



YOUTH COUNCIL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF NOVI

Youth Council Review Committee

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 | 7:00 P.M.

Police Training Center | Novi Police Department | 45125 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0456

Member Casey called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Council Members Casey, Smith, Thomas

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

YCRCM 23-10-001 Moved by Thomas, seconded by Smith; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

To approve the Agenda.

Voice vote on YCRCM 23-10-001

Yeas: Casey, Smith, Thomas

Nays: None

Member Casey welcomed the candidates and said she was grateful to them for stepping forward. She asked the candidates to come to microphone and share their interest in joining Youth Council. Member Casey explained that we will set the timer for three minutes in order to ensure all candidates get equal time for their presentations. She said that the Committee will make their appointment recommendations to Council at the October 9th meeting. Member Casey assured the candidates that they would all do great, they should feel confident about their presentations, and she looked forward to hearing from them.

APPLICANTS FOR YOUTH COUNCIL:

- 1. Aditi Akerkar-** Ms. Akerkar said she has a deep sense of purpose and optimism. She is interested in learning more about how government works. She looks for ways to give back to the community. She is organized, punctual, adaptable, and not afraid of a challenge. She makes sure that all members are heard when she is working in a team. She proposed a capstone project that would provide a stress reduction day for high school students.
- 2. Dhruv Bahuguna-** Mr. Bahuguna said that he moved to Novi when he was 3 years old. He loves all of the parks and activities that are available in the City. He is active in Robotics, athletics, and chess, as well as volunteering. He would like to showcase more cultural events and proposed bringing back movies at Furst Park during the summers.
- 3. Jiya Banga-** Ms. Banga said she wanted to give back to her community the way it has given so much to her. She volunteers at the Temple and food banks and helps with STEM programs. Her goals are to bring back and begin new drug abuse awareness programs and to learn more about the way the City is governed.

4. **Kaushik Baskar**- Mr. Baskar said he wanted to see how we can all come together as a community. He is involved in Robotics and has raised substantial sponsorship funds by networking with companies like NASA. He would like to use his experience learned from interning with the Novi Chamber of Commerce to continue his work with the previous Youth Council on it's capstone project involving using social media to get the youth population involved. He proposed bringing back the "Addicted to Movies, Not Drugs" program.
5. **Shashank Cheedella**- Mr. Cheedella said he moved to Novi 5 years ago from California. It was a bit of a culture shock when he arrived but he has grown to love Novi. He would like to strengthen the relationships between the community and Police and Fire. He also would like to find ways to give today's youth ways to connect. Some of his project ideas were to promote sustainability, to promote diversity events, and to start a mental health program within the High School.
6. **Alexandra DeMore**- Ms. DeMore said she has been an active resident of Novi for 10 years. She has participated in Novi recreation sports and is a member of the Teen Advisory Board. She regularly volunteers with food and book donation drives and enjoys working with Senior Citizens. She is eager to learn more about government operations.
7. **Divya Desai**- Ms. Desai has been an active participant in Robotics and various outreach programs including summer camps and STEM education. She helped build masks during COVID. She would like to gain work experience while continuing her involvement and education in government. She wants to help teens learn more about how government works and how they can make their mark on their community.
8. **Pietro DiDomenico**- Mr. DiDomenico told the committee that he was born in Brazil and would bring a different view and background to the team. He is involved in sports and volunteering and enjoyed serving as a leader in Choir. He loves politics and is part of politics club. He wants to encourage youth involvement and share how everyone can have their voice heard.
9. **Alyna Dohadwala**- Ms. Dohadwala spoke about her role as big sister to her brother. She wants to be a better role model for him and others. She said "Community is another name for Family" and we need to take care of family. She is passionate about helping students with disabilities, such as ADHD and dyslexia, and would like to implement better screening tools to aid their learning. She is counting down the days until she turns 18 and can vote, but realizes that she can also serve now.
10. **Raghav Gadam**- Mr. Gadam is an aspiring leader. He is a member of the philharmonic symphony and the football team. He wants to make positive changes and has served as a student teacher volunteer teaching young kids about physical fitness. He recognizes the issue of vaping and drug use in the community and would like to provide strategies for coping with these addictions. He also expressed interest in advocating for Seniors and learning more about government and its organization.

