



PORT ST. LUCIE  
YOUTH COUNCIL

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# YOUTH COUNCIL

*TOMORROW'S LEADERS,  
TODAY*



Port St. Lucie  
PARKS &  
RECREATION



# Program Research

- Research sources included
  - National League of Cities
  - University of Wisconsin-Madison
  - Stanford University
  - National Recreation and Park Association
- Benchmarks of Youth Councils, including
  - National: Houston, TX; Reno, NV; Framingham, MA; Tacoma, WA
  - Florida: Lauderhill, Niceville, Islamorada, Sanford, Tampa, Hillsborough County; Pinellas County; Miami-Dade County

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# Program Research

- Public Input Survey
  - 2020 Port St. Lucie Citizen Summit
- City Council Input
  - One-on-One meetings 2020/2021
- Staff Experience
  - 15 years of experience in youth development/programming
  - 25+ years PSLPRD experience in youth programming

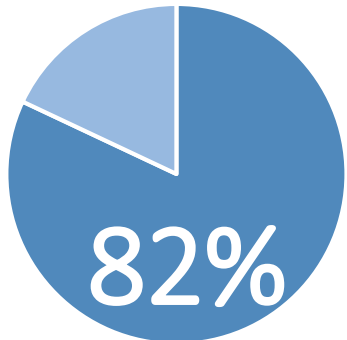
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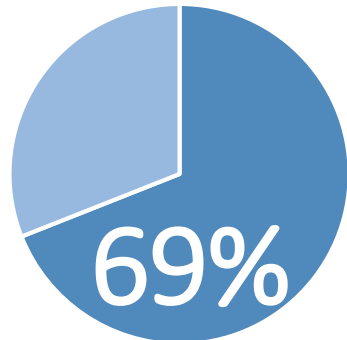


# Research Results

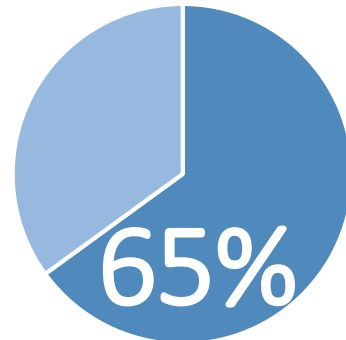
- Public Input Survey (2020 Citizen Summit)
  - What should the PSL Youth Council provide?



Give a voice to the youth of our community for representation to City leadership



Personal and professional development opportunities



Opportunities to assist in the development of innovative programs, events and practices

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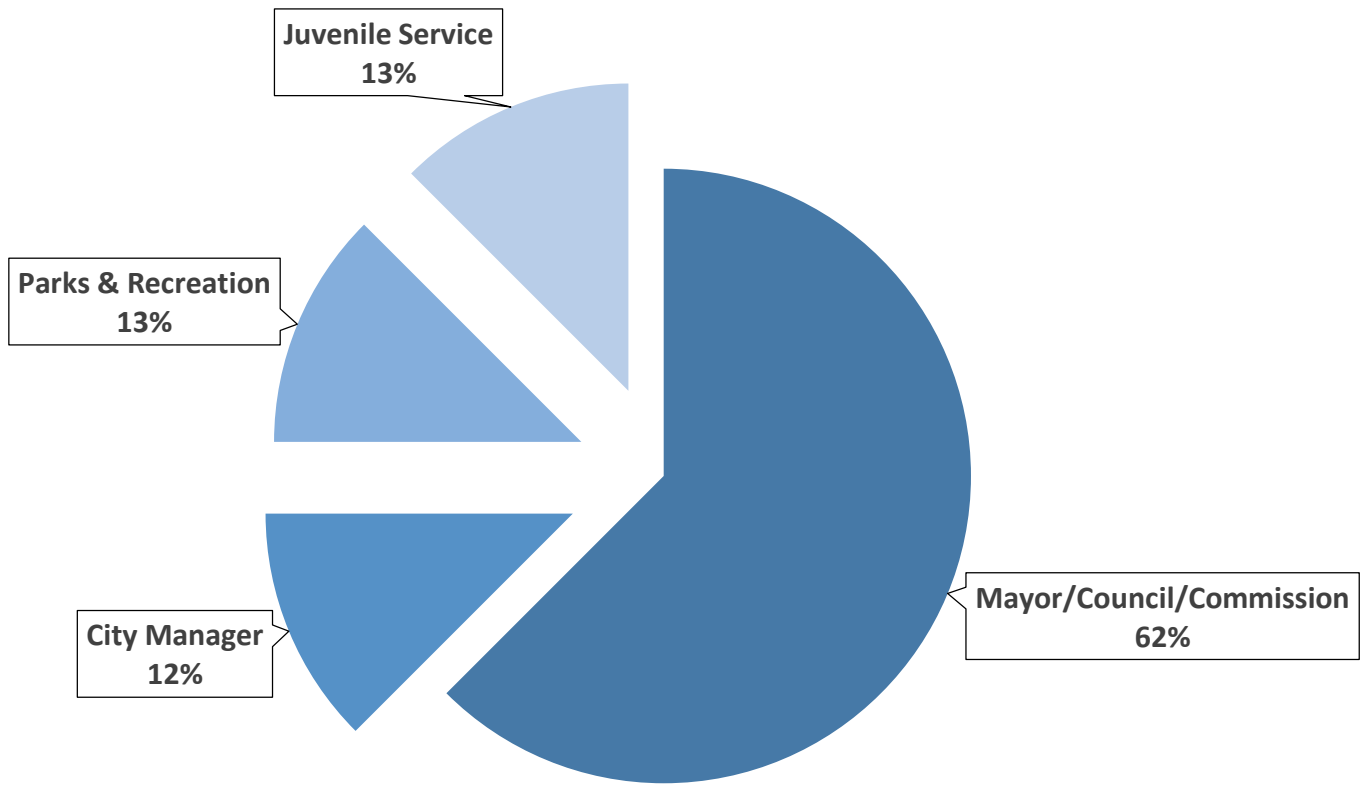
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# Research Results

