



**DETROIT
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Police Commissioners
FROM: Victoria Shah, Secretary to the Board
DATE: November 3, 2023
RE: Youth Advisory Panel Memo

Dear Commissioners,

Please see the follow updates from Ms. Teresa Blossom regarding the BOPC Youth Advisory Panel:

Update

The Board can expect to have 16 young Detroiters as members of the 2024 Youth Advisory Panel. This includes the 2022-23 inaugural five (5) members, who affirmed their return prior to kickoff for the 2023 application process.

With strong support from Dr. Nickoli Vitti, other education leaders, and local youth groups, the staff expected to see YAP double in size for its sophomore year. The 2023 outreach resulted in increased interest and applications, including from other metro Detroit cities. (Those Metro area residents were encouraged to seek opportunities with their community police agency or to explore programs with the ACLU, Michigan United, NAACP, Urban League or other groups aligned with the BOPC mission).

The application and review process resulted in 11 new youth for YAP participation. With the return of the five original members, the total YAP participation is 16 members for the next year.

Some key characteristics of the next Youth Advisory Panel are:

- The youth range in age from 15-23 years old. Most are teenagers.
- They reside in all seven (7) Detroit electoral districts.
- Their residency covers nine of DPD's total 11 Precincts.
 - DPD precincts are numbered from Second-Twelfth for 11 precincts [Downtown Services is often listed separately, but it is part of the Third Precinct coverage area].
 - No youth live in the Fifth or Eleventh precinct.

Background

With leadership from PCs Lisa Carter and Annie Holt, the Board created YAP for 15- to 24-year-old residents through a resolution in May 2022. After accelerated program development and marketing to receive applications by a September 30, 2022 deadline, the YAP members took a pledge of service at the orientation on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters.

The panel now meets monthly on Zoom and for meet-and-eat lunches. Members have an opportunity to discuss current public safety concerns and to be aware of and discuss every policy under review by the Board. YAP members have attended at least two Board meetings.

From the onset, the youth have been vocal on three primary concerns: A) Youth Safety, B) Detroit as a Welcoming Community, and C) Surveillance:

- **Youth Safety.** Panel members are concerned about growing up with the daily threat of gun violence, which they once saw as neighborhood-based but is now in their schools and other former safe havens due to domestic terrorism and mass shootings. Their concerns are both for their peers who are victims and their peers who are perpetrators.
- **A welcoming Detroit.** The panel expressed concerns centered on making sure local police do not provide immigration enforcement and do not intimidate recent immigrants or undocumented residents. Youth saw this concern as preventing some crime victims or witnesses from wanting to interact with police.
- **Surveillance.** The youth panel's concerns were primarily around using facial recognition in surveillance, particularly opposition to using facial recognition during events to surveil and identify people in real time.

In addition, the panel has reviewed and discussed several policies since last fall:

- Surveillance, including facial recognition, ShotSpotter, license plate readers, and Project Green Light
- Police professionalism, including training and social media policies
- The Board's Resolution of Commitment to 21st Century Policing and the Police Department's response to the resolution

Next Steps

All returning and expected new members are invited to the Thursday, November 9, 2023 BOPC community meeting at New Providence Baptist Church.

- The five returning members will receive certificates of recognition for their one-year participation.
- As a suggestion, Chair Pressley or PC Carter, as one of the two board members who sought to establish the youth group and who has attended its meetings, can call each name of the panel and then have them come up as a group to get their certificates and have a photo taken.
- It is suggested that the expected new panel members are also invited to the November meeting so the entire next YAP can together as a group take a pledge of service (like the 2022-23 panel did).

- It is suggested that Chair Pressley or PC Lisa Carter, as one of the two board members who sought to establish the youth group, administer the pledge:

I [name] pledge to fulfill the responsibilities of the Youth Advisory Panel with integrity, cooperation, and diligence.

I pledge to work with and respect the opinions of my fellow members, and to follow approved decisions to carry out the Panel's mission, goals, and activities.

I pledge always to represent the Panel in a positive and supportive manner – in the community and with members and staff of the Board of Police Commissioners, Police Department, and other City agencies.

With YAP's growth in membership, youth engagement also will expand to ensure robust participation. A key goal remains to secure funding that supports youth participation and overall commitment each month, and to ensure appropriate capacity for YAP program decisions. The growing interest and participation in YAP gives even more importance to this goal.

Returning Members

- Alexis Alexis Escoto
- Keyaira Johnson
- Perriel Pace (Co-Lead Advocate)
- Ilana Spencer
- Angelica Williams (Co-Lead Advocate)

Expected New Members

- Jayden Allen
- Brittyn Benjamin-Kelley
- Jeremiah Gill
- Takayla Humphrey
- Jabari Jefferson
- Ayanna Lawson
- KeithAnthony Morales
- William Perkins
- Ivani Phillips
- Namari Robinson
- Amulen Rozmus