



TO: Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Anna Le, Management Fellow; Allyson Griffith, Deputy City Manager, City Manager's Office
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution – Appointing Individuals to the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma Requested for June 17, 2025
DATE: June 12, 2025

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:

A resolution appointing and reappointing the following individuals to the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma Leadership Team to a term to expire June 30, 2026.

- Begina Kisembo, Commission Chair
- Norah Gawryczik, Commission Vice Chair
- Safeera Shah, Education, Arts, and Culture Committee Chair
- Hayden Kempf-Leskajan, Environmental Health Committee Chair
- Claire Ji, Environmental Health Committee Vice Chair
- Joyce Zhang, Justice and Safety Committee Chair
- Deron Carston, Justice and Safety Committee Vice Chair
- Eisha Ahmad, Social Health Committee Chair
- Jacqueline Nguyen, Social Health Committee Vice Chair

COUNCIL SPONSORS: Mayor Woodards

BACKGROUND:

In 2019, Resolution 40502 established the formal structure of the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma and appointed the inaugural leadership team. Each year since then, the Mayor's Youth Commission elects a 10-member Leadership Team from the general membership to serve a one-year term: a Chair and Vice-Chair of the entire Commission, as well as a Chair and Vice-Chair of each of the four committees. The Leadership Team is confirmed by the City Council. The Leadership Team meets twice each month and hosts a General Assembly meeting once per month.

The Mayor's Youth Commission convened on June 7, 2025, to elect a new Leadership Team to represent all members of the Commission and have submitted their names for confirmation. At this time, nine individuals are being recommended to the City Council for confirmation.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:

The recruitment for new leadership was led by the Mayor's Youth Commission, with support from the Commission Liaison from the City. The primary method of recruitment was through emails and text messages to existing members and youth who have engaged with the City during the preceding academic year, announcements made at Tacoma Public high schools, and social media campaigns through the Commission's social media accounts.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Education: *Equity Index Score:* High Opportunity

Increase the number of quality, after-school-learning opportunities distributed equitably across the city.

Engagement: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity

Increase the number of residents who participate in civic volunteering and voting. To that end, elected officials, boards, commissions, and volunteer leadership will reflect more of the diversity of the Tacoma community.

Youth engagement will increase the percentage of residents who believe they can have a positive impact in their communities, and develop trust in the public institutions of Tacoma.

Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).

The Mayor's Youth Commission provides opportunities for out-of-school time enrichment, and engagement with City and community leaders. The Community Based Commission engages middle and high school students in a reciprocal opportunity for young people to participate in local government, impacting many of the Civic Engagement indicators.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative(s)	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)
Do not appoint new members	Commission members will be able to begin their terms on-time	The Commission will have no appointed members to take official actions as the existing youth term ends on June 30, 2025

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:

Each year, the outgoing Leadership Team submits an Annual Report to the City Council that highlights what they have accomplished and outlines their ongoing goals/projects to be continued by the next Leadership Team. This serves as an opportunity for the Council to evaluate their work and engage in discussions with the Commission on continued actions.

STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the appointment of all individuals elected by the 2024-25 Mayor's Youth Commission members to the Mayor's Youth Commission Leadership Team for the 2025-26 service year.