


FYC Newsletter

Issue No.1 | July 2024



First Inaugural Meeting was held in March 2024. During this historic gathering, certificates were presented to the Youth Council members by officials from both Frederick City and County, marking a celebratory acknowledgment of their dedication and hard work.

 DC News Now attended the first Youth Council meeting and interviewed our Chair and Vice Chair. Check out the video by clicking the YouTube icon.

Front Row left to right: Brooke Lieberman (Chair), Rachel Spencer, Jose Doradea, Judah Shaool, Oluwanifise Otesile, Breanna Brea Ochoa, Chantell Duckett (County Representative), Carter Davis, Sydel Anku, Paolo Bonarriva (Peacekeeper)
Back Row left to right: Anushka Tyagi, Alaina Bowie, Thomas Evans (Vice Chair), Mayor Michael O'Connor (The City of Frederick), Hannah Meredith, Kiya Marshall (Timekeeper), Quinn Bannister



Youth In Action

The Frederick Youth Council has proudly been invited to speak at events hosted by both local government bodies and nonprofit organizations. These opportunities are allowing our members to champion youth issues and contribute significantly to community discussions.



Monthly Highlights

March

In a display of exemplary democratic process, the council successfully conducted elections for various officer positions. These new officers are now at the helm, steering our collective efforts toward making meaningful impacts. The meeting also included discussions and the signing of the code of conduct, as well as a review of the Youth Council Charter. Additionally, pertinent questions were posed to our elected officials, fostering a robust dialogue on our future initiatives.



April

In April, the Frederick Youth Council actively participated in Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, with three members speaking at the Mayor's "Month of the Young Child" campaign. Additionally, council members collaborated with elected officials, including presenting Congressman David Trone with a Youth Council T-shirt in appreciation of his support for youth initiatives. Engaging with the community, our youth created a impactful public service announcement on mental wellness, volunteered at the Teen Wellness Summit, and supported TAP's Feeling Artful Mental Health through the Arts campaign, showcasing their commitment to promoting mental wellness and peer support.



May

In May, the Youth Council participated in the South End Park visioning session, a park adjacent to the future Youth Center. This visioning session allowed them to contribute their ideas and insights to shape the development of the park. Additionally, council members took part in TAP's Second Annual Photovoice Community Impact Exhibit, Voices of Resilience, showcasing their creativity and perspectives on resilience through photography.

June

In June, the Youth Council delved into the Charter Review process, actively participating in making edits and enhancements to better serve the youth in our community. Additionally, five members of the Youth Council dedicated themselves to a four-week Photovoice Facilitator Training with TAP, where they honed their skills in storytelling through powerful images. Through this training, our youth shared compelling images and stories that shed light on the pressing needs of our youth community.

July



In July, Delegate Karen Simpson from District 3 graciously shared her story with the Youth Council, and extended an invitation for the council to display a Photovoice exhibit in her Annapolis office early next year. Members of the Youth Council were, also, invited by FCPS to participate in a focus group for Greenspace, a company developing an app for navigating mental and behavioral health services across the County. Additionally, the Youth Council led its own community meeting with SHIP (the Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership) to develop a better understanding of various needs among Frederick's youth.

Up Next

Looking ahead, the Youth Council is gearing up for a prominent presence at **In the Streets on September 14th**, where they will be advocating for youth-centered initiatives and defining their annual campaign. Come say hello!