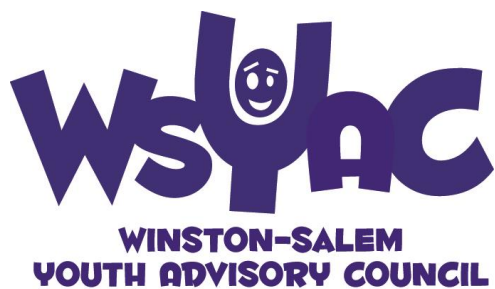


# ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2016-2017



## CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL



Staff Administrator:

Wanda Allen-Abraha, JD

Human Relations Director

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Overview

Purpose, Mission, History, and Duties .....	Page 3
Council's Relationship to City Government, Staff, and the Community.....	Page 4
Membership.....	Page 5

### 2016-2017 Highlights

Management's Comments.....	Page 5
Performance Information/ Highlights.....	Page 6
2017-2018 Outline of Goals.....	Page 8
Recommendations to the City Council.....	Page 8

Attachment A: Newsletter

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Council is to give the youth an opportunity to become more aware of local government, and become involved in the community by participating in community activities a minimum of 40 hours each year.

## **MISSION**

Serve as a conduit between city government and younger constituents. The Youth Council's core focus is youth civic engagement by way of community programming, youth-oriented activities, contribution of at least 40 volunteer hours per school year to government-related initiatives, projects, and programs, dissemination of information to the community regarding topics that are important and relevant to the youth in our community, and to advise the City Council and the Human Relations Department on matters that relate to the community's youth population.

## **HISTORY**

In March of 1989, the former Winston-Salem City Council unanimously approved a resolution to establish a Youth Advisory Council. The purpose of the Youth Advisory Council, as outlined in 1989, is to provide the City Council with recommendations on a variety of subjects and to give youth the opportunity to become more aware of local government. At that time, the City Council stated that the Youth Advisory Council should be diverse, inclusive, and representative of the Winston-Salem high school student population.

In May of 1989, nineteen members began a one-year term of service as the original Youth Advisory Council under the direction of the Recreation and Parks Department. In June of 2010, the Youth Advisory Council was reorganized under the Human Relations Department by resolution of the City Council.

## **DUTIES**

- (1) Actively promoting the participation of the youth in city government programs and activities;
- (2) Promoting positive human relations among all youth;
- (3) Providing channels of communication among all populations;
- (4) Encouraging youth to become better trained and qualified for employment opportunities;
- (5) Performing duties consistent with general law as may be assigned it from time to time by the City Council; and
- (6) Performing such other duties as necessary to enforce the powers assigned to it.

## THE COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP TO CITY GOVERNMENT

The government of the City of Winston-Salem and the general management and control of all its affairs are vested in the City Council and the Mayor. The City Council appoints the City Manager who is the administrative head of City government and is responsible for the administration of all departments of City government. The City Council is also the appointing authority for members of the Youth Advisory Council.

The Council keeps the City Manager and the City Council informed of its activities. To further that communication, the chairperson or a designated member of the Council shall appear annually before the City Council to provide them with information on the pulse of the youth community and a yearly progress report on Council programs and projects.

The Council makes recommendations to the City Council concerning projects and programs relevant to the youth of Winston-Salem.

## THE COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE STAFF

The Council's relationship with the Human Relations staff involves advising staff regarding youth-oriented and youth-developed programs, concerns, and issues. During the process of initiating programs and conducting youth outreach, the Youth Advisory Council calls on the staff for technical assistance and research into matters.

## THE COMMISSION'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMUNITY

The Youth Advisory Council is the body through which youth concerns can be relayed to City officials. The Youth Advisory Council brings information to its peers on the happenings of city government that pertain to the youth.



## YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL 2016-2017 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

School	First Name	Last Name
Calvary Baptist	Hunter	Dameworth
Calvary Baptist	Wynter	Guess
North Forsyth	Karla	Galino-Martinez
North Forsyth	Nigel	Tramber
Middle College	Camryn	Bounds-Hutchens
Winston-Salem Prep	Keith	Watson
Mount Tabor	Matthew	Powell
Salem Academy	Jenna	Barnes
Salem Academy	Lillian	Giles
Walkertown High	Logan	Carter
Reagan High	Christian	Avy
Mt. Tabor High School	Jaya	Mishra
Parkland High	Kirsten	Smith
Early College	Isabella	Rieco
Bishop	Robert	Ganzert
Paisley	Avionna	Burns
Paisley	Marc	Bertoni
W-S Prep	JaLisa	Lumpkin
Kennedy High School	Makiya	Stewart
Kennedy High School	Abdull	Mosley
West Forsyth	Natalia	Ortiz
Glenn High School	Nuri	Park
Reynolds High School	Campbell	Turner

## MANAGEMENT'S COMMENTS

WANDA ALLEN-ABRAHA, HUMAN RELATIONS DIRECTOR



The Human Relations Department is very pleased to serve as the administering department of the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council. The mission of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is to serve as a conduit between city government and younger constituents. The Youth Council's core focus is youth civic engagement by way of community programming and youth-oriented activities; a contribution of at least 40 volunteer hours per school year to government-related initiatives, projects, and programs; the dissemination of information to the community regarding topics that are important and relevant to the youth in our community; and to advise the City Council and the Human Relations Department on matters that relate to the community's youth population.

