

DETROIT CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
PROPOSAL/ISSUE REVIEW SUMMARY

ISSUE NUMBER: YSS 5

ISSUE CATEGORY: Youth & Senior Services

SOURCE: Charter Convention Workshop
Workshop Notes, November 7, 2010

RELATED CHARTER SECTIONS:

RELEVANT ORDINANCE SECTION:

RELEVANT LAW(S):

ISSUE/PROPOSAL STATEMENT: Create a Youth & Children Department which provides services pre-birth to 18 years of age.

- **RATIONALE:** The following are the notes from the Charter Convention Workshop on Youth.
- Official Youth Council
 - Ages 18-34 / 18-25
 - To speak about issues; get the sleeping giant to the polls
 - Voting for representatives at city schools / campaign in schools
 - Help get youth to polls
 - Meet once a month and once every 60 days with City Council
 - Civics back in schools
- Grooming young people/stepping stone
 - investment in young people
 - provide a chance to sit at table
 - work on lack of communication in city – build bridges
 - maybe observers at age 16 to be a part of Youth Council
- Youth Council part of self-discovery process and involvement in neighborhoods
- Councils would possibly be by districts to address specific needs
- Don't be "figureheads" official

Where would a Youth Council fit in the Charter?

- Advisory Board to the City Council
- Voice
- Can't make laws
- **Used to have a Youth Commission**
 - Created in 705/805
 - De-funded during Archer Administration
- It is permissible under the Home Rule Cities Act
- Youth vote for members of Youth Council
- Involve school system, not on main ballot
 - Primary election in schools only
 - Top 22 make it to the ballot
 - 11 winners
- Exposing youth to public policy and power, political involvement, future leaders

- Filter to other youth “peer pressure”
- Flush out voting process for schools
- Are we duplicating student councils and city-wide student councils?
- Decide what branch of government it is under with the city and policy
- Mirror present city government
- Look at running in precincts
- Look under Article 7/Executive Branch
 - Community Dept
 - Seniors and Youth or separate
 - Language has to include funding stream

- Would like to see a Children & Youth Department
- Services for pre-birth to 18 years
- Research history of Children & Youth Department
- Tax break entity should include funding for Youth Councils
 - Grants/Foundations

- Elections
 - Carry them out and not invade on DPS turf or city precincts

- Independent agencies and city government – funding sources, questions about involvement
- Grants for civic engagement; education of children in government
 - grade level content expectations tie in with curriculum
 - not just placed in charter but implemented
 - potential to put on ballot, Article 8
- Children/Youth must be in core values/core services
- Concept similar to Community Advisory Councils > repelled in a year

ANALYSIS: On May 15, 2002 the Mayor proposed an amendment to the Executive Organization Plan which eliminated the Youth Department. Its at-risk youth programs were transferred to the Human Services Department Child Development Division and its Programs were transferred to the Recreation Department After-School Programs.

DISPOSITION/COMMISSION ACTION:

NOTES: