





**CITY OF MIRAMAR  
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, & City Commissioners

**FROM:** Dr. Roy L. Virgin, City Manager 

**BY:** Billy Neal Director, Parks & Recreation

**DATE:** July 8, 2024

**RE:** Temp. Reso. No. 8166 – Teen Council Advisory Board Update 

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**1. Introduction**

- Name of Board:  
Teen Council Advisory Board
- Contact:  
Shaniya Grace, Vice Chair; shgrace07@icloud.com
- Purpose of the Report:  
This report intends to provide a comprehensive overview of the board's activities, accomplishments, and plans.
- Background of the Advisory Board:  
The purpose of the Teen Council Advisory Board is to research, review, plan, and recommend to the Director of Parks and Recreation the establishment of social and recreational programs to be made available to the teenage youth of Miramar.
- Scope of the Report: This report includes:
  - Composition of the Board – Members
  - Meetings and activities
  - Accomplishments and outcomes
  - Challenges and Lessons Learned
  - Financial Overview

- Future Plans and Recommendations

## 2. Board Composition

- Members

Shaniya Grace – Vice Chair – Appointed 08/17/2022.

Kristiana Sotelo – Parliamentarian – Appointed 06/22/2022.

Arielle Burkett Hyndman – Secretary – Appointed 01/25/2023.

London McNeil – Member – Appointed 08/16/2023.

Gabbriel Sculley – Member – Appointed 06/21/2023.

Sandra Ugwuozor – Member – Appointed 08/16/2023.

Kamsiyochukwa Mba – Member – Appointed 11/15/2021.

Nickoya McNeil – Member – Appointed 06/22/2022.

Sa'myah Kennedy – Member – Appointed 11/15/2021.

Jayden Jean Louis – Member – Appointed 09/01/2021.

Troy E. Baptist – Member – Appointed 05/15/2024.

- Member Qualifications:

All members of the Teen Council Advisory Board are students with exceptional grades and GPAs with an aspiration to continue their education in higher institutes (such as Georgetown and UF). Four members of the board currently participate in the City's intern program or are employed through the Summer Camp. On top of that, they also frequently volunteer at various events throughout the year, and under City Commissioners daily or weekly.

- Attendance Records: P=Present, A=Absent, N/A=Not Applicable

Name	Jan 4	Jan 18	Feb 1	Feb 15	Mar 7	Apr 24	May 9
McNeil, L	P	P				P	P
Sotelo, K		P	P				
Sculley, G	P	P				P	P
Ugwuozor, S	P					P	
Mba, K		P	P				
McNeil, N	P	P	P			P	P
Kennedy, S		P	P			P	P
Grace, S	P	P	P			P	P
Hyndman, A	P	P	P			P	P
Jean Louis, J	P	P				P	P
Baptist, T	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### **3. Meetings and Activities**

- Meeting Schedule:

Meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of every month at 7:30 pm. The locations vary. Topics for discussion have included determining the needs and interests of teens throughout the city and addressing gaps in programming for teens.

- Summary of Activities:

- The TCAB attended the National League of Cities conference in Washington DC in March 2024, where they learned how to better contribute to their communities. While in Washington, DC, the TCAB visited Capitol Hill and met with Congresswoman Frederica Wilson and Representative Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick.
- The TCAB participated in local parades and community events.

- Public Engagement:

- The Teens participated in the annual Martin Luther King Jr Parade – January 15, 2024
- Afro Caribbean Festival – February 17, 2024
- Miramar Family Nights – February 23, 2024
- Rhythms of Africa – March 16-17, 2024
- The council reported on their Washington, DC trip to the City Commission.
- The board members share their experiences with other city leagues.
- The Teens presented during the City's Juneteenth event on what Juneteenth means to them – June 19, 2024

### **4. Accomplishments and Outcomes**

- Major Accomplishments:

The TCAB was involved in several initiatives and events as volunteers throughout the year. Their efforts were acknowledged at Vice Mayor Alexandra Davis's Volunteer Recognition award ceremony where Kamsiyochukwa Mba was awarded specifically for his efforts over the year.

- Impact:

Seeing the inner workings of the City has opened their horizons and given them more to consider in terms of what they can achieve on their own and within a group. Their positive individual outlooks have become infectious leading their peers to inquire possibly about joining the board in the coming Fall.

## **5. Challenges and Lessons Learned**

- **Challenges Faced:**
  - The challenges faced by the TCAB were mostly internal to the board – learning how to better function with one another and communicate effectively.
  - They also learned how to work around obstacles when plans do not go as expected and pivot when necessary.
- **Lessons Learned:**
  - Being flexible is a part of becoming a functional adult. Everything isn't always going to go according to plan or even in the direction they originally hoped. They learned to have a plan "B" when "A" falls short. This includes group projects that may highlight a member's strength or shine light on a weakness.
  - They've also learned to give themselves ample time to properly prepare – as everyone doesn't necessarily move at the same pace.
  - At the end of the day, they now understand more about each other and how to work together to achieve their collective goals.

## **6. Financial Overview**

- **Budget Summary:**
  - Budget of \$15,000 allocated for the year from special events.
  - Expenditures include refreshments for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday meetings and teen attire for events.
- **Funding Sources:**
  - Flanagan's donate food for the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday meetings.
- **Financial Management:**
  - Blazers and polo shirts for the Washington, DC trip.
  - T-Shirts for teen volunteers at special events

## **7. Future Plans and Recommendations**

- **Upcoming Projects:**
  - No upcoming projects currently
  - The status can change at any time.
  - For any new projects, flyers and new opportunities about projects, trips, city events, etc. are communicated via email from managers and shared with the Board for discussion and follow-up.
- **Strategic Goals:**

- In the biweekly meetings, the board advocates for each member's future endeavors and goals, whether professional, social, or personal growth. A meeting segment is dedicated to learning new life/professional tips. For example, meeting assignments may include an exercise about resume building, speech techniques, how to create/deliver Elevator Pitches, and a 10–15-minute video on financial management or professional or personal development.
- Recommendations:
  - The board is more than happy with the support and provisions they've received from the City of Miramar and the opportunities the Commissioners provide, especially Vice Mayor Alexander Davis. However, they would like to spend more time with them on a one-on-one basis or have them attend their meetings whenever time permits.

## **8. Conclusion**

- Summary:
  - Attended the NLC Conference in Washington, D.C. in March
  - Met Congresswoman Frederica Wilson and Representative Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
  - Participated MLK Parade
  - Volunteered with Commissioners
  - Participating in City of Miramar Summer Camp/Intern
  - Volunteered in various City of Miramar events.
  - Kamsiyochukwa Mba recognized for volunteer efforts.
  - Presented at this year's Juneteenth Event