



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Kirkland Youth Council Leadership

Date: March 21, 2007

Subject: Kirkland Youth Council Leadership Study Session with Council

The 2006-07 Kirkland Youth Council is in the midst of yet another busy and success filled year. The year began with a highly competitive selection process in September. The Leadership Group conducted 18 hours of interviews, selecting 18 new members. This year's contingent includes four 7th graders. These members bring new energy, perspective, and potential longevity to the group.

The first activity for the 41 member group was the annual trip to the Waterhouse Center Challenge Course in Monroe. This trip is always a great way for members to develop leadership skills and camaraderie. After training, the group was ready to start the year and all the projects ahead.

The following is a brief overview of the Youth Council's 2006-07 projects:

Community Service Projects

The Kirkland Youth Council sets out to do at least four service projects during the school year.

November 2006 – KYC members sponsored a food drive for Hopelink. During the one day drive, four carfulls of donations and over \$500 in cash was collected.

December 2006 – The Youth Council hosted its annual Holly Day Brunch at the Peter Kirk Community Center. Members of KYC host, cook, and serve patrons of PKCC brunch. Over 50 seniors attended the event.

April 2007 – Members of the Kirkland Youth Council are hoping to partner with other eastside Youth Councils/Boards to participate in and Earthday project such as a park clean up.

May 2007 – The Kirkland Youth Council will be the “official” water station group for this year's Kirkland ½ Marathon.

Teen Traffic Court

Members of the Kirkland Youth Council continue to serve as judge and jury for the bi-monthly Teen Traffic Court. Cases are heard at the Kirkland Municipal Court on a bi-monthly basis. This program has been extremely successful in reducing the recidivism rates of participants over the last 10 years. Both KYC members and respondents benefit from this program.

Mini Grant Program

Every year the Kirkland Youth Council awards \$10,000 in mini grants to area schools and youth serving organizations. The purpose of these monies is to help support small events, projects and activities for Kirkland teens. Members of the Youth Council serve as the review committee for the grant applications and make funding recommendations. Awards typically range from \$150 to \$750.

We've Got Issues

The We've Got Issues television program has been airing on KGOV for about seven years. All programs are researched, written, filmed, hosted, and edited by members of the Kirkland Youth Council. Past topics have included, Teen Dating Violence, Drinking and Driving, Finding Your First Job, Teen Parties, and several others. Currently KYC is working on two installments of the program, Teen Stress and Pedestrian Safety.

Superintendent Meetings

The Youth Council Leadership continues to meet quarterly with the Lake Washington School District Superintendent, Dr Don Saul. During these meetings a wide variety of topics are discussed. This has included; nutrition policy, culminating projects, school safety and information technology issues/policies.

City Manager Meetings

KYC Leadership looks forward to their quarterly meetings with City Manager, Dave Ramsay. Topics that have been discussed include; annexation, Totem Lake Mall redesign, busy (bus?) shelters, and pedestrian safety.

PHAT KAT (Peeps and Homies Against Tobacco/ Kirkland Against Tobacco)

During the 2005-06 school year, a handful of Youth Council members created PHAT KAT. This group is one of six Youth Action Teams in Washington State that is working on raising awareness of the dangers of tobacco and second hand smoke. These groups are supported by the Washington State Department of Health's Tobacco Prevention Control Program.

PHAT KAT's main focus for the 2006-07 school year is to make the annual Bluefish Festival tobacco free.

Respect Booklet

The Respect Booklet was developed as a result of Kirkland police and members of the Youth Council working together and communicating with each other about how they feel, sharing their perspectives and experiences. Through this project, it is hoped that there is a reduction in fear and an increase in understanding between both groups.

The most recent edition of the booklet was printed about six years ago and is in need of updating. New laws have been passed and teens have more questions. Work is well underway in getting this resource updated. We hope to have the new version ready for the 2007-08 school year.

Bluefish Festival

Every year, the Kirkland Youth Council partners with the Teen Union Building to put on the Bluefish Festival. This event features teen music, art and other teen related activities. This day-long celebration will take place on Saturday, June 9th at the KTUB and in Peter Kirk Park. Subcommittees have been formed and are planning the various components of this event. This year's festival will also mark the KTUB's seventh anniversary.

This is a short summary of what the Kirkland Youth Council has on tap for the 2006-07 school year. Members of the Youth Council Leadership are looking forward to sharing and discussing event and project details with Council members during the upcoming Study Session.