



**SUBJECT:** Appointment of Members to the Markham Mayor’s Youth Council for the period of September 2 to June 30, 2025.docx

**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 2, 2024 to June 30, 2025 be received;
- 2) And that the following Appointments of Members to the Markham Mayor’s Youth Council be confirmed for the term September 2, 2024 to June 30, 2025;

Name	Grade	Ward	School
Christian Matros	11	1	St. Robert CHS
Elisabeth Lum	11	1	Markville Secondary School
Jin Zhou	12	1	Thornhill Secondary School
Kelly Liu	10	2	University of Toronto Schools
Celine Yang	11	2	St. Augustine Catholic High School
Grace Tan	12	2	St. Robert Catholic High School
Melody Cao	12	2	Bayview Secondary School
Sarah Gao	12	2	Bayview Secondary School
Kelly Lee	10	3	St. Robert Catholic High School
Vicky Dai	10	3	St. Augustine Catholic Highschool
Kara Cespedes	11	3	Markville Secondary School
Eloise Nose	10	4	St. Augustine Catholic High School
Will Gao	11	4	Markville Secondary School
Ashnika Lavakumaran	10	5	Bill Hogarth Secondary School
Pranav Sai Thava Ganesh	11	5	Bill Hogarth Secondary School
Joakim Sebastiampillai	11	5	St. Robert High School
Ella Yap	11	6	St. Augustine Catholic High School
Michael Li	11	6	Markville Secondary School
Ivy Chen	11	6	Markville Secondary School
Zoey Rodrigues	11	6	Bill Hogarth Secondary School
Saumya Grover	12	6	Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School
Hadia Rasool	12	7	Markham District High School

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Rithikha Kalaiunarbavan	12	7	Middlefield CI
Michelle Jiang	11	8	Unionville High School
Oscar Cheng	11	8	St. Robert Catholic High School

- 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 2, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

**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 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.

**OPTIONS/ DISCUSSION:**

Nomination Process

Nominations to 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 social media pages (Facebook and Instagram), Markham Now blog, Staff E-News, 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 92 applications to fill 12 positions for the 2024/2025 year.
3. Sixty-one (61) applicants were selected to move forward to the first screening step (24-hour Challenge).
4. Ten (10) 24-hour Challenge groups were formed with 6 to 7 applicants in each group.

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

- Increase youth engagement within the City of Markham specifically addressing youth related social issues, 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 23 applicants virtually over a 1-week period
  6. Confirmation of the Markham Mayor's Youth Council members was completed on August 19, 2024 for the 2024/2025 term. While staff strive to find equal representation by Ward this is not always possible based on where the applications have been received.

### **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:**

This report aligns with the Building Markham Future Together BMFT through ongoing engagement with Youth in our community.

**BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:**

Not applicable

**RECOMMENDED BY:**

Mary Creighton  
Director, Recreation Services

Morgan Jones  
Commissioner, Community Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**

N/A