The YAC's purpose is to provide a venue for youth between the ages of 14-18 to have an active means of civic engagement in local government.

Although the YAC was established in 1989 under the leadership of Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian H. Burke, the Human Relations Department was designated as the administering department for the YAC in June 2010. Since that time, the YAC has been restructured in order to enhance its focus and goals. Specifically, the each member of the YAC has been charged with fulfilling 40 hours of community service during the course of the school year. To that end, each month focuses on a different topic that relates to the YAC's mission and the community at-large. Topics have included civics, government, housing, and the environment.

The YAC has thrived this year and has established itself as a welcome youth voice in the community. Their hard work has been recognized by the Winston-Salem Foundation's Youth Grantmakers and the State of North Carolina by way of competitive funding for their annual project. We are excited to continue to see the YAC flourish in the future.

## PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

### I. Goal: Community Education

- Gain better knowledge of community issues, organizations, and services.

MONTHLY FOCUS/PRESENTATIONS	
August/September – Orientation and Planning Focus: Annual Service Project Planning	February –Human Relations Focus: Youth Grantmakers in Action Community Service Project Planning
October – Civic Engagement Presentation	March/April- Community Partnerships
November – Local Government Mayor Joines	May – End of Year Project Planning and Wrap-Up
December/January – Homelessness Awareness	

### II. Goal: Community Service and Volunteerism

- Participate in 40 hours each of community activities and service.
  - Estimated total: 600
- Connect to youth population through written publication.
  - See attachment A.
- Produce annual project that is a benefit to the community.
  - The Council also received grants from Youth Grantmakers in Action of the Winston-Salem Foundation and the State Youth Council to help fund the event.

- III. **Goal: City Government Participation:** Gain knowledge of city government processes by interfacing with city government officials.

MEETING PURPOSE	CITY OFFICIAL(S)
Local Government Presentation	Mayor Allen Joines
Annual Report Presentation	CDHGG Committee of City Council
Attend a City Council Meeting	City Council

### 2016-2017 MAJOR PROGRAM /PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Annual Project:** The 2016-2017 “YAC’s Operation Caring for Kids” annual project is focused on creating bags of various items for children under the age of 18, who have at least one parent serving in the military. In partnership with the local National Guard and Army Reserves to disseminate gender-specific bags, to be divided between elementary, middle, and high school ages. Once the bags are put together, YAC members will present the packages to the youth.
- State Youth Council Involvement:** The Youth Advisory Council applied for a state grant through the State Youth Council and was awarded \$500 to use towards their Annual Project. Two YAC Members attended the End of Year State Youth Conference held in Concord, NC.



- Winston-Salem Foundation Youth Grantmakers in Action Funding:** The Youth Advisory Council received a \$500.00 grant to help promote their Annual Project.
- International Village:** Youth Advisory Council members hosted a Children’s Fun Area at International Village in September 2016. Members painted faces and supervised a children’s play area.





- **March for Homeless Children:** Several Youth Advisory Council members completed educational campaigns on child hunger and homelessness at their individual schools. In part because of this campaign, the March for Homeless Children had a significant number of youth participants this year.



- **Human Relations Student Awards Banquet:** The Youth Advisory Council assisted the Human Relations Commission in hosting the 37th Annual Human Relations Student Awards Banquet. Youth Advisory Council members served as greeters and seated guests during the program. The Youth Advisory Council Chairperson gave a welcome to the audience and helped present a special recognition to Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian H. Burke.





## WINSTON-SALEM YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL 2017-2018 OUTLINE OF GOALS

For the fiscal year of 2017-2018, the goals of the Winston-Salem Youth Advisory Council will focus on the following goals:

1. To maintain and encourage use of the Youth Expression Wall;
2. To meet requirements of the State Youth Council as a chartered member and to increase the YAC's presence on the state level;
3. To continue learning about the community through presentations at monthly meetings;
4. To find ways to connect to students outside of YAC through social media and in person;
5. To continue the YAC newsletter; and
6. To complete an end-of-year project for the 2017-2018 school year.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

The Youth Advisory Council recognizes the need to continue fostering an environment that initiates and supports multiracial and multi-ethnic dialogue and understanding in the youth community. We respectfully request your support of the following recommendations:

1. The Youth Advisory Council recognizes the importance of building and maintaining effective lines of communication between city government and the youth community. By improving the dialogue with our diverse community groups, city government can ensure that the City of Winston-Salem fosters an environment that is conducive for an atmosphere in which the youth voice is heard. In carrying out its strategic goals, the Youth Advisory Council will **increase its outreach efforts in all areas of the community and will seek input from the City Council on issues or concerns in their respective wards.**
2. We ask that the City Council **support the Youth Advisory Council's goal of building a stronger relationship with City officials.**

The Youth Advisory Council greatly appreciates the continual support it has received from the City Council.