

## **Youth Services Division Updates:**

### **Mission:**

The City of Gainesville Youth Services Division, located within our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (PRCA) Department, aims to provide young people in the city with useful experiences to promote healthy growth and development. Creating a positive, creative environment that are accessible, safe, and affordable that appeal to the diverse interests of young adolescents and their families while utilizing and partnering with local agencies throughout the City of Gainesville is our goal.

### **Current Division Update:**

We are starting the hiring process for a Division manager. Here's what has been completed so far:

#### **I. (Inaugural) Personnel:**

- Youth Services Division Manager Job Description has been created, and reviewed by Interim PRCA Director, associated Assistant City Manager and the City's HR department.
- Job Description has currently assigned to Cody and Associate for further review and analysis to determine actual salary perimeters that conform to the city's current compensation strategies and plan.

#### **II. Partnership with local non-profits charged with youth development:**

- YMCA Youth Center for Youth Services has launched its youth development program and the City via PRCA is currently negotiating an MOU to partner with them and leverage programming the agency can make immediately available to the community.
- One such program is the YMCA's Youth In Government Program (YIG), which will begin as soon as the Youth Services Manager is on board at the City.
- YIG is program funded since 1957. This program is a Florida-based n program that will allow us to give our youth an opportunity to learn more about the government processes and become a part of our community. This program will allow participants to not just learn, but to assist the City in advising our team on the kind of youth programming they would like to see throughout our City.
- In February the YMCA will be hosting a meeting with the Florida State Alliance and the City will be present.

#### **III. Updated Recommendations on Staffing/Tempo of Youth Services Division:**

Currently, PRCA presented a plan to staff two (2) temporary employees. We are recommending an update to the staffing strategy to revise the Organizational Chart to reflect one (1) bus driver and a purchase of a 20 passenger bus instead of the 2 temporary employees. We believe this revision allows the City to immediately leverage existing partnerships and provide services to the community, while also allowing the pilot program to inform the build-out of the Youth Services Division.

After meeting with local non-profits and the YMCA, we have found that the greatest challenge is transportation for the youth who would be participating in these programs. Therefore, we believe the greatest opportunities to capitalize on the current needs is to provide the transportation service in "year one" of the division build-out.

As our partnerships develop and grow, we will have the ability to provide much needed transportation in order to jump start our commitment to youth programming and service delivery.

We believe we can purchase a bus and hire a driver without affecting the current approved budget.