



**CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL
MAY 10, 2021**

SUBJECT: Approval of a resolution restructuring the City of Novi Youth Council.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Community Relations

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In 2005, the City of Novi Youth Council was created, encouraging local students to become civically active within the community. Since that time, the Novi Youth Council has focused largely on events/programs, including Addicted to Movies not Drugs, the Senior Prom, Boo Bash, and more.

Given the success of the Novi Ambassador Academy, with its educational and engagement focus, we would like to restructure the Youth Council to provide similar opportunities for teens. Youth Council members would be appointed for two years and learn about City operations (similar to the Ambassador Academy):

- To improve understanding of municipal government
- To develop a better understanding of the roles that citizens, staff and volunteers have in local government.

Following the educational component of their term, they would work collaboratively for the remainder (16-18 months) on a capstone project approved by City Administration. They would then report out to City Council with a presentation at the conclusion of their term.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of a resolution restructuring the City of Novi Youth Council.

CITY OF NOVI

COUNTY OF OAKLAND, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION

CITY OF NOVI YOUTH COUNCIL RESTRUCTURING

Minutes of a Meeting of the City council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, Michigan, held in the City Hall of said City on May 10, 2021 at seven o'clock P.M. Prevailing Eastern Time.

PRESENT: Councilmembers _____

ABSENT: Councilmembers _____

The following preamble and Resolution were offered by Councilmember _____ and supported by Councilmember _____.

Whereas, the City of Novi City Council supports the restructuring of the City of Novi Youth Council, and

Whereas, the purpose of the City of Novi Youth Council is:

- a) To make recommendations to City Council on issues relative to the youth of Novi.
- b) To serve as youth ambassadors to the City of Novi.
- c) To encourage and promote the education of youth regarding city government and citizen participation, and

Whereas, the City of Novi Youth Council will consist of **13** members at the high school level (entering freshmen, sophomores or juniors) who must be a Novi resident, and

Whereas, Youth Council members shall be appointed for two-year term and will be chosen based upon successful completion of the application which includes a written essay, an interview with members of City Council and appointment by the full City Council, and

Whereas, the governing body of the City of Novi Youth Council will include a Chair and Secretary, and

Whereas, Youth Council members shall be allowed three excused absences and one unexcused absence. Any absences over and above those allowed will result in the member forfeiting their seat on the Youth Council. The vacant seat would be filled by City Council, and

Whereas, the annual budget shall be determined by City Council and the initial appropriation shall be \$1000 for the Fiscal Year 2021/2022, and

Whereas, staff support from the City of Novi shall be directed by the City Manager to best achieve the goals and outcomes of this resolution, and

Whereas, Youth Council members will learn about local government for six months of their appointment and conduct a cornerstone/fellowship project or set of projects approved by City administration and the City Council liaisons for the remaining 12-18 months of their term, presenting the outcome to City Council at the conclusion of their term, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council members hereby restructure the City of Novi Youth Council which shall be comprised of **13** student representatives at the high school level who are also Novi residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Novi Youth Council is charged with the responsibility of making recommendations to the City of Novi concerning the needs of youth, families and seniors of the city and the appropriate means by which public and private agencies in cooperation with volunteer efforts may address such needs.

AYES:

NAYS:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, and State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held this day of May 10, 2021, and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting have been kept and made available to the public as required by said Act.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk
City of Novi

MEMORANDUM



TO: PETE AUGER, CITY MANAGER
FROM: SHERYL WALSH-MOLLOY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
SUBJECT: NOVI YOUTH COUNCIL REFRESH
DATE: APRIL 15, 2021

In 2005, the City of Novi Youth Council was created, encouraging local students to become civically active within the community. Since that time, the Novi Youth Council has focused largely on events/programs, including Addicted to Movies not Drugs, the Senior Prom, Boo Bash and more. They have also volunteered and supported City events such as the Memorial Day Parade and Spring Palooza. With events and programs shuttered this past year and students schooling from home, the opportunity presented itself to re-evaluate Novi Youth Council goals and structure.

Given the success of the Novi Ambassador Academy, with its educational and engagement focus, we would like to restructure the Youth Council to provide similar opportunities for teens. Youth Council members would be appointed for two years and learn about City operations (similar to the Ambassador Academy) to:

- To improve understanding of municipal government
- To develop a better understanding of the roles that citizens, staff and volunteers have in local government.

Curriculum would be focused on the N-O-V-I City Council Goals categories, with departments creating engaging, interactive content to share their part of the Novi story. The intent is to have the Youth Council meet once a month with one of the Directors, City Manager, Assistance City Manager, and other City leaders. They will cover topics presented to the Ambassador Academy but geared toward teens.

Following the educational component of their term, they would work collaboratively for the remainder (16-18 months) on a 'capstone' project approved by City Administration. They would then report out to City Council with a presentation at the conclusion of their term.

The initial Youth Council resolution adopted in 2005 called for 13 students with a subsequent resolution in 2011 increasing the number to 21 members. The number was increased to provide more students to plan and work at events/programs. The recommendation would be to return to the originally approved 13 members to maintain Council exclusivity and ensure appropriate placement of students on the Council.

I welcome any feedback you might have, and our team looks forward to refreshing the Youth Council initiative for Novi teens.