

**CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA**



Agenda Date: May 20, 2024

Action Required: N/A

Presenter: Misty Graves, Director of Human Services

Staff Contacts: Misty Graves, Director of Human Services

**Title: Youth Council Annual Report 23 - 24 School Year**

### **Background**

Youth Council is a public body and is supported by staff at the Department of Human Services. This group of young people advises the Council, informs the community about issues that affect youth, and makes recommendations on how they feel Charlottesville can be a better city. Youth who serve on the Council meet monthly, receive leadership training, and have the chance to make a real difference in our community. Charlottesville City residents between the ages of 13 and 17 are eligible to apply to participate.

### **Discussion**

From October 2023 to the present, Charlottesville Youth Council collaborated with Youth Action Lab – a research lab in the University of Virginia's School of Education and Human Development that partners with local schools and youth-serving organizations to introduce students to youth participatory action research. In this year's collaboration, Youth Action Lab members worked with the Council to explore research topics, create research questions, select appropriate methods, and collect/analyze data to answer their research questions. The Youth Council's interests centered on the state of education in Charlottesville. Specifically, they asked, "In Charlottesville, what is the relationship between education access and inequity? How have educational inequities and segregation changed in Charlottesville after the pandemic?". Among those interviewed are a community leader with Charlottesville United for Public Education and a parent of a Charlottesville City School student. Youth Council also engaged the administration of Charlottesville City Schools to learn more about the district's diversity, equity, and inclusion practices, and planned a focus group with students to hear about their experiences with AP and Honors-option classes. During their presentation to the City Council, the Youth Council will outline their project motivation, research findings, and recommendations for future actions.

### **Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan**

The Youth Council aligns with the Council's strategic priority of education, partnerships, and the overarching commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

### **Community Engagement**

During the course of the project, Youth Council engaged with community members who are connected to education in Charlottesville. Additionally, there are several vacancies that will need to be filled in the 24 - 25 school year. The outreach included sending out fliers and information to several youth serving organizations, school guidance departments and administrators, and word of mouth through the Youth Councilors.

**Budgetary Impact**

There is no budget impact.

**Recommendation**

Continued support for Youth Council.

**Alternatives**

N/A

**Attachments**

None