

Annual Report of the
Hampton Youth Commission
Fiscal/Academic Year 2007-2008



“Young people with the power and voice to shape the future of Hampton.”

Hampton Youth Commission

In the fall of 2008, Hampton Youth Commission (HYC) will begin its tenth year of representing the voice of young people in Hampton. This dynamic group of up to 25 high school-aged youth is assembled each year under the vision...

"Young people with the power and voice to shape the future of Hampton."

HYC is one of the ultimate opportunities available within the city's system of Youth Civic Engagement. It serves as a sounding board for youth issues; members receive input and feedback from the youth population as well as articulate a youth perspective to adult policy and decision-making processes.

The Youth Commission's connection to city policy is the Youth Component of the Community Plan. This document, updated regularly by the Youth Planners, serves as a framework for the Commission's goals and guides their workplan.

Commissioners see their role as change agents on behalf of improving the community for young people. They also enjoy the role of ambassador of Hampton to help other communities become more youth-friendly.

Community Plan Goals

Caring Relationships

Positive interactions and relationships in the community that have an impact on youth.

Leadership

Youth share in leadership opportunities with adults.

Life Skills

All young people will acquire the necessary skills to be successful in everyday life.

Employment and Careers

Work opportunities for teens and being prepared for the workforce of the future.

Youth Space

Places to go and things to do that are accessible and youth-friendly.

Transportation

Getting around in a youth-friendly, accessible transportation system.



left - Michael Bock, Youth Planner, and Brad Knight, HYC Chair, receive Southern Growth Policy Board's Innovations Award from the Governor of Arkansas.

HYC Year in Review 2007-2008

-  Recruited, trained and placed 16 new Commissioners. 7 of 16 Commissioners were appointed during our mid-year recruitment session. Held a successful Boot Camp and Retreat to prepare them for their roles in the upcoming year.
-  The first public meeting of the year was conducted in October to introduce the new "Youth Booth" concept—a physical hub to be constructed within each of the four public high schools for the students' and campus clubs' use in advertising their events, recruitment for various activities, etc.
-  HYC invited the Newport News Mayor's Youth Council to co-host an upcoming youth leadership training and conference. The two bodies shared dialogue and created potential workshop sessions with long-time partner, Uth ACT, a youth advocacy organization sponsored by Alternatives, Inc.
-  HYC created a new partnership with the Peninsula Town Center - receiving a presentation on the status of the new development and offering a youth representative to sit on their advisory board.
-  The holidays saw HYC featured in the Coliseum Central Parade with "Patrick" the baby penguin, and their fourth appearance in the renowned Holly Days Parade with three giant, helium filled Jingle Bell balloons.
-  The Commissioners made their recommendation for funding for the fall Initiative Grants in December in Council Chambers. Nine youth initiatives and community programs were funded totaling \$22,550.



☞ Councilman Sapp personally invited Commissioners to participate in the three community budget forums held at local community centers mid January 2008. These forums gave 13 teen representatives a greater opportunity to discuss their priorities for city services that should be funded in the upcoming budget.

☞ Commissioners co-hosted the annual Power of Partnerships Conference with the Youth Task Force of the Greater Peninsula of Virginia Continuum of Care Coalition January 27-29, 2008 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. Over 400 youth and adult professionals attended the conference. This was the first time that this conference held a youth track for training and education on youth civic engagement.

☞ During the conference, HYC served as a host to the Southern Growth Policy Board for a community forum they have been conducting throughout the south. Over 125 young people actively participated in the focus groups led by the Commission's committee chairs and youth planners.

☞ Mid-year commissioner interviews were conducted in January. HYC recruited seven additional awesome teens who quickly hit the ground running and brought with them a "take initiative" attitude assuming a few of the Commission's leadership roles.



☞ Institute for Local Government's Collaborative Governance Initiative of California hosted their second "web dialogue" for youth commissioners and youth commission staff throughout the country in which Hampton's youth commission was asked to participate. It was entitled, " Crossing Boundaries: Stories and Strategies to Help Youth Commissions with Local Policy Advocacy and Engaging Non-Commission Youth."

