



Report to: General Committee

Meeting Date: September 19th, 2023

SUBJECT: Appointment of Members to the Markham Mayor's Youth Council for the period of September 5, 2023 to June 30, 2024

PREPARED BY: Portia Lee, Recreation Coordinator – Programs & Outreach Recreation Services

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) That the Report Appointment of Members to the Markham Mayor's Youth Council for the period of September 5, 2023 to June 30, 2024 be received;
- 2) And that the following Appointments of Members to the Markham Mayor's Youth Council be confirmed for the term September 5, 2023 to June 30, 2024;

Name	School	Grade	Ward
Kelly Liu	University of Toronto Schools	9	1
Sabine Cuesta	Saint Robert Catholic High School	10	1
Christian Matros	Saint Robert Catholic High School	10	1
Varna Venkatesh	Saint Robert Catholic High School	10	6
Michael Li	Markville Secondary School	10	6
Oscar Cheng	Saint Robert Catholic High School	10	8
Elisabeth Lum	Markville Secondary School	10	3
Lilia Zitouni	Saint Robert Catholic High School	10	1
Kara Cespedes	Markville Secondary School	10	3
Ivy Chen	Markville Secondary School	10	6
Zoey Rodrigues	Bill Hogarth High School	10	6
Jin Zhou	Thorlea High School	11	1
Melody Cao	Bayview Secondary School	11	2
Mehrava Afshani	Bayview Secondary School	11	2
Hadia Rasool	Markham District High School	11	7
Sarah Gao	Bayview Secondary School	11	6
Rithikha Kalaiunarbavan	Middlefield Collegiate Institute	11	7
Callista Chan	Saint Augustine Catholic High School	12	6
Elyssa Qi	Saint Augustine Catholic High School	12	2
Tom Zheng	Crescent School	12	3

Jiabei He	Bill Hogarth High School	12	5
Aiden Ma	Saint Robert Catholic High School	12	1
Isabella Peng	Unionville High School	12	4
Sam Chan	Saint Augustine Catholic High School	12	2
Ananiya Narmathan	Saint Augustine Catholic High School	12	2

- 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 5, 2023 to June 30, 2024.

BACKGROUND:

The Markham Mayor's Youth Council (MMYC) 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 very active in Thornhill, Unionville, Markham and Milliken. These area councils are responsible for providing specific youth events and opportunities within their local neighbourhoods. The Area Youth Councils coordinate with the MMYC to support City wide youth activities. Staff from Recreation Services in each of the respective 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:

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), and City of Markham website;
 - MMYC members promoted applications within their school online forums;
 - MMYC shared opportunities with other local youth groups via word of mouth or social media
2. Markham Mayor's Youth Council received 113 applications to fill 12 positions for the 2023/2024 year.
3. Sixty-five (65) applicants were selected to move forward to the first screening step (24-hour Challenge).
4. Nine (9) 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:

- 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
 - Increase MMYC relations with other local youth councils
 - Engaging youth to attend events and participate within the community
 - Promoting youth volunteerism
5. Interview panels included: two (2) Markham Mayor's Youth Council Chairs and one (1) Full Time staff member, (Recreation Coordinator – Programs & Outreach)
 - Panels interviewed 24 applicants over a 2-week period
 6. Confirmation of the Markham Mayor's Youth Council members was completed on August 25, 2023 for the 2023/2024 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

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:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Mary Creighton
Director of Recreation Services

6 September 2023
Date