



Report to: General Committee

Meeting Date: October 4, 2021

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**SUBJECT:** Appointment of Members to the Markham Mayor's Youth Council for the period of September 7, 2021 to June 30, 2022

**PREPARED BY:** Portia Lee, Recreation Coordinator, Programs and Outreach Recreation Services

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) That the Report Appointment of Members to the Markham Mayor's Youth Council for the period of September 7, 2021 to June 30, 2022 be received;
- 2) And that the following Appointments of Members to the Markham Mayor's Youth Council be confirmed for the term September 7, 2021 to June 30, 2022;

Name	School	Grade	Ward they reside in
Sabine Cuesta	Saint Charles Garnier Catholic Elementary School	8	1
Indrakshi Chakraborty	St.Robert Catholic High School	9	1
Jin Zhou	Henderson Avenue Public School	9	1
Karina Florea	Thornhill Secondary School	11	1
Melody Cao	Bayview Secondary School	9	2
Elyssa Qi	St. Augustine Catholic High School	10	2
Stephanie Sheng	Bayview Secondary School	11	2
Marissa Wang	Bayview Secondary School	12	2
Eric Gao	Unionville High School	11	3
Justine Lin	Unionville High School	12	3
Silken Cheung-Ege	St. Justin Martyr Catholic Elementary School	8	4
Meilun Yu	Markville Secondary School	10	4
Manny Pahwa	Unionville High School	12	4
Olivia Chan	Unionville High School	12	4
Jiabei He	Bill Hogarth Secondary School	10	5
Enya Law	Bill Hogarth Secondary School	11	5
Gloria Huang	Bill Hogarth Secondary School	11	5
Callista Chan	St. Augustine Catholic High School	10	6

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Bryant Zheng	Markville Secondary School	12	6
Jasmine Jing	St.Robert Catholic High School	12	6
Kara Yang	Markville Secondary School	12	6
Jonathan Feng	Markville Secondary School	12	6
Ashwin Suganthan	Markham District High School	12	7
Jonathan Xie	Unionville High School	12	8
Ulain Umar	Father Michael McGivney Catholic High School	12	8

- 3) And that Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the report is to confirm appointments to the Markham Mayor's Youth Council for the term September 7, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Markham Mayor's Youth Council (MMYC), formally known as Mayor's Youth Task Force (MYTF), was created in 1994 to address issues that are pertinent to youth in the community. The group's mandate is:

1. To act in an advisory capacity in providing advice on issues of concern to youth.
2. To act in an advocacy role by providing new ideas and views to council and staff.
3. To raise awareness in the community through planned events (e.g. Youth Week, Youth Forums, Youth Job Fair, etc).
4. To encourage youth participation within the community.

The MMYC is a group of high school students from the City of Markham who meet twice a month to plan events and discuss issues facing youth. The purpose of the MMYC is to provide local youth a voice by which they may give input and develop initiative to enhance youth opportunities within the City of Markham. The Recreation Coordinator, Programs and Outreach will act as staff liaison.

Area Youth Councils are also active in Thornhill, Unionville, Markham and Milliken. These area councils are responsible for providing specific youth events and opportunities within their communities. The Area Youth Councils coordinate with the MMYC to support City wide youth activities. Recreation Coordinators/Supervisors in each of the areas act as staff liaison and mentor to the youth.

During these challenging times surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, MMYC and Area Youth Councils are committed to supporting youth in the Markham community by

raising awareness about local supports and resources and encouraging youth engagement virtually.

#### Nomination Process

Nominations into the MMYC are conducted in July and August each year. The nomination process includes:

1. Call for community members to join the Markham Mayor's Youth Council
  - Applications and deadlines were advertised on the MMYC social media pages (Facebook and Instagram), City of Markham website, social media pages (Facebook and Instagram), and e-mail newsletter ;
  - MMYC and Area Youth Council members promoted applications within their schools including digital school bulleting boards, community and at their youth events;
2. Markham Mayor's Youth Council received 169 applications to fill 9 positions for the 2021/2022 year.
3. Seventy-one (71) applicants were selected to move forward to the first screening step (24-hour Virtual Challenge).
4. Fourteen (14) 24-hour Virtual Challenge groups were formed with 4 to 6 applicants in each group.

Each group is assigned a project from the list below and asked to develop a presentation identifying solutions:

- Markham youth engagement through virtual programs, programming ideas to promote COVID-19 recovery and support small businesses
  - Increase youth political engagement within the City of Markham specifically addressing youth related social issues, environmental sustainability, mental health and diversity
  - Increase youth community outreach and communication
  - Establish MMYC presence in the City of Markham
  - Increase MMYC relations with other local youth councils
  - Engaging younger youth (Grade 10 and under) to attend events and participate within the community
  - Engaging youth to participate within the community virtually
  - Promoting youth volunteerism
5. Interview panels included: two (2) Markham Mayor's Youth Council Chairs, two (2) Markham Mayor's Youth Council Members, one (1) Full Time staff member, (Recreation Coordinator, Programs and Outreach)
    - Panels interviewed 26 applicants over a 1-week period

6. Confirmation of the Markham Mayor's Youth Council members was completed on August 30 2021 for the 2021/2022 term. While staff strive to find equal representation by Ward this is not always possible based on where the applications have been received.
7. The Markham Mayor's Youth Council has an active volunteer program called the Ambassador program. This program is comprised of 15-20 youth, who are directly lead by the Markham Mayor's Youth Council Co-Chairs and the staff liaison. The Ambassadors assist in planning and supporting the Markham Mayor's Youth Council on events throughout the year as well as aiding in their outreach efforts. Many of the youth involved in the Ambassadors Program are looking to gain experience with the Markham Mayor's Youth Council and strive to promote volunteerism and activism to a wider range of youth in the community. The Ambassador program strives to have representation from all Wards, schools, ages, and backgrounds.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND TEMPLATE:**

No Financial implications are to be considered in this report.

**HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS**

No Human Resources implications are to be considered in this report.

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

Not applicable.

**BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:**

No applicable.

**RECOMMENDED BY:**

Mary Creighton  
Director, Recreation Services

Morgan Jones  
Commissioner, Community Services