☞ Representatives of the HYC were participants of the Southern Growth Policy Board community forum in February during the Hampton Roads Mayors and Chairs Caucus and Hampton Road Partnership, hosted by Jefferson Lab and moderated by Cathy Lewis of WHRV-Radio.

HYC chair Brad Knight was chosen as one of three youth representatives on the national board for the Institute for Children, Youth and Families of the National League of Cities. Three commissioners and youth planners accompanied him to the Congress of Cities in New Orleans in November and the annual Congressional City Conference in Washington D.C. in March.

Build a Dream... Leave a Legacy. Members of the Commission and other teen youth civic engagement leaders filmed their aspirations and dreams about their new Teen Center in March. To hear the dreams of Hampton's youth for their Teen Center, visit www.HamptonTeenCenter.com.

HYC hosted a delegation from Fairfax County, VA on March 17 which consisted of city department heads, non-profit and community leaders seeking to learn from Hampton in order to establish their youth commission.



Commissioners and proud Scout members participated in the annual "Youth in Government, Scouts Day" on March 26, 2008 in Council Chambers providing the attendees information about the Commission and its funding opportunities.

The Commission hosted their third Candidates Forum on March 31, 2008 with all candidates running for Mayor and City Council. There were 114 youth who attended the forum and over 30 adults.

April 13-15, 2008, the National League of Cities hosted a national cross-site visit in Hampton for cities learning to create a youth master plan. Commissioners and youth planners provided youth and adult partnership training and panel discussion to the site visit attendees.

Will Spaulding, a senior at Kecoughtan High School was the host for the first teen talk show on April 19 at Hampton's City Channel 47 newly opened studio.

- On May 3, the Commission cosponsored the 5th Annual Uth ACT Rally, *The Power of Youth*, at Mill Point Park.
- On May 14, several parents attended the "Parent Night at the Teen Center" event. This event was a big success as the young people received lots of feedback and support from the parents who are anxiously awaiting the grand opening of the center. Teen Center tours and focus groups were conducted.
- The third public meeting for the year was a Youth Career Fair at Carousal Park on May 17, 2008. Over 25 exhibitors represented Hampton City Schools, City of Hampton and various departments, law firms, medical practices, educational foundations, hospitality, personal care, television and radio stations, and technology.
- HYC's contribution to the Neighborhoods USA Conference was to co-host the neighborhood pride tour with the Neighborhood Youth Advisory Board at Hampton's Career Café in the Net Center on May 23, 2008.
- HYC, representing the Hampton Youth Civic Engagement Partnership, received the 2008 Innovator Award by the Southern Growth Policies Board (SGPB) in Little Rock, AR on June 1 during the SGPB Annual Conference.
- June 17-19 at Sandy Bottom Nature Park, thirteen recently recruited youth commissioners underwent orientation and training at the HYC Boot Camp.
- The final public meeting for the year was conducted on the Commission's third day of Boot Camp at the new Teen Center. This public meeting provided parents and teens the opportunity tour the facility, make suggestions on the center's logo and design, and find out the varied programs and organizations that the facility will host. There were approximately 60 parents and teens who attended.



HYC Committees & Appropriations

The Commission is divided into three committees; each committee takes on two goals of the Youth Component and achieves their objectives through one or more of their four "power plays": Partnerships, Philanthropy, Policy-Making, Projects.

