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Youth Commission

Government Center
151 4th Street SE
Council/Board Chambers
Rochester, MN 55904
Wednesday, July 7, 2021 4:45 PM

AGENDA

1. **Discussion of partnership with DMC/City of Rochester recognition opportunities for sustainable friendly businesses**
2. **Updates**
 - a. Executive Committee
Co-Chairs, Salma Abdi, Rishikesh Krishnan, Gauri Sood
Adam McLellan-Cassivi, Abby Tricker, Selina Chen, Andy Hemenway, Elli Ekblad, Rita Dai, Michele Deng, Nandini Iyer, Isha Kapoor, Jenny Yan, Hibaq Sharif, Maya Basnyat, Maria Jerghiuta, Dominick Nowakowski, Anni Chen.
3. **SRO update Salma Abdi and Hibaq Sharif**

The Rochester School Board agreed to a one year contract extension with the Rochester Police Department to provide five School Resource Officers in the District. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be drafted with possible changes to the current contract.
4. **School Board Representative Melissa Amundsen stated that next year a long term contract renewal will be brought to the School Board and input from students could be very important. Students may want to consider requesting that they be included in those discussions.**

Here is a link to the SRO discussion in Hopkins MN and St. Paul MN Public Schools.
<https://www.startribune.com/in-some-minnesota-schools-students-return-but-police-do-not/600049905/>
5. **There are openings for Youth Commission representatives on the following County and City advisory Boards**

Community Services – One new reps needed to replace graduating seniors (Jinglin Li and Arhan Mehta)
County Parks – One new representatives are needed
Library Board – One new representatives to replace graduating seniors (Sarah Strauss and Arhan Metha)
“...participation on these advisory boards is a great way to get a youth perspective into decisions that are being made, but also a great opportunity for youth representatives to network and learn from elected officials and community leaders who serve on these Boards and Commissions. – Commissioner Arhan Mehta
6. **Committee Meetings – Time permitting – Below are notes from the May 2021 meeting**

Human Rights
The main focus for the end of the school year/summer will be on the issue of SRO's in RPS.
Arhan will be creating a google doc to put down research, important points to consider, etc., and will share it with the rest of the committee to look at in the next two weeks.
Shikha will reach out to students in the Saint Paul school district to discuss SPS's success with ending their SRO contract last year- maybe have some SPS students discuss what they did, give suggestions, etc.
7. **Environment**

Annie Chen will start a grant application from Community Education Citizens Advisory Council to purchase additional climate justice books for RPS. Committee members will be working on this with her. Annie has been in touch with curriculum advisors in the District who have approved her plans. Annie received a \$2500.00 grant from the Young Women's Association for the first round of books and so far she has purchased enough for elementary and middle school students. Additional funding will pay for books in our three public high schools. Once the books are in place a communication plan will be developed so that students are aware that the books are available for students. Environmental clubs in high schools as well as Student Government will be asked to help with getting the information out to all students. Cate Stacey introduced a program that has been implemented by the City of Edina in MN to recognize environmentally friendly businesses. The Committee reviewed the application which is attached. Mary is contacting the City of Rochester and DMC Sustainability Directors to see if a program like this would fit with the newly drafted plan that will be submitted for City Council approval.

8. **Mental Health**

Most people want to improve middle school health

Student Perspectives/Stories

could help (Panel) → Stigma for “How do you ask for help?”

TOPS @ Middle Schools, have high schoolers go down to them.

We searched for bills that are currently in the Senate and House as part of possible judicial advocacy project:

Senate Bill: Alternatives to Law Enforcement Response for mental health crises

[https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF0234&session=Is92&version=latest&session_number=0&session_year=2021&keyword_type=all&keyword=Mental+Health)

[number=SF0234&session=Is92&version=latest&session_number=0&session_year=2021&keyword_type=all&keyword=Mental+Health](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF0234&session=Is92&version=latest&session_number=0&session_year=2021&keyword_type=all&keyword=Mental+Health)

Here is the SF 101: Child mental health grants that was presented in January. I'm not sure the status but it looked like maybe it was deferred/pending an update:

https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF101&version=latest&session=Is92&session_year=2021&session_number=0

10. **584. Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month.** The month of May recognizes mental health issues such as post-partum depression and pregnancy anxiety.

https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/2020/cite/10.584?keyword_type=all&keyword=Mental+Health

mental health and conversion therapy:

[https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF0360&session=Is92&version=latest&session_number=0&session_year=2021&keyword_type=all&keyword=Mental+Health)

[number=SF0360&session=Is92&version=latest&session_number=0&session_year=2021&keyword_type=all&keyword=Mental+Health](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF0360&session=Is92&version=latest&session_number=0&session_year=2021&keyword_type=all&keyword=Mental+Health)

9.

Meeting will adjourn no later than 4:30pm