



CITY OF DALLAS

**Youth Commission Minutes  
Tuesday, April 11, 2017  
6 P.M.**

**Council Chamber  
Dallas City Hall  
1500 Marilla St.  
Dallas, TX 75201**

**Members Present:** Vice Chair Mu Di, Secretary Mary Orsak, Nadya Villegas, Joseph Contreras, Carson Brown, Teilor Johnson, Tre' Brown, Victoria Lopez, Miles Frazier, Ebony Cornett

**Members Not Present:** Chair Nathaniel Barrett Jr., Elizabeth Hampton, Yamilet Pereira, Micah Romaner

**1. Call to Order at 6:03 P.M.**

**2. Approval of Minutes from February 28, 2017**

- **Motion:** To approve minutes from February 28, 2017
- **For:** Vice Chair Mu Di, Secretary Mary Orsak, Nadya Villegas, Joseph Contreras, Carson Brown, Teilor Johnson, Tre' Brown, Victoria Lopez, Miles Frazier, Ebony Cornett
- **Against:** 0
- **Result:** Carried, 10-0

**3. Approving the Global Youth Service Day**

- Taylor Moody introduced all the project options: Sunflower's Destiny Foundation Project, Baylor Scott and White Health Project, and three Fair Park projects.
- Youth Commissioners discussed all the options and came to a consensus to participate in the Baylor Scott and White Health Project.
- **Motion:** To approve Baylor Scott and White Health Project for Global Youth Service Day
- **For:** Vice Chair Mu Di, Secretary Mary Orsak, Nadya Villegas, Joseph Contreras, Carson Brown, Teilor Johnson, Tre' Brown, Victoria Lopez, Miles Frazier, Ebony Cornett
- **Against:** 0
- **Result:** Carried, 10-0

**4. Teen CERT Presentation**

**Presenter:** Cassandra D. Wallace, Office of Emergency Management

- Cassandra Wallace provided an overview of the Office of Emergency Management and introduced the group, Teen CERT (Community Emergency Response Team).
- Ms. Wallace explained the goals, priorities, and eight units of the program. She then discussed her attempts to work with the D.I.S.D. school system. She enumerated the multitude of ways the program connects with school curriculum.
- Ms. Wallace offered to provide CERT training to the Youth Commissioners.

**5. Adjourned for recess at 6:30 p.m.**

**6. Call back to order at 6:52 p.m.**

**7. Camp LADDER Presentation**

**Presenter:** Deputy Chief Tameji R. Berry, Dallas Fire-Rescue Department

- Deputy Chief Berry presented her program of female empowerment in the Fire-Rescue Department, Camp LADDER (Ladies Achieving Dreams with Dedication, Enthusiasm, and Respect). She explained her inspiration for starting the program.
- Deputy Chief Berry provided an overview of the program and the differences between this program and similar ones across the country. The girls who participate learn the skills of repelling, climbing ladders, using a fire extinguisher, and investigating fires.
- Deputy Chief Berry also explained the effectiveness of the program in hiring new women for the fire department.

**8. School Survey Presentation**

**Presenter:** Mary Orsak, Youth Commissioner for District 13

- Mary Orsak provided an overview of her goals for the School Survey, a proposed action plan, and the variety of factors that the Youth Commission must take into account when assessing a school.
- Then Orsak walked the Commission through a simulated evaluation of one factor, policing in schools, to explain how the process will look.

**9. National League of Cities Conference and Austin Recap**

- Commissioners discussed their favorite moments in both Washington, D.C. and Austin. Several Commissioners stressed the value of meeting with officials and learning more about the operations of state and federal governments.
- Commissioners also provided suggestions for improvements. Mary Orsak discussed the fact that the Commission did not meet with any Republican state senators and representatives despite the party controlling both houses.

**10. Regional Youth Forum Planning Discussions**

- Taylor Moody opened up the discussion about planning the regional youth forum.
- First Commissioners discussed the goals of the forum. These included spreading the word about the Youth Commission, explaining the role of local government, and allowing members of the community to express their grievances.

- Then Commissioners discussed the major problems that youth face today. Topics discussed including policing in schools, stress, health concerns, and use of illicit drugs.
- Next, Commissioners discussed groups that the Commission would collaborate with in order to improve the forum. Victoria Lopez stressed inviting the councilmembers so that they can better understand the concerns of youth. Other Commissioners discussed various organizations within their schools that would be able to participate.
- Commissioners debated how to spread the word about the forum. Suggestions included social media, school announcements, offer incentives, and traditional media like newspapers and broadcast television.
- Taylor Moody asked when and where the Commission would like to hold the forum. A consensus agreed that weekends were the best time, and it should take place at the beginning of school or in April.
- Possible speakers were discussed as well. Carson Brown suggested a popular athlete to draw in crowds. Others suggested educated speakers, the Mayor, state representatives, local businessmen, and the police chief.

**11. Announcements**

- Taylor Moody reminded the commissioners to keep all materials in their binder.

**12. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.**