

# Youth Civic Engagement Pilot Project

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# Executive Summary

- Following the discontinuation of the Youth Commission as a City Council-appointed commission, Library and Community Services staff are proposing a pilot project for an alternative model for youth engagement. The new approach includes a “Summer at City Hall” initiative to begin in June 2017, with the intention of providing youth with an educational and inspirational experience that will support their engagement in civic activities and interest in public service.

## Background

- On **February 7, 2017** City Council adopted a new Ordinance related to the powers and duties of its Commissions, Boards and Committees. The new Ordinance removed the Youth Commission from the City's slate of Boards and Commissions.

## Discussion

***Governments Engaging Youth (GEY)*** initiative has the goal of developing program models that offer students opportunities to:

- Gain 21st century work skills;
- Build interest in public service careers;
- Learn how to be active citizens (vote, volunteer, lead, advocate); and
- Bring youth voice to influence community issues.

## Discussion

### Summer at City Hall program elements:

- 3-week, M-F timeframe serving 16-20 students
- Ages 15-18 (entering 10<sup>th</sup> grade through entering 12<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Course content: City department tours & information, civics education (what it means to be an active citizen), careers in public service, opportunities for volunteer service
- Research/advocacy group project
- Commitments to further public involvement in specified projects
- Mentoring from older youth already active and involved in public service (18-21)

# Strategic Plan Initiative

- Effective, Sustainable Government
- Quality of Life

## Fiscal Impact

- Funding for the pilot program is currently available in the Library and Community Services operating budget.

## Recommended Motion

- No motion is required at this time