

FORT PIERCE YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Fort Pierce Youth Council - Thursday, February 29, 2024 - 4:00 p.m. City Hall - 2nd Floor Conference Room, 100 North U.S. #1, Fort Pierce, Florida

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Any person who wishes to comment on any subject on this Agenda may be heard at this time. Please limit your comments to no more than five (5) minutes, as this section of the Agenda is limited to thirty minutes. The Youth Advisory Committee will not be able to take any official action under "Comments from the Public" section.

4. **Planning of the EMPOWER YOUTH! DAY OF GIVING**

Ms. Moore informed the members that today's work meeting will focus on this year's community service event, the Youth Day of Giving. At a previous meeting, the members agreed to recruit at least ten people from the community to volunteer for the event. Today, members must identify areas of the community that require improvement. The Public Works Department will assist with the event, and Ms. Moore is working with them to ensure its success.

The event involves a clean-up in specific locations targeting the community. Following the event, a fun day is planned at the Rec Center with bounce houses, water activities, and music to kick off spring break. Ms. Moore challenged Council members to recruit the most youth, with the winning member receiving recognition. A QR code-encoded flyer was distributed to all the members for registration for the event. So far, three people have registered.

Ms. Moore stated that today they will be assessing the members' commitment to recruiting youth for the upcoming community services event. If they are unable to meet the target, the event may be canceled due to its proximity to 3/16/24. We don't want to make commitments with vendors if we don't have enough youth. The goal is to have 100 youths, and each team member has agreed to recruit ten. Janessa Diaz, who is unable to attend due to illness, has confirmed that 17 people will be participating, and she has also contacted a school club to recruit 20 additional students. Janessa has currently recruited 36.

Ms. Moore asked each member to share their progress in recruiting youth for the event.

After each member provided an update on their recruitment progress, they discussed which areas of the community could benefit from some improvement. They discussed meeting at the Fort Pierce Rec Center after about 3 hours of volunteer service for lunch and fun in the park.

Commissioner Gaines said that he wanted the event to be a success and that he would commit 100 middle school and high school kids to participating in the event.

Commissioner Gaines also encouraged the members. He advised them that if the response they received was negative, it was their responsibility to turn it into a positive and explain why it was important. You are the future of our city. Someone from the Council could be the next person to sit down in my seat. You need to sell your program.

The members continued giving their recruitment progress reports. Unfortunately, there was no significant recruitment effort. Ms. Moore said that at this point they need to decide whether they were going to postpone the event to a later date. They decided that they did not want to postpone it and would increase their recruitment effort.

Ms. Moore asked the members if they had ideas of where they wanted to start the community cleanup. She also mentioned that on March 9th there will be a quarterly clean up by Keep Fort Pierce Beautiful and they have identified sites in the community.

The Youth Council has taken the responsibility to recruit the youth for their clean up event and to identify the locations within the community. The members provided input on the areas to add to the list for clean up.

Veronica Hypolite pointed out a typo on the flyer and Ms. Moore addressed the QR code issue, ensuring it would be corrected and sent to everyone.

Ms. Moore requested each member to have six youth registered by March 7th, while the Chairperson Lyonee Allen emphasized the need for more cleanup location ideas.

Ms. Turner stated that this is an important event for the youth, and that all YOCO members must participate in its planning and execution. The goal is to reach out to the community's youth, and members should look for ways to interest their peers in the Youth Council's important topics. She advised the members to use the remainder of the meeting to finalize the event's action steps so that they could begin planning and carrying it out at the next meeting. Members must complete the planning stage today in order for the event to have an impact on their community.

The members discussed how to improve their recruitment efforts and the activities planned for fun in the park, the event to follow after the clean up,

5. **COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Bryanna Gore; seconded by Tenelia Garner to adjourn the meeting.

All members were in favor. Motion passed.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at (772) 467-3065 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.