Town of Herndon, VA
Herndon Youth Advisory Committee
Establishing Guidelines

January 9, 2024

Mission:
As Herndon grows in population, diversity, and a maturing youth constituency, it will take the leadership of our youth, along with the continued cooperation from the Town of Herndon, to ensure that our community remains a desirable place for everyone to reside and enjoy.

The mission of the Herndon Youth Advisory Committee (HYAC) will be to advise the Herndon Town Council on activities, issues, and decisions relating to youth in the Town and to advocate for legislation that caters to the interests and desires of our diverse youth population.

Purpose:
The youth gaining their education in Herndon today will be leading change in our community for decades to come. To augment their participation and leadership in our Town, HYAC will serve as a link between the Herndon Town Council, local school officials—including school board members and school principals–as well as other adult leaders and its youth.

The Herndon Youth Advisory Committee will:

- work with elected officials, school officials, and other adult leaders to promote awareness, safety, and involvement among our youth;
- collaborate to identify and propose solutions on issues of importance; and
- ensure that youth needs and interests are considered in decisions that affect the entire community.

Objectives:
- provide input on needs to make Herndon a place where youth can thrive;
- provide youth perspectives to the Herndon Town Council, other elected officials and other adult leaders;
- provide recommendations on decision-making processes related to issues that impact youth;
- discuss current events involving youth and assist in upcoming events;
- learn about local government and identify legislation and policies that impact youth;
- recommend ways to resolve issues and concerns involving youth;
- review youth programs and policies to ensure set goals are achieved;

- partner with local, national, and international youth organizations;
- attend public hearings, community meetings, and other events;
- maintain an understanding of community needs; and
- participate in community outreach and service projects.

Member Composition:
Members of HYAC will be appointed by Herndon Town Council and initially consist of:

1. a member of the Herndon Town Council to serve as a liaison to work with HYAC;
2. a representative from an alternative learning institute; and
3. twelve (12) middle or high school students who either 1) live in the Town of Herndon; or 2) attend classes at Herndon Middle or Herndon High Schools, who are:
    - in good standing in the community; and
    - have:
        - an interest in developing leadership skills;
        - an interest in community service and motivation to work as a volunteer for the government; and a general knowledge and understanding of community needs; and
        - an ability to express ideas and solutions regarding youth issues and concerns; interact constructively with peers in a group setting; and a willingness to engage in community outreach with diverse populations.

A chair will be selected by the members of HYAC. Town staff will be designated as an ex-officio member to serve as primary staff.

Members will serve one-year terms to coincide with the academic school year and will meet up to four times per term. All meetings will be legally convened in compliance with town and state law requirements.

Additional members may be added as needed.