



CITY OF KIRKLAND
PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Lynn Zwaagstra, Director, Parks & Community Services
Becky Gilley, Interim Human Services Manager
Regi Schubiger, Human Services Coordinator – Youth & Teens

Date: May 18, 2026

Subject: Proclaiming June as Youth Council Month

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Mayor proclaims June as Youth Council Month in Kirkland in recognition of the Kirkland Youth Council's 30-year anniversary and its three decades of youth civic engagement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Proclaiming June as Youth Council Month in Kirkland recognizes 30 years of Kirkland Youth Council serving the community.
- Kirkland Youth Council was established in 1996 to ensure youth perspectives remain a permanent part of the City's civic process.
- Current Kirkland Youth Council members, advisors, and alumni have been invited to attend the June 2 Council meeting to accept the proclamation and celebrate the program's enduring legacy of youth leadership and community impact.
- This proclamation is not on the City Council's adopted proclamation schedule. The Kirkland Youth Council requested that the Mayor issue the proclamation.

BACKGROUND:

The Kirkland Youth Council (KYC) was founded in 1996 by the City of Kirkland to bridge the gap between local government and its younger residents. Over the past 30 years, the KYC has grown into a robust advisory body consisting of 40 local teenagers. To mark this major milestone, the KYC requested that the City issue a formal proclamation to recognize the hundreds of thousands of hours of community service and leadership provided by Kirkland teens since the program's inception.

This Youth Council Month proclamation is not on the City Council's adopted proclamation schedule. Consistent with the Council Policies and Procedures, the Mayor has the discretion to issue a proclamation that is not on the adopted schedule.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Keystone programs operated by the KYC over its history include the peer-led restorative justice Teen Traffic Court, community service projects, youth-led Mini-Grant Review Committees, the “We’ve Got Issues” media productions, and the biennial Youth Summit, which connects local students directly with City and school district leadership to address youth policy priorities.

The 30th anniversary of the KYC provides a distinct opportunity to recognize the program's evolution and its direct impact on Kirkland’s civic landscape. Issuing this proclamation reinforces the City’s ongoing commitment to support positive youth development. It publicly validates the contributions of the hundreds of Kirkland youth who have served as ambassadors, proving that young residents are not just future leaders but active and essential stakeholders in the character of our city today.

NEXT STEPS:

The proclamation will be read aloud as part of the June 2, 2026 Council Meeting. Kirkland Youth Council Leadership will accept the proclamation. Current Kirkland Youth Council members, advisors, and alumni have been invited to attend the June 2 Council meeting to celebrate the program’s enduring legacy of youth leadership and community impact.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Kirkland Youth Council Proclamation



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Youth Council Month – June 2026

WHEREAS, in 1996, the City of Kirkland established the Kirkland Youth Council (KYC) to ensure that the voices and perspectives of young residents are an essential and permanent part of the civic process; and

WHEREAS, for thirty years, the KYC has served as the official youth sounding board for the City of Kirkland and regional partners, providing critical input on local projects, county initiatives, and long-range community plans to ensure that local government remains responsive to the needs of its youth; and

WHEREAS, the KYC serves as a model of democratic leadership, governed by a peer-elected Leadership Team that fosters a culture of respect and civic responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the KYC upholds a high standard of excellence, with its 40 members demonstrating strong attendance, meaningful community service, and leadership in peer-led restorative justice through the Teen Traffic Court, while also managing programs such as the Mini Grant Review Committees and the “We’ve Got Issues” media productions; and

WHEREAS, the KYC serves as a vital educational resource, producing guidance for peers on essential life transitions—including college planning, financial literacy, and career preparation—ensuring that Kirkland’s youth are equipped for future success; and

WHEREAS, through the biennial Youth Summit and various keystone projects, the KYC has consistently provided a venue for teens to openly share their ideas, turning those insights into actionable recommendations for the City Council and school leadership; and

WHEREAS, for three decades, these young ambassadors have proven that the youth of Kirkland are not just future leaders, but active and essential stakeholders in the success and character of our City today.

NOW, THEREFORE, Mayor Kelli Curtis proclaims June as Youth Council Month in honor of the Kirkland Youth Council’s 30th Anniversary and in celebration of the members, alumni, and advisors who have contributed countless hours of dedicated service to the Youth Council over the past three decades creating an enduring legacy of youth civic engagement as a cornerstone of our community.

Signed this 2nd day of June, 2026

Kelli Curtis, Mayor