- 11. Vansh Ghadge-** Mr. Ghadge is active with Robotics, HOSA, and the swim team. He is involved in non-profit work. He feels he can represent a large group of people and is ready to learn about how things get done within a community. The issue he would like to focus on is littering. He wants to set up a recycling collection drive to help clean up the City.
- 12. Srispoorthi Gujja-** Was not in attendance to present.
- 13. Mahi Gupta-** Ms. Gupta said she has been a volunteer for the last 4 years. She has helped with Tuesday Tunes at the Library. She enjoys organizing and leading teams and is involved with Robotics and STEM education. She would like to engage the youth and provide positive outlets for them. She has an interest in learning more about public policy, and even wrote a letter to Governor Whitmer when she was in 5th grade to address the issue of teacher's pay.
- 14. Chanyoung Kim-** Mr. Kim feels a strong sense of civic duty. He looks to give back to the youth by volunteering with them as well as Seniors. He is active with the Rotary club and Korean school club. He embraces challenges as growing opportunities and sees himself as an active voice for his generation. He would like to see more involvement in cultural and civic engagement.
- 15. Della Kwak-** Ms. Kwak said she has lived in all corners of the globe and realizes the importance of cultural diversity and involvement. She would like to see an increase in parks and other public gathering spaces. She wants to promote events more to encourage a better sense of community. She said that a major strength of Novi lies in it's diversity.
- 16. Piyush Mande-** Mr. Mande shared that he moved to Novi in 2016 from India. He loves to communicate and his involvement in French Club, Choir, and Tennis have all given him the opportunity to interact with the community. He would like to continue to promote diversity and feels like Novi already has a good base to work with.
- 17. Samyuktha Parthasarathy-** Ms. Parthasarathy likes to serve the community as a volunteer in the hospital and in nursing homes. She has also helped with food, book, and clothing drives. In her time with HOSA, she has learned about collaboration. As a section leader in the marching band, she has learned to be a leader. She would like to continue to focus on senior citizen outreach while she develops her own leadership skills.
- 18. Rachana Raghunathan-** Ms. Raghunathan compared her experiences in Choir to being a part of Council. The different melodies in a choir are like different opinions being voiced during a meeting. The goal of a soloist is to project their voice to an auditorium just like a citizen can project their ideas to a growing community. She is dedicated and full of creative ideas which she expresses while volunteering and tutoring younger students. She would like to work with Youth Council to bring more awareness to the environment and mental health.

19. Ishaan Sid- Mr. Sid is an active community member who enjoys all Novi has to offer including safety, sports, and parks. He is involved in many clubs like Robotics and recycling. He finds ways to give back through volunteering, tutoring, and fundraising. He works with "Acing Autism" to engage autistic kids in tennis. He has a few goals including learning the operations of local government, how to apply technology to make things better, and finding a balance between community growth and sustainability.

20. Vishal Swamy- Mr. Swamy is seeking reappointment to Youth Council. Over the past two years with Council, he has fueled his passion to help the city and has gained insights into local government. He would like to develop committees within Youth Council to accomplish several smaller goals while working together on the Capstone project. He wants to create the best experience for all students.

Member Casey expressed her gratitude for the willingness to step forward to join this Council. She disclosed that she is a member of the Rotary Club, but had no interactions with the applicants, and would be able to make an unbiased decision.

Member Thomas told the applicants how impressive of a group they were and she could see how much passion each of them has to make a change.

Member Smith agreed and said he was amazed at the speaking abilities, the passion, and desire of all the applicants to make the city a better place.

Member Casey explained that the Committee would be adjourning to discuss their recommendations to City Council. She reiterated that the Committee's recommendations would be on the October 9th City Council agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

Transcribed by Melissa Morris, Deputy City Clerk