

# Gainesville Youth Advisory Board Presentation

**Sophia Corugedo**

City of Gainesville Fellow

Office of the Clerk of the Commission

**General Policy Committee Meeting**

December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

# Gainesville Context

- **Student Community Relations Advisory Board**
  - Students in college/university institutions
  - Make recommendations on issues relevant to students and non-students
  - Encourage involvement throughout the implementation of solutions
  - Sits under Code Enforcement
- **2018 Gainesville High School Teen Forum for High School Youth**
  - Promoted civic involvement and education
  - Elected officials as guest speakers
  - Reoccurring in **Spring 2020**.

# Why have a Youth Advisory Board?

- Currently **no formal** engagement between the City and middle or high-school age youth
- Implement initiatives and events to establish full **representation**
- Give youth a **voice** in addressing the issues currently affecting them

# 20 Cities in FL with existing Boards

- Alachua
- Aventura
- Boca Raton
- Cape Coral
- Clermont
- Coral Gables
- Cutler Bay
- Destin
- Dunedin
- Fort Myers
- Hialeah
- Homestead
- Miami Lakes
- Miramar
- Niceville
- Orlando
- Palmetto Bay
- St. Petersburg
- Tampa
- West Park

# Cape Coral Youth Council

- 14 area high-school student members
- Each of the 6 Cape Coral High Schools allotted a junior and a senior for the council.
- 2 additional at-large members
- Liaison: The Councilmember who initiated the Board's creation
- Established: February 2017
- Recognized by the FL League of Cities in 2018 for a charity initiative called "Blessings in a Backpack"

## Cape Coral Youth Council Fall Gala

Sep 14, 2019 5:30 PM to 10:30 PM 🇺🇸 🇻🇮 🇨🇺 🇸🇪

Tickets are \$30 for ages 21 and older, \$5 for ages 20 and younger.

Kiwanis Hall 360 Santa Barbara Blvd., Cape Coral, Florida 33990

The Cape Coral Youth Council Fall Gala is an evening of networking, entertainment and the opportunity to network with Cape Coral's youth population as well as its business and political leaders. Additionally, citizens may communicate with Cape Coral Youth Council members and get to know their work.

All proceeds from this event go to Blessings in a Backpack of Southwest Florida, an organization that works to help provide food to children who often do not have enough food to eat outside school hours.



# Fort Myers Teen Advisory Council

- Can have up to 24 members at one time
- 15 - 19 years old and a resident of the City
- Each councilmember and the mayor choose one member
- Remaining 17 members and adult chair chosen by the **selection committee**
  - Faith-based agency member
  - Government-funded agency member
  - Local non-profit organization member
- The selection committee chooses members to be interviewed by a panel consisting of members of the Fort Myers Teen Advisory Council.



# St. Petersburg Mayor's Youth Congress

- 22 Youth are on the Congress
- Members participate in community service, workshops, and events with the Mayor.
  - Ex: Visiting the Florida House of Representatives, removing trash from parks
- Sits under the St. Pete Parks and Recreation Department



# Themes & Commonalities Among Existing Boards

- **Members**
  - High School students
  - Adult supervisory members.
  - Total members: 5 to 24
- **Frequency**
  - Meet once a month during the school-year
- **Function**
  - Recommendations on issues and initiatives
  - Civic involvement
  - Community outreach
  - Plan events
  - Scholarships and tutoring



# Gainesville Youth Advisory Board: Proposed Objectives

- Identify strategies to improve Gainesville for its youth who are growing up and seeking success here
- Voice youth perspectives on important issues
- Outreach initiatives and community service opportunities
- Host events to increase youth engagement with the City

# Florida League of Cities: Steps to Creating a Youth Advisory Board

1. Establish a planning committee
  - a. Diverse, dedicated young people from the community
  - b. Serve as the core of the youth council when it begins
  
2. Determine the mode of authorization
  - a. Resolution
  - b. Legislation
  - c. Charter Amendment

# Florida League of Cities: Steps to Creating a Youth Advisory Board

3. Selection of YAB Members
  - a. Member terms, demographics, etc.
  - b. Design selection process
4. Determine funding details
  - a. Possible costs
  - b. Potential funding sources
5. Creating a Diverse Board
  - a. Collaborate with schools, after-school programs, etc.
  - b. Advertise in public places and electronically
  - c. Stress the importance of diversity to staff

# Gainesville Youth Advisory Board: Road Map

Make decisions on the following structural aspects which are described with *recommended* components:

1. Position within city government & Staff Liaison
2. Members (Application, Selection, Terms, etc.)
3. Duties & Activities
4. Financial Support & Budget

# 1. Determine Position Within City Government

- Office of the City Manager
  - Office of Parks and Recreation and Cultural Affairs
- Office of the Clerk of the Commission
- Local non-profit

## 2. Determine Member Details: Terms, Demographics, etc.

- 1-year terms that follow the school-year (Aug-June)
- Max. 2 terms
- Not yet graduated high school and are between the ages of 13-19
- Must reside or go to school within City limits
- 1 staff liaison

## 2. Determine Member Details: Selection Process

- a. Each Commissioner and the Mayor select two members
- b. The City Manager and Staff Liaison select one member
- c. Conduct individual interviews
- d. Total: 16 members.

### Other Options

- a. Selecting persons each nominate 1 member
- b. Selection committee choose remaining 7 + members.
- c. The processes are handled by the City office that the board sits under

# 3. Duties & Activities

- Monthly meetings
- Form subcommittees
- Make advisory recommendations
- Host an annual youth civic engagement forum
- Produce an annual report identifying issues and solutions



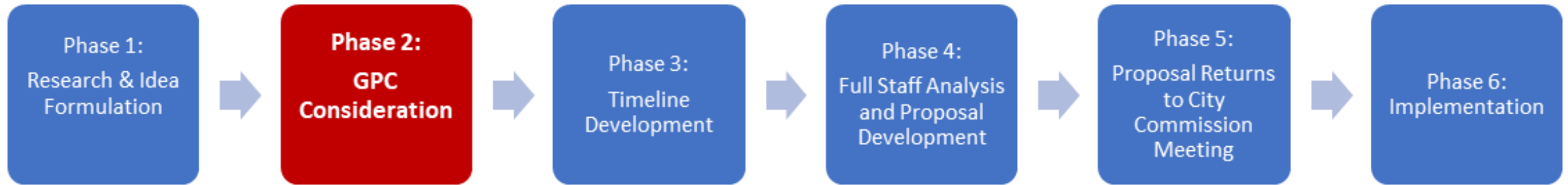
# 4. Financial Support & Budget

- Forecasted Expenses
  - Food
  - Travel
  - Meeting Space & Supplies
  - Staff Time
- Potential Revenues for Funding
  - City General Budget
  - Grants
  - Corporate sponsorships
  - Fundraising

# Community Outreach Plan

- To ensure genuine youth engagement:
  - Work with local organizations and youth groups (Aces in Motion, Reichert House, BOOST, etc.)
  - Engage student organizations at the local schools.
- To recruit members for the board:
  - Display flyers
  - Inform youth-serving organizations and after-school programs
  - Provide assistance for the application process
  - Advertise at 2020 Youth Forum

# Recommended Next Steps



We are here!

If the General Policy Committee wants to proceed, move this project to Phase 3 of the Policy Process.

# Questions?