

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 TYC (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 City of Taunton and Municipal Council has sent the message that our youth represent not only our future, but our present.

Section 2. Mission.

The Taunton Youth Commission is where our city Youth come together to make a positive difference by providing Taunton’s youth with a voice in the community, developing 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 work with the Mayor’s office on initiatives and projects
- b. To serve as a liaison between the Municipal Council and the youth of Taunton.
- c. To serve as a forum for the youth of Taunton to present their ideas, needs, and suggestions.
- d. To investigate needs, challenges, and issues affecting the youth of Taunton.
- e. 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 may consist of up to 15 student members representing grades 9-12 and up to 5 adult mentors. Student members must be 14 years of age. All members of the Commission must be Taunton residents. Each member is appointed for a 3-year term by the Mayor. 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 2 at-large members: Taunton High School, 7 students; Taunton Alternative High School, 2 students; Bristol–Plymouth High School, 4 students; and 2 at-large youth members. The number of students from each school may vary based upon applications received.

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) 12-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 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, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All officers shall be elected annually by the end of the calendar year in which the first meeting was held and shall serve for a term of one year. The first annual meeting date will be determined by the adult mentors and shall occur no later than the last day of October.

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 5 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.

Treasurer:

The treasurer shall work with the City of Taunton Treasurer's office to maintain all financial records, with the supervision of an adult mentor.

ARTICLE V. STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees.

The following Standing Committees are hereby established, and may be changed to accommodate the needs of the TYC, by a majority vote of the commission: 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 perform 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 until the month of June at a date and time to be designated at the first annual organizational meeting, unless notice is given in writing at least one week prior to the regularly scheduled meeting. Special meetings may 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 5 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.