



Date: April 16, 2009

To: Mayor's Executive Team

From: Mayor's Youth Council, 2009 – Youth Violence Group

Subject: Teen Advisory Councils (TACs)

Briefing Objective: To provide overview of existing teen advisory council practices, issues, opportunities, and recommendations for change. This briefing also includes a draft evaluation instrument for the Parks and Recreation Department to assess its current TACs.

Issue Statement: Teen Advisory Councils currently in place at in community centers around the city are ineffective and do not reach the majority of the youth who may be interested. TACs could be utilized as way of engaging the youth and steering them away from the violent community.

Background & Outreach:

- MYC members have had few positive experiences with Seattle Parks and Recreation staff to engage youth and designed for youth by youth.
- We have put to use the feedback we received from the five youth community meetings that were held in Ballard, the Central District, Northgate, Southeast, and Southwest.
- We contacted the 26 community centers and canvassed the current status of the TACs within community centers.

Proposal:

Potentially, youth designed programs could help reduce the number youth placed at risk for violence and actual crimes committed by youth.

- I. **Goals:** The goals of the recommendation are to:
 - a. Evaluate the existing TACs at all community centers
 - b. Use evaluation instrument to design TACs
 - c. Engage youth to be active in TAC programs and develop programs for youth by youth.
 - d. Increase the diversity of the youth involved in community center TACs.
- II. **Recommended Steps for Implementation:**
 - a. Send copies of surveys to Community Centers
 - b. Community Centers evaluate effectiveness of current teen advisory councils
 - c. MYC meet with Community Center Staff
 - d. Develop a realistic schedule for TACs implementation
 - e. Work to allow the growth of TACs to include diverse teen communities
 - f. Advertise to reach diverse teen communities

Resources Required:

- Budget neutral-Teen development leaders are already in place and can lead meetings.
- Seattle parks and recreation is the lead agency because:
 - Already work with youth
 - Youth feel comfortable in a community center atmosphere
 - Community centers are ran by Parks Department
 - Parks Department need new ideas to improve their programming

Parks department sends out public information flyers to newspapers, high schools, middle schools and post in community centers. Pugetsoundoff.org could also be used as a resource for TACs.