TOWN OF Herndon VIRGINIA

MEMORANDUM

To: Kirstyn Barr Jovanovich, Interim Town Manager

From: Amanda M. Kertz, Town Clerk

Date: July 21, 2025

Subject: Herndon Youth Advisory Committee (HYAC) Meeting Summary

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The Herndon Youth Advisory Committee (HYAC) convened four times during 2024-2025 school year to discuss issues and gather input relevant to Herndon's youth. The most recent meeting was held on June 5, 2025, with this committee's term ending on June 13, 2025. No formal actions were taken by the HYAC in FY 2025.

At its June meeting, members discussed community priorities and offered feedback on HYAC's structure and future direction of youth engagement. Key discussion topics included:

1. **Town-wide Composting Program**
   Members expressed support for a Town-wide composting initiative and asked that the Town Council consider the feasibility of such a program.

2. **Program Reflections and Communications**
   Members reflected on the 2025 HYAC term, highlighting their contribution to the Town branding process, including the suggestion to feature the caboose. They also requested increased youth visibility in Town communications.

3. **Youth Perspectives on Town Issues**
   Members provided input on a range of Town services and policy areas:
   - Transportation and Facilities: Requested street maintenance improvements (Crestview/Sterling) and additional trash cans near the Skate Park and 7-Eleven.
   - Housing: Discussed past state proposals for development on faith-based land and expressed interest in ongoing housing policy discussions.
   - Legislative Engagement: Indicated a desire to participate in future conversations, such as noise ordinance enforcement.
   - Inclusive Programming: Recommended more accessible recreation and events for youth; including those with varying abilities.

4. **Committee Structure and Engagement Enhancements**
   Members proposed several ideas to improve and expand youth engagement:
   - Increase project-based activities, including community service, and explore the development of a volunteer database.
   - Create more consistent opportunities for youth input across Town initiatives.
   - Strengthen communication and outreach to foster civic involvement.
   - Expand school-based collaboration and broaden grade-level eligibility.
   - Strengthen partnerships with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and existing student leadership groups to promote continuity and increase participation in programs such as internships and externships.