

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MANSFIELD, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING A MANSFIELD YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR THE MISSION, RULES AND DUTIES ASSOCIATED THEREWITH; APPROVING THE BYLAWS OF THE MANSFIELD YOUTH COUNCIL, AS ATTACHED; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, the City received a proposal for the creation of a Youth Advisory Council for the purposes of serving as advisors to City Council and City staff regarding matters that relate to youth, families, and future plans for the City; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City serves a growing number of residents, many of whom fall under the age of 19 and attend an educational institution within the City of Mansfield or a Mansfield Independent School District institution; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes that the establishment of a Youth Advisory Council will empower youth, will create opportunities to receive their input regarding community projects, and provide a vehicle by which youth are enabled to have an influence in issues they care about; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City Council desires to continue to strengthen inclusivity and diversity of City programs, foster the development of future community leaders, provide opportunities that provide insight and understanding of the functions and responsibilities of local government, and prepare young people to take on meaningful roles in addressing relevant issues in their community; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes the need for its young residents to participate, and be a valuable resource in the decision-making process of City policies and procedures; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds it to be in the public interest to establish a Youth Advisory Council.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANSFIELD, TEXAS, THAT:**

**SECTION 1.**

**Name:**

There is hereby established a City of Mansfield Youth Advisory Council (“Youth Council”).

**SECTION 2.**

**Purpose, Powers, and Duties:**

- 1) The Youth Council shall serve as an advisory board and advise the City of Mansfield (“City”) on matters related to youth or that impact the future of the City;
- 2) The Youth Council shall work to represent the interests of its peers and be the voice of youth in the Mansfield community;
- 3) The Youth Council shall find creative ways to serve and support the community;
- 4) The Youth Council shall serve as ambassadors and liaisons between the City and members of, or outside of, the City to foster partnership and understanding;
- 5) The Youth Council shall recommend policies, programs, and services that enhance the lived-experiences of young people in the City, support an inclusive community, and that encourage and enable young people to be productive members of the community;
- 6) The Youth Council shall facilitate events, service projects, or other projects that make progress towards the Youth Council’s and City’s goals;
- 7) The Youth Council shall, at a minimum, plan and implement one campaign per term (“Annual Campaign”) that relates to a need or opportunity in the community and City that is youth-oriented in nature;
- 8) The Youth Council shall build relationships with individuals, groups, and organizations that impact both youths and families; and
- 9) The Youth Council shall partner with individuals, groups, and organizations in the planning and implementation of previously approved services or programs that support the youth of Mansfield.

### SECTION 3.

#### **Membership:**

- 1) **Members.** The Youth Council shall be comprised of a group of young Mansfield residents that meet the specifications set forth in the Bylaws along with City staff which shall be considered ex-officio, non-voting members.
- 2) **Sub-committees.** The Youth Council shall have the following standing sub-committees:
  - a) Navigators
  - b) Public Records
  - c) Meetings
- 3) **Terms of Office.** The members of the Youth Council shall serve in such capacity without compensation. All terms of office shall begin on August 1 and expire on July 31. At the end of each term, a minimum of 50% of Youth Council members will be invited to

participate in the following term, so long as they still meet the minimum qualifications set forth in the Bylaws.

- 4) **Qualifications.** Youth Council members shall follow the policies set forth in the Bylaws to remain in good standing.

#### **SECTION 4.**

##### **Organization and Rules:**

- 1) **Rules and Regulations.** The Youth Council shall keep a record of its proceedings, which shall be public record. The Youth Council shall adopt Bylaws pertaining to the performance of its duties, with the initial Bylaws, attached hereto as Exhibit "A", being approved by the City Council. Amendments to the Bylaws shall be made in accordance with the Bylaws and approved by the City Manager, or their designee.
- 2) **Application and Orientation.** Qualified interested applicants must:
  - a) Submit a fully completed application;
  - b) Complete an interview with a panel that may consist of:
    - i) City Council Members,
    - ii) City Staff, and
    - iii) Youth Council Alumni; and
  - c) Successfully complete orientation.
- 3) **Support.** A City staff member shall be appointed by the City Manager, or their designee, ("Staff Liaison") and shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Youth Council. Other City staff members shall be appointed by the Staff Liaison, or self-identified, to provide support to the Youth Council and shall also be considered ex-officio members.
- 4) **Absences.** Any member of the Youth Council who is unable to attend a meeting or any consecutive number of meetings shall be subject to the attendance policy set forth in the Bylaws.
- 5) **Removal.** Members of the Youth Council, other than ex-officio members, may be removed by the Staff Liaison, City Manager, or their designee, for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance while in office, which decision shall be final.

#### **SECTION 5.**

This Resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage in accordance with the Charter of the City of Mansfield, and it is accordingly so resolved.

**PASSED AND APPROVED THIS THE 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.**

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**Michael Evans, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**Susana Marin, City Secretary**