

ARTICLE 1. SCOPE, MISSION AND VISION

Section 1. Scope.

The Port St. Lucie Youth Council (“Youth Council”) is a fact-finding board, consisting of local high school students. The Youth Council is not subject to the Florida Government in the Sunshine Law.

Section 2. Mission.

To provide Youth with an understanding of the inner workings of municipal government while cultivating leadership skills and working towards the City’s strategic plan through a youth perspective.

Section 3. Vision.

To be leaders amongst their peers, while amplifying the voices of the City’s youth and finding opportunities for civic engagement and community service.

ARTICLE 2. MEMBERSHIP, TERM, QUALIFICATION, AND STRUCTURE

Section 1. Membership and Term

The Youth Council shall have no limit on the number of members. Each member shall serve a two (2) year term, provided the member will remain a high school student for both terms. Members may reapply after their term has expired and there is no limit on terms served. The initial term shall begin in August 2024 and expire in May of 2026. The application process for the Youth Council shall open every year in May.

Section 2. Qualifications.

All members shall have the following qualifications:

1. All members must be actively enrolled in a public or private high school in grades ninth (9th) through twelfth (12th);
2. All members must be residents of the City of Port St. Lucie;
3. All members must complete, in its entirety, an application by the date provided; and
4. All members must be appointed by the Mayor and are subject to certain qualifications, including but not limited to, GPA/grades, academic and behavioral standing, letter of recommendation, and overall interest in the commitment of City of Port St. Lucie Youth Council.

Section 3. Structure.

The Port St. Lucie Youth Council shall be comprised of a delegation of members who may choose to serve on a variety of committees and/or the Governing Board.

The delegation, with approval from the governing board, shall create committees at the start of each academic year. The delegation shall meet at a frequency and time determine by the Governing Board.

Governing Board members shall meet at a frequency and time determined by the Board at the start of the academic year.

Committees may meet at a time and frequency determined by members of the committee.

ARTICLE 3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Youth Council shall coordinate activities for City youth, obtain data from City youth and residents, and provide said data to City staff and the City Council to help cultivate a better understanding of the needs of the City's Youth population.

Members must serve on at least one (1) committee per year. Members must dedicate forty (40) hours to Youth Council which can be done in a variety of ways, list below:

Event/Meeting	Hours
Youth Council Retreat- <i>September</i>	5 hours
City Council Meeting- <i>Year-Round</i>	3 hours (Per Meeting)
Youth Council Meeting- <i>Monthly</i>	2 hours (Per Meeting)
Florida League of Cities Annual Youth Conference- <i>October</i>	8 hours
National League of Cities Annual Summit- <i>November</i>	8 hours
PSLinLights Party- <i>December</i>	6 hours
Citizen Summit- <i>February</i>	7 hours
Legislative Action Days- <i>March</i>	14 hours (2-day trip)
Community Service- <i>TBD</i>	4-5 hours (varies depending on the project)
City Signature Events- <i>September-June</i>	4-5 hours (Per event)
Community Field Trips- <i>September-June</i>	2-3 hours (Depending on location)
Other events/hour opportunity as set forth by the Governing Board	<i>TBD</i>

ARTICLE 4. GOVERNING BOARD

The delegation shall vote for a Governing Board determinative of, including but not limited to, interest in serving on the governing board, previously serving on the Youth Council, strong qualifications such as leadership experience, academic excellence, or strong recommendation from the community, and nomination from peers.

The Governing Board shall consist of a chair, vice chair, chair pro temp, committee chair, and volunteer chair. The Board shall serve for one (1) term.

ARTICLE 4. RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL

Members may resign at any time by providing written notice of their resignation and specifying their last date serving on the Youth Council to the Governing Board.

Members may only be removed by the Governing Board upon good cause must be shown, including not obtaining required hours of service in one academic year.

Governing board members may resign at any time by providing written notice of their resignation and specifying their last date serving on the Board to the Mayor.

Governing board members may only be removed by the Board upon majority vote and lack of attendance may be a justification for removal.

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