- Benchmarks
  - In which Department does your Youth Council operate?



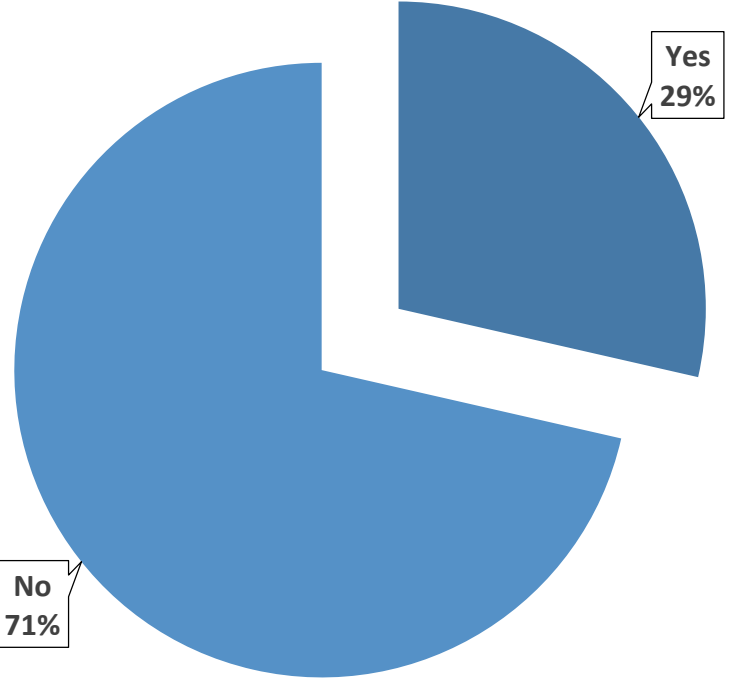
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# Research Results

- Benchmarks
  - Is there an identified position solely dedicated to the operation of your Youth Council?



