

## **ARTICLE 180B COUNCIL OF YOUTH**

180B.01	Purpose
180B.02	Establishment and Composition of the Board
180B.03	Powers and Duties
180B.04	Annual Report

### **180B.01 Purpose**

The purpose of the Council of Youth to advise the Mayor and Council on any relating to youth issues. To promote youth issues, the COY will make recommendations to the Administration, the city's bureaus, and city council on policies and legislation on youth issues. The purpose of this committee is to foster strong relationships with our youth, parents, and the community at large to ensure a safe, nurturing, caring, and learning environment and giving value and a defined meaning of obtaining a sound and well-rounded education that will yield sustainable employment.

### **180B.02 ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION (15597 §1 02/19/2020)**

The Council of Youth shall consist of thirteen members appointed by the Mayor and approved by City Council. Five members shall be adults and be representative of youth organizations, interests, or advocacy. One member shall be a representative from the Allentown School Board. Six (6) members on the board shall represent youth and be no older than 21 years of age. Recommendations can be made to the Mayor by any person, body, or organization. The Mayor shall appoint the Chairperson of the board with the approval of council. One member of city council and one Lehigh County Commissioner may serve as a non-voting member of the committee. The Mayor shall designate staff support for the Council of Youth.

Duly appointed members shall serve a term of four (4) years, except that initial appointments shall be so staggered that the terms of the membership shall expire each year. On the initial appointments two members shall serve for four years, two for three years, two for two years and one member for one year. Students/Youth shall serve for one-year terms.

Members of the Board must represent a youth advocacy group.

Council and the Mayor shall make every effort to ensure the board reflects the cultural and geographic diversity of the city.

The board shall meet bi-monthly or on an as needed basis – having at least four meetings a year - with additional meetings as determined by the board. All meetings shall be advertised and open to the public.

The Board Members and city staff shall have the appropriate clearances needed for dealing with youth.

The Board shall develop and approve their by-laws which shall be approved by Council by resolution.

### **180B.03 POWERS AND DUTIES**

The Board shall serve as an advisory body. It shall be tasked with offering suggestions on the following:

Identifying issues of concern of youth. It shall, research, discuss and propose solutions to the concerns it identifies. The Board shall provide these recommendations to Allentown City Council and the

Administration on a regular basis, at least annually as part of the annual report and presentation (see below, Section 177,05);

Consider and opine on the impact on youth of potential city actions when Council or the Administration requests such input. Examples of such inclusive of items such as special events, recreation programs, etc.

Facilitate communications, networking, and referrals within the community advocating youth interests.

Promote youth activities.

Provide a representation or a “voice” for youth in the community.

#### **180B.04 ANNUAL REPORT AND PRESENTATION**

The Board shall prepare a written report of the year’s activities, a (1) one-year plan and long-term goals and scenarios. The report shall be given to the Mayor and shall be presented to Allentown City Council at an appropriate committee meeting no later than the second meeting in March.