



City Council Referral Request

Tracking Number **2022-0048** Date of Referral *Click or tap to enter a date.* Requester **Yến Huỳnh**

- Referral To
- Study Session
 - Staff
 - Community Livability & Public Safety
 - Land Use & Environment Committee
 - Work Session
 - Ad Hoc Committee on Public Safety
 - Finance Committee
 - Advisory Committee *Choose from Dropdown*

Problem Statement

A clear concise description of the issue(s) that need(s) to be addressed.

The City of Olympia needs a platform for youth to engage their local government and be a part of the important decisions being made right now that affect them in the short term and long term. Currently there is not a mechanism in place to ensure the voices of youth are contributing to our City government and decision making in a meaningful manner. Additionally, this is supported by City of Olympia Resolution No. M-2045, stating an ongoing commitment to working with youth.

Request

What is being requested to assist in addressing the issue described in the problem statement?

To honor City staff’s current workload and to support work/life balance, we request using council goal money to fund the hiring of a consultant group. We suggest setting aside \$30,000 of Council goal money to support this effort. The consultant(s) would be tasked with researching successful youth council models and best practices, engaging and consulting with Olympia area youth, and providing a recommendation to the Olympia City Council on how best to stand up an Olympia Youth Council.

Recommendations and areas of interest include:

- Youth council structures and roles
- Age range for youth participants
- Youth representation from different schools in the area
- Amount of members
- Length of term
- Member recruitment
- How to meet youth where they are at (i.e. youth council convening during regular school hours, transportation)
- Creative meeting formats
- Scope and work plan
- Long term youth council sustainability
- Coordinating with partners (i.e. School Board, nonprofits)
- Compensation (stipend and/or school credit)

The initial referral will go to staff for scoping and hiring of consultant. Recommendations from consultant would go to the Community Livability and Public Safety Committee for review and vetting before being forwarded to the full Council for consideration.

Relationship to City Business or Proposed City Business/Services

Describe how this will enhance what is already offered and/or what it will provide that is not currently available. Why is this the City’s issue to address? How will this create a more adaptive and resilient organization? How will this enhance the City’s work to further equity, climate, and social justice?

Youth councils foster collaboration between young people and the governing bodies that serve them in various decision-making processes. Youth councils enable young people to take a more active role in decisions regarding programs and policies impacting them, rather than being passive recipients of

these services. This type of early engagement in government can have numerous benefits for all youth, especially those with diverse identities who generally do not have a seat at the table. Youth civic engagement is foundational to establishing sustained involvement in the democratic process. Youth councils can assist policymakers to ensure they are considering fresh perspectives and ideas for addressing the long-term needs of community members.

Connection to Comprehensive Plan

Choose all that apply.

- Community, Safety and Health**
Inclusive, respectful, civic participation; a safe & prepared community; health and wellness; adequate food and shelter; a quality education
- Downtown**
Vibrant, attractive urban destination; a safe and welcoming downtown for all; a mix of urban housing options; a variety of businesses; connections to our cultural & historic fabric; engaging arts & entertainment experience
- Economy**
Abundant local products and services; a thriving arts and entertainment industry; sustainable quality infrastructure; a stable thriving economy
- Environment**
Clean water & air; a daily connection to nature; preserved quality natural areas; a toxin-free community; a waste free culture
- Neighborhoods**
Distinctive places & gathering spaces; nearby goods & services; neighborhoods that are engaged in community decision making; safe and welcoming places to live

Options

Describe proposed options for moving the idea or issue forward for the meeting body to consider.

1. Allocate Council goal money for a consultant.
2. Select a consultant.
3. Consider recommendations of consultant.

Timing

Is this issue time sensitive, are there other timing factors to consider?

Would like a report of findings by the end of 2022.

Supporting Documentation (Work Plan, Transportation Master Plan, Parks Plan, etc)

Are there documents that support your request or that should be considered?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Councilmember Signatures

Two Councilmembers must support the request including the Chair of the Committee of referral. (Cannot be a committee quorum unless discussed at an open public meeting of the committee.)

Yến Huỳnh

Sponsoring Councilmember

Dani Madrone

1. _____
Councilmember

Lisa Parshley

2. _____
Councilmember

Staff Supplement

Budget Impacts: Click or tap here to enter text.

Legal Review *(to include regulatory authority)*: Click or tap here to enter text.

Policy implications: Click or tap here to enter text.

Implementation Considerations: Click or tap here to enter text.

Staff Liaison: Click or tap here to enter text.