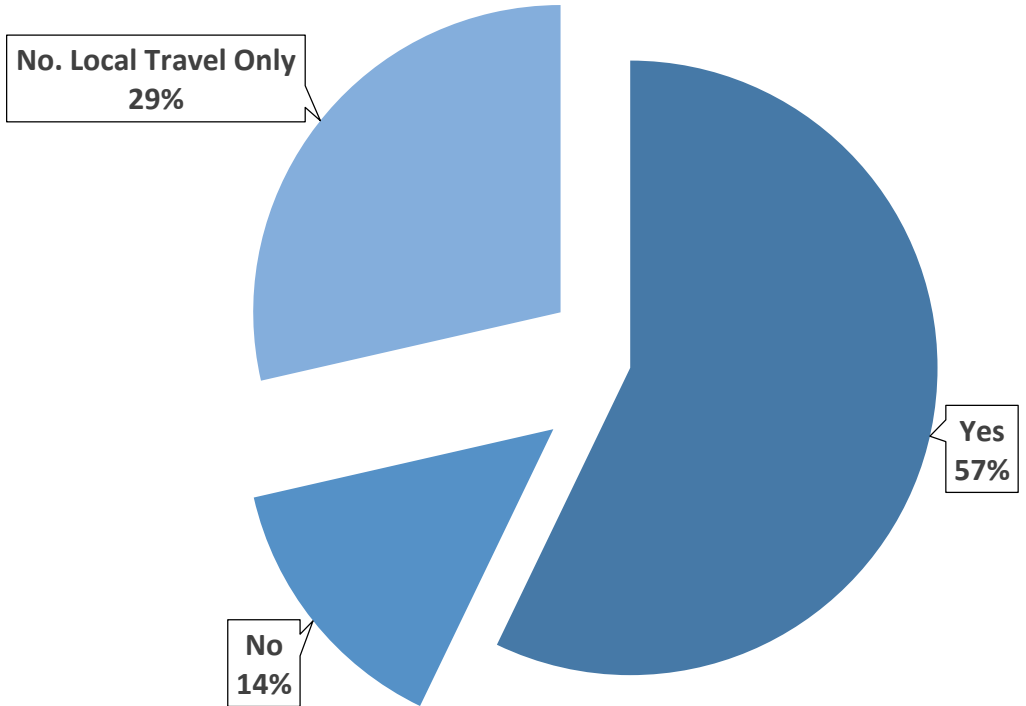
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# Research Results

- Benchmarks
  - Does your Youth Council offer lengthy/overnight travel? (i.e. overnight travel in/out of state for conferences, seminars, state legislative sessions, etc.)



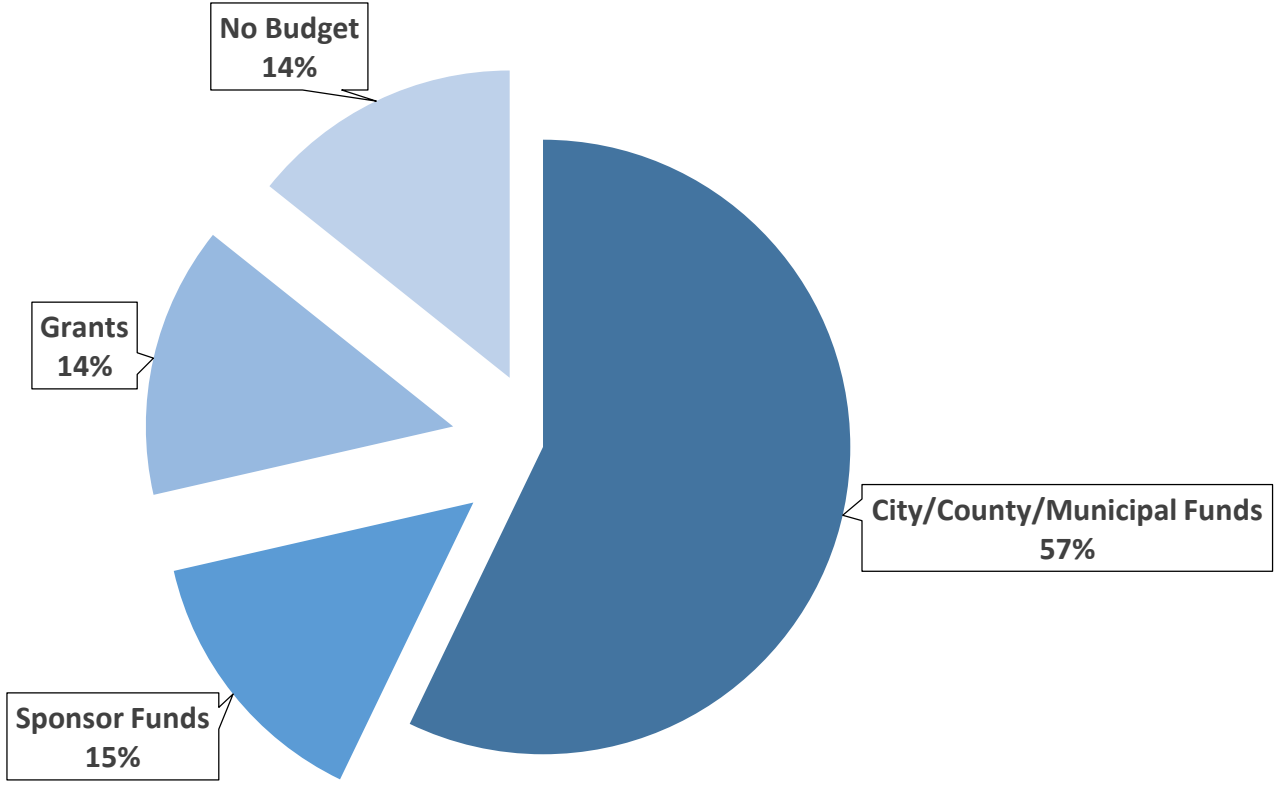
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# Research Results

