



NEWS RELEASE

Youth to Have Greater Voice; Council Offers Influence

FREDERICK, MD – June 6, 2018: Frederick youth are invited to be a force within City government. The application period is now open to serve on the Youth Advisory Council that the Board of Aldermen voted unanimously to create earlier this year.

Spearheaded by Alderman Roger Wilson, the council will consist of 18 total members, 13 voting and five non-voting. Each member will be appointed by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. City residents ages 14 to 18 will make up the voting members. Adult professionals from local organizations that specialize in providing youth services will serve as non-voting members.

Youth may apply to serve on the council [online](http://www.cityoffrederick.com/yac) (www.cityoffrederick.com/yac), and/or by sending letters of interest to Bob Smith, deputy director of Parks and Recreation, at 121 N. Bentz St., Frederick, MD 21701. The Mayor and Board hope to select the first council by September. The deadline for interested youth to apply is July 31.

“This is a good start toward the goal I envisioned,” Wilson said. “The youth often feel that they don’t have a voice or any influence over issues that matter to them. This council changes all that, and offers them a real opportunity to get involved in their community in a substantial and meaningful way.”

The Youth Advisory Council’s primary goal is to expand youth involvement and gain insight from youth so their voices can be heard, and to address a concern about the lack of opportunities for emerging adults in the Frederick community. Alderman Wilson also hopes that the council will encourage more young people to become involved in public service.

The council has a mission to provide advice on legislation, assist the City’s Parks and Recreation Department, and work with the Human Resources Department to develop student programs. The

Boys & Girls Club of Frederick County and other local organizations have also expressed their support for the council.

Mayor O'Connor said this is a genuine opportunity for young people to be active in their community, while collaborating with adults to encourage them to communicate on topics that matter to them.

“This goes to the heart of my intention to broaden citizen engagement,” O'Connor said.

Further information is available from Bob Smith, deputy director of Parks and Recreation, bsmith@cityoffrederick.com.

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