

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number: 21-537	Meeting: December 6, 2021
	Agenda Item: 63	Roll Call: 21-1861
	Submitted by: Manisha Paudel, Interim Civil and Human Rights Director	

AGENDA HEADING:

Amending Chapter 2 of the Municipal Code relating to the creation, composition, appointment and powers and duties of the Youth Advisory Board (YAB).

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of the amendments to Section 1176 and 1177 of Chapter 2 of the Municipal Code related to the YAB. The Des Moines Civil and Human Rights Commission (DMCHRC) recommended restoring the YAB as part of the Bridging the Gap initiative.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: To be determined based on annual goal setting meetings by the YAB.

Funding Source: To be determined - General Fund.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- “Bridging the Gap is a community -centered, solution-focused effort to address community issues and remove systemic barriers, so that all Des Moines residents can achieve their full potential.” The highly engaged effort involved discussions and input from community members, business leaders, service providers and local and state government representatives. Community dialogues involved almost 900 Des Moines residents.
- At the June 11, 2020, joint meeting of the Des Moines City Council and DMCHRC, the DMCHRC made the following 13 recommendations. The Des Moines City Council directed the City Manager to act on each recommendation. One (1) of those recommendations was to “Restore the City’s Youth Advisory Board,” which has been inactive for several years.

	INITIATIVE	STATUS
1.	Evaluate Key Community Response Team	In Progress
2.	Develop Fair Housing Training	In Progress
3.	Create DSM Employee Housing Incentives	Implemented
4.	Implement Ladder Up Pilot Program	Implemented

5.	Restore City's Youth Advisory Board	(Pending Council 12/6/21)
6.	Create Residents' Academy	In Progress
7.	Adopt a Language Access Policy	In Progress
8.	Incentivize Employee Community Engagement	Implemented
9.	Cultural Competency Training- Council, Boards, Commissions	(Council Adopted 11/15/21)
10.	Review City Forms for Gender Inclusivity	In Progress
11.	Strengthen Human Rights Ordinance	(Council Adopted 11/15/21)
12.	Support the Equity Framework	Implemented
13.	Create a Workforce Equity Plan	In Progress

Four (4) of the 13 DMCHRC Bridging the Gap recommendations have been implemented. An additional three (3) of the 13 recommendations require ordinance adoptions/amendments.

- The intended impact of restoring the board is to build and strengthen the bridge between young people and city government and encourage civic engagement from early age. To ensure youth voices were adequately and effectively represented to restore the board, the Civil and Human Rights Department created an application process for young people to join the YAB Task Force (YABTF).
 - Over 100 young people applied to serve on the 10-member seat task force.
 - Task force members met for two (2) hours on a bi-weekly basis to learn about similar boards throughout the country, review the existing ordinance language, and recommend changes on the language to ensure relevance and value for youth.
- The YABTF presented their recommended language to the City Council at their quarterly work session on October 27, 2021, and to the DMCHRC at their regular meeting on November 4, 2021. The recommendations consist of changes to the YAB membership, including:
 1. Increase the size of membership body, age group, and remove limitations on specific organizations and/or schools of affiliation.
 2. Limit renewable term limit and include board's decision on appointments.
 3. Specify power and duties to include sharing of an annual report, board member's ability to decide on participation with local agencies to address issues affecting youth, and making recommendations to city council and city departments.

With the exception of the recommendation to add City staff, the recommendations presented to City Council are included in the ordinance change being considered.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):

Board: Des Moines Civil and Human Rights Commission

Date: November 4, 2021

Resolution Number: NA

Action: Informational presentation by the YABTF.

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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