- Benchmarks
  - How does your Youth Council receive funding? (i.e. funding to cover costs of program administration, food, travel, supplies, project costs, etc.)



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# Program Proposal

## • MISSION

- To develop and support a council comprised of engaged, diverse and motivated youth who desire to positively impact our community through education, personal development and public service in the City of Port St. Lucie.

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# Program Proposal

- An authentic, engaging and rewarding experience for all
- Providing opportunities for youth to partner with City staff and leadership
- Modeled after existing PSL City Council
- Service requires application and interview process
- Can partner in development with School District to align with educational standards

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# Program Proposal

- Council Size
  - Five voting Council members (one per district)
  - Up to 10 additional members serving as non-voting Council subcommittee(s)
- Eligibility
  - Open to enrolled High School students residing in City of Port St. Lucie
  - Requires a minimum GPA of 2.25
  - Five voting members represent the district in which they reside
  - Additional potential requirements to be addressed in Council bylaws

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# Program Proposal

- Program Scope
  - Will partner with City staff and leadership to work on key youth-oriented projects
  - Will serve as an advisory committee on matters as requested by City Council, City Management and City Staff
  - Will provide access to trainings and educational opportunities
- Program Calendar
  - Council Term will align with County school calendar
  - Summer term will allow for selection of next Youth Council

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# Program Proposal

- Program Calendar
  - Enter brief training period (Q1)
  - Attend introductory meeting with Mayor and Council to brainstorm, discuss and select projects for that Youth Council term (Q1)
  - Enter work term (Q2-Q4)
  - Attend Retreat with Mayor and Council to review project outcome(s) and develop recommendations/vision for next Youth Council via succession planning (Q4)
  - Coordinate year-end graduation ceremony to recognize accomplishments and leadership of previous Youth Council members, program partners, etc.

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# Program Proposal

- Added-value programming
  - Immediate Development of an annual City Youth Summit event
    - Full day summit to educate and celebrate youth in our community
    - Featuring influential keynote speakers, educational breakout sessions, connection with educational and employment resources and more
    - Future partnership with Youth Council, to include, beginning in year two, a recognition ceremony/event for previous Youth Council members

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# Program Proposal

- Added-value programming
  - Future Development of a youth-relevant City University model
    - Condensed, exciting virtual format
    - In-person electives and social media engagement challenges
    - Serve as a queue for students who are not serving in current Youth Council, and provide education on City operations to youth in our community
    - Designed collaboratively with City Youth Council to ensure relevance

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# Budget Impacts

- Key barrier to youth participation: **transportation**
  - Draft budget identifies funding for students/families in need of transportation assistance via a mileage stipend or reimbursement program
- Program budget to cover transportation, apparel, activity fees, project costs, administrative costs, etc.
- Current draft budget per Council year (including City Youth Summit costs) is estimated at +/- \$50,000



# Program Commencement

- Staff has prepared two options for program commencement for Council consideration

## OPTION 1

- Phased Approach (Quality Focus)
  - First annual PSL Youth Summit, December 2021
  - First full Youth Council term, August 2022 (market 21/22 school year via schools, social media and 2021 Youth Summit)

## OPTION 2

- Accelerated Approach (Time Focus)
  - First annual PSL Youth Summit, December 2021
  - Abbreviated first Youth Council term, January-May 2022 (market summer 2021 via social media)





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# Conclusion

- Staff recommends approval of the Youth Council model to follow City Council-directed commencement timeline





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