The CREW

Caring Relationships and Empowering Wisdom

Goals:	Caring relationships Youth share leadership
Projects:	Co-hosts of the annual Power of Partnerships Conference
Partnerships:	Southern Growth Policies Board (SGPB) Greater Peninsula of Virginia Continuum of Care Coalition (GVPCCC) Youth Task Force
Philanthropy:	Establish "youth booths" in the four public high schools 40 Developmental Asset campaign and outreach program Appropriated \$5,500 for initiative grants

BARE Necessities

Building And Retaining Excellence for Necessities

Goals:	Youth acquire essential life skills Every young person prepared for a career
Projects:	Career fair for youth.
Partnerships:	Career Café and over 25 local employers representing different career fields
Philanthropy	Establish a network of paid internships for teens. WORD! Magazine issue on life skills for high school youth Appropriated \$7,800 for initiative grants

MOVE

Making Opportunities for Vehicles and Entertainment

Goals:	Places to go and things to do for youth Getting around (transportation)
Projects:	Research transportation options to the Teen Center

Partnerships:	Teen Center Advisory Board (TCAB) Hampton Parks & Recreation
Policy:	Allowing young people to utilize public transportation at a reduced rate to the Teen Center Redesign current bus schedules to be much more user- and youth-friendly.
Philanthropy:	Establish a tranquility garden and multi-medium mural at the Teen Center Appropriated \$7,500 for initiative grants

APPROPRIATIONS HYC Annual Grant Program

Every year Hampton City Council allocates \$40,000 to the Youth Commission to fund community and faith-based organizations, school clubs, youth-serving organizations and youth projects throughout the city. The Commission's annual grant program is their philanthropic approach to obtain the six goals of the Youth Component of the City's Community Plan. There are two funding cycles each year - Fall Initiative Grants and Spring Service Projects for National Youth Service Day.

Fall Initiative Grants	Appropriated a total of \$22,550 9 of 15 applications were funded Funded a communal collage or mural involving middle and high school students; a youth booth at Hampton High School; a neighborhood outreach of the 40 Developmental Assets in districts 4, 7 and 2; and an internship network for teens during summer 2008 with local insurance agencies, technology and internet consulting firms, museums, and law firms.
Spring grant cycle	Appropriated \$17,335.94 Funded 21 organizations out of 30 applicants Service projects and service learning programs included environment "consciousness" and awareness such as recycling programs in schools and rainwater harvesting; community clean-ups; patient care packages for the Veterans Hospital; and soup kitchens.

2007-2008 Youth Commission

<u>COMMISSIONER</u>	<u>GRADE, SCHOOL</u>	<u>COMMITTEE, ROLE</u>
Lonnie Bell	Junior, BHS	BARE Necessities, Appropriator
Kathryn "Katie" Bodie	Junior, KHS	BARE Necessities
Corinne Clinch	Sophomore, PHS	MOVE
Kendyl Crawford	Senior, HHS	The CREW
Stefanie Davis	Sophomore, HHS	BARE Necessities, Chair
Troy Elliott	Freshman, BHS	MOVE
Raheem Fennell	Freshman, PHS	The CREW
Montrelle "Montie" Green	Senior, HHS	The CREW, Chair
Bradford Knight	Junior, HHS	BARE Necessities, HYC Chair
Jimmy Kwon	Junior, HHS	MOVE, Appropriator
Jasmine McKinney	Senior, HHS	MOVE & Appropriations Chair
Frank Miller	Sophomore, KHS	The CREW, Appropriator
Nadine Nickleson	Junior, HHS	BARE Necessities
Eve Patterson	Junior, KHS	MOVE, Chair
Stephanie Porter	Junior, PHS	The CREW
Micah Poulson	Junior, BHS	The CREW
Jaris Scott	Sophomore, BHS	The CREW
Jaron Scott	Junior, BHS	The CREW, HYC Vice Chair
Chelsea Shank	Senior, KHS	MOVE
Edward Smith	Junior, HRA	BARE Necessities
Will Spaulding	Senior, KHS	BARE Necessities
Destinee Swindell	Junior, PHS	MOVE
Rashaud Sykes	Senior HHS	The CREW
Aja Walker	Junior, BHS	The CREW

STAFF:

Mike Bock	Sophomore, HHS	Youth Planner
Anna Hogg	Junior, HHS	Youth Planner
Danielle Phillips	Junior, Home School	Youth Planner
Jaclyn Stokes	Junior, KHS	Youth Secretary

