated in their new public awareness campaign.
- Sent a delegation to National League of Cities Congress of Cities in Salt Lake City. Selected to display in the Showcase of Cities on youth as planners. Commissioners spoke at the national conference of Healthy Communities Healthy Youth, the national YMCA youth engagement initiative, and the Mid-Atlantic Network for Youth.
- Placed liaisons on Parks and Rec Advisory Board, Citizens' Unity Commission, Neighborhood Commission and Superintendent's Advisory Group. Re-vamped the Neighborhood Youth Advisory Board for greater effectiveness and placed youth on Neighborhood Commission committees.
- Developed new partnership with local Bar Association Young Lawyer's committee to conduct public speakout on youth rights and responsibilities.
- Developed a liaison relationship with Newport News Office on Youth Development where youth attended each other's meetings to support one another's projects.
- Edited and finalized the video, developed posters and presentation ideas for promotion of Teen Center.
- Completed next steps in the quest for a Teen Center. Presentation made to City Council, Council gave the "go-ahead" to continue work on the Teen Center.
- Supported commissioners working with representatives of the police department and Parks & Rec in development of Security Plan. Report accepted by City Council.
- Developed a tool to assess an organization's readiness for youth engagement and worked on an accompanying training program.
- Consulted with Citizens' Unity Commission to improve effectiveness of youth engagement. Provided training for the commission in working with youth.
- Helped to develop a Youth Focus Group of 12 members to represent the voice of youth within the community plan process.
- Integrated the Youth Focus Group work into HYC public meetings as 2 speakouts to obtain youth input. Approximately 100 youth had input.
- Youth Focus Group sent representatives to meet with the adult focus groups and hosted representatives from the other groups at the youth meetings in order to have input into the other strategic areas.