



Report to: General Committee

Meeting Date: December 6, 2022

SUBJECT: Appointment of Members to the Markham Mayor’s Youth Council for the period of September 7, 2022 to June 30, 2023
PREPARED BY: Portia Lee ext. 3930

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the Report Appointment of Members to the Markham Mayor’s Youth Council for the period of September 7, 2022 to June 30, 2023 be received;
- 2) And that the following Appointments of Members to the Markham Mayor’s Youth Council be confirmed for the term September 7, 2022 to June 30, 2023;

Name	School	Grade	Ward
Sabine Cuesta	St. Robert Catholic High School	9	1
Silken Cheung-Ege	St. Brother Andre Catholic High School	9	4
Christian Matros	St. Robert Catholic High School	9	1
Varna Venkatesh	Markville Secondary School	9	6
Benjamin Kim	Huron Heights Secondary School	9	8
Zoe Chakraborty	St. Robert Catholic High School	10	1
Jin Zhou	Thornhill Secondary School	10	1
Melody Cao	Bayview Secondary School	10	2
Mehrava Afshani	Bayview Secondary School	10	2
Hadia Rasool	Markham District High School	10	7
Arya Waza	Father Michael McGivney Catholic High School	10	7
Aiden Ma	St. Robert Catholic High School	11	1
Elyssa Qi	St. Augustine Catholic High School	11	2
Anjani Sharma	St. Augustine Catholic High School	11	3
Tom Zheng	Crescent School	11	3
Jiabei He	Bill Hogarth Secondary School	11	5
Callista Chan	St. Augustine Catholic High School	11	6
Karina Florea	Thornhill Secondary School	12	1
Stephanie Sheng	Bayview Secondary School	12	2
Eric Gao	Unionville High School	12	3
Allen Wang	Unionville High School	12	3
Enya Law	Bill Hogarth Secondary School	12	5

Gloria Huang	Bill Hogarth Secondary School	12	5
Isabelle Cai	Unionville High School	12	5
Rachel Zhang	Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School	12	5

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

n/a

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to confirm appointments to the Markham Mayor's Youth Council for the term September 7, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

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 Supervisor, Community Outreach Specialist will act as staff liaison.

Area Youth Councils are also very 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.

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 as well as in-person.

Nomination Process

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

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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, and e-mail newsletter;
 - MMYC members promoted applications within their schools and community;
 2. Markham Mayor's Youth Council received 147 applications to fill 12 positions for the 2022/2023 year.
 3. One hundred and four (104) applicants were selected to move forward to the first screening step (24-hour Challenge).
 4. Eleven (11) 24-hour Virtual Challenge groups were formed with 7 to 8 applicants in each group.

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

- Markham Youth Week Expo programming ideas
 - 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 and one (1) Full Time staff member, (Recreation Supervisor, Community Outreach Specialist)
 - Panels interviewed 27 applicants over a 2-week period
 6. Confirmation of the Markham Mayor's Youth Council members was completed on August 22, 2022 for the 2022/2023 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.

OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:

n/a

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

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:

n/a

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

n/a

RECOMMENDED BY:

Jason Tsien
Senior Manager, Business Development, Recreation

Mary Creighton
Director, Recreation and Acting Commission, Community Services

ATTACHMENTS:

n/a