

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: February 13, 2023

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Johnnie Taylor, Assistant City Manager
 William L Royston, Recreation and Parks Director
 Bryce Sherman, Youth Violence Prevention Manager

Council Action Requested:

Authorization to Enter into a MOU with Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools (WSFCS) to Offer Programming for Youth.

Strategic Focus Area: Safe and Secure Community
Strategic Objective: Yes
Strategic Plan Action Item: No
Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

In an effort to reduce youth violence in our communities, Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks is requesting permission to enter into an MOU with Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools (WSFCS). Data shows that effective programming consist of programming “where they are,” whether it be their neighborhoods or schools. The Youth and Teen Empowerment Initiative (YTEI) will focus on school areas. YTEI will bring multiple programs to Recreation and Parks locations and select WSFCS. Programming at schools include:

- The “Chop It Up” mentoring program: A YTEI and WSFCS program will allow volunteers and school guidance counselors to lead a round table style discussion with students on real life topics.
- The “Stay Fresh Initiative”: partnership between YTEI, WSFCS, and local licensed barbers. licensed barbers across the community will team up to provide FREE haircuts to students at different schools. This aims to reduce bullying and build confidence.

Committee Action:

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------|
| Committee | Public Safety 2.13.23 | Action | Approval |
| For | Unanimous | Against | |
| Remarks: | | | |

- The “After School Boxing Program” is designed to teach students the discipline of boxing in fun, active, non-contact classes. The program runs for eight weeks and is taught by certified and experienced coaches. Students who complete the program will be eligible for a free six-month membership to The Boxing Club at Minnie Lee Davis Harris Recreation Center.
- Impactful Tours: City staff to take 8-groups of scholars on tours around the city. Students will tour college campuses as well as visit job sites to expose them to different career paths such as: City of Winston-Salem departments, WSFCS headquarters, and Police and Fire stations. This will expose students to jobs/trades.

WS/FCS agrees to allow City employees and/or volunteers access to the selected school facilities and to sufficient space to perform the Programs' services as contemplated under this memorandum of understanding. All City employees, volunteers, contractors, or subcontractors providing services to student comply with all WS/FCS policies.