

## **TML YOUTH SUMMIT 2025**

### **By Commissioner Farina Chandio, Public Relations**

Over this retreat weekend, we met other youth advisory groups, learned about different projects we could do, and connected with our peers on how we can help the community. I learned about different projects that were done and how they were executed. I was surprised to see how many of my peers were involved and dedicated to their communities but it was truly inspirational to see that we could truly make a difference in the community. Here is what we did over this trip.

#### Day 1- Friday 1/31/2025

We left promptly at 8am from city hall and started our trip to Beaumont. We arrived at our hotel around 12pm and quickly got settled in. The rooms were very nice and spacious as we had our own space while still being close by to each other. We then left with our group to eat at Cheddar's, where everyone enjoyed their food. I ordered the salmon with rice which was very delicious. Afterwards, we headed to Lamar University, where we had a tour scheduled. We got to see what campus life was like and different facilities in the school. We explored areas like the common areas, classrooms, and the library. I was also intrigued by the fact that campus police had set up emergency towers all over the grounds to help students stay safe. They were scattered around campus and all you needed to do was press one button if needed. I feel like that is a very useful feature to have and that every school should have those. After that, we went out to eat and got a seafood boil. This was really a bonding moment for us because we shared each of our plates and got to know each other really well. I found out that Cassius likes spicy food and Jemmima doesn't. I feel like the small details are what really matter.

#### Day 2- Saturday 2/1/2025

On Saturday, we had breakfast at 8am with all the other youth groups and even got to socialize a little. This really broke the tension for me because I got to know so many of my peers and they became close friends for the remainder of the meeting. For example, I met Abigail and she told me how her youth group did volunteer work with the elderly home and even did events for the youth of the city. Afterwards, we broke out into groups and listened to a few speakers talk about how to live life to its fullest, how they got to where they are, and what makes a good leader. This really inspired me and I took good notes and hope to incorporate them in my life going into the future. We had lunch and did an activity with people from different cities. We were given a number of issues we see in society and worked together to create solutions that we saw fit. My group and I were challenged with the issue of lack of college access and what would be good alternatives for people who would need it. We then went to a theater where all the youth advisories gave presentations on who they were and what their goals are. I was very excited to see how some groups were able to accomplish so many amazing things. This gave me hope that we could make a change in Manor as well. Overall, Saturday was a good day of learning and I took a lot out of it.

### Day 3-Sunday 2/2/2025

On Sunday, we ate breakfast at 8am and then broke out into groups, the adults and kids. The kids went to a room where we got to give feedback on the weekend and see what we could improve. One big thing that happened was that we were interrupted during our presentation on Saturday because the DJ was leaving. We pushed through and finished our presentation and brought this to light. We made it clear that it was not okay and that it was a matter of respect. We then did an activity with SaulPaul, who is a Grammy nominated rapper and songwriter. He taught us about how to take initiative and how to persevere through the hardest times of our lives. We then said goodbye to everyone and made our way back to manor.

### Conclusion

Overall, this weekend taught me a lot on how to be a leader and how to express my thoughts in order to make a difference in my community. I hope that I will be given the opportunity to put what I learned into action with the help of the Manor Youth Advisory Commission.