

Taunton Youth Commission

By-Laws

ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1. Name.

The name of this organization shall be the Taunton Youth Commission and shall hereby be known as the T.Y.C (hereinafter also referred to as the “**Commission**”).

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE OF COMMISSION

Section 1. General Purpose.

The purpose of this organization is to serve as a communications link between the youth of Taunton and the city government of Taunton. By adopting M.G.L. c. 40, sec. 8E, the Municipal Council and the City of Taunton has sent the message that our youth represent not only our future, but our present.

Section 2. Mission

The mission of the Taunton Youth Commission is to provide Taunton’s youth with a voice in local public and government affairs, to develop leadership skills, social responsibility, and civic pride.

Section 2. Specific Functions.

Specific functions of the Commission shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- a. To serve as a liaison between the Municipal Council and the youth of Taunton.
- b. To serve as a forum for the youth of Taunton to present their ideas, needs, and suggestions.
- c. To investigate needs, problems, and issues affecting the youth of Taunton.
- d. To establish or strengthen services deemed important by the Commission for the youth of Taunton.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Appointments.

The T.Y.C membership shall consist of up to 17 student members representing grades 9-12 and up to 4 adult mentors (18 years old or older). All members of the Commission must be Taunton residents. Each member is appointed for a 3 year term by the Mayor. (Exception initial members may be appointed for a 1 or 2 year term in order to meet the state law requirement that every year 1/3 of the committee will turn over.) Student members of the Youth Commission shall be appointed from the 3 city high schools and 3 at large members. Each high school will have representation based on the number of students from the City of Taunton. Taunton High School 7 students, Bristol – Plymouth High School 4 students, and Coyle and Cassidy High School 3 students and 3 at-large youth members.

Any successors shall then be appointed for a term of three years each unless they are appointed to fulfill a vacancy caused by resignation or removal. Then those appointed shall finish the remainder of the vacant term.

Section 2. Vacancies.

Vacancies for all commission members shall be in accordance with the provisions of Article III, Section 1. above.

Section 3. Attendance.

The secretary of the T.Y.C shall be responsible for maintaining the attendance record and reporting to the Commission at its first regular meeting. In the event that any member misses two consecutive regular meetings, or misses a total of three meetings within any (one) twelve month period, the Chairman of the Commission shall inform the member of their attendance record and give the member an opportunity to be heard at the next regular meeting as to any absences. At said meeting the Chairman, or the subject member, shall present the explanation of absence. The member then will be put on a probationary period for three months at which time he or she cannot miss a meeting for a period of three consecutive months. If he or she misses a meeting during the probationary period, it will be recommended to the Mayor and Municipal Council that the member be removed.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. Election.

The officers of the T.Y.C shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman, and a Secretary. All officers shall be elected annually at the first regular meeting and shall serve for a term of one year. The first annual meeting shall be held in August, with date to be determined by the adult mentors.

Section 2. Duties of Officers.

Chairman:

The Chairman shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the Commission. The Chairman shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees and should be notified of their members. The Chairman shall make quarterly reports to the Municipal Council concerning the activities of the T.Y.C. Near the end of the term the Chairman shall appoint a committee, which shall include the 4 adult members, to audit any financial transactions.

Vice Chairman:

The Vice Chairman shall preside in the absence of the Chairman and shall fulfill all other duties of the Chairman if the Chairman is unable to perform the duties of office.

Secretary:

The Secretary shall preside in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and shall keep minutes of each regular or special meeting and maintain records of all standing committee meetings. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as may be delegated.

ARTICLE V. STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees.

The following Standing Committees are hereby established: Public Relations, Special Projects, and Student Relations. The Commission Chairman shall appoint a Chairman for each committee.

Section 2. Duties of Standing Committees.

Public Relations Committee:

The Public Relations Committee shall publicize meetings and activities of the Commission and provide other public relations duties as assigned by the Commission.

Special Projects Committee:

The Special Projects Committee shall coordinate all service projects and citywide social activities sponsored by the Commission.

Student Relations Committee:

The Student Relations Committee shall coordinate all activities and projects pertaining to the communication of youth issues and ideas. This committee will also be responsible for projects focusing on youth development.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Section 1. Place, Time, and Date of Meetings.

The Taunton Youth Commission shall meet once a month except in the month of July, in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, at a date and time, to be designated at the August organizational meeting, unless notice is given in writing at least one week prior to the regularly scheduled meeting. Special meetings shall be called by the Chairman as occasion demands or upon written request of any three members of the Taunton Youth Commission.

ARTICLE VII. BUSINESS

Section 1. Business.

All affairs and business of the organization shall be determined upon majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meetings at which at least 6 of the student members and 2 of the adult members are present. Meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rule of Order.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments.

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the entire T.Y.C, subject to approval of the adult mentors.