

Mayor's Black Youth Liaison Committee

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Mission Statement

The Mayor's Black Youth Liaison Committee will be a voice for Black youth in the City of Markham by providing an open forum for youth to convey perspectives on issues and initiatives that are of particular importance to them. The Committee will provide guidance and advice to the City to support Black youth in the community and combat anti-Black racism, in collaboration with key City staff, including the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Specialist, political leaders and community stakeholders.

Purpose

- Provide a platform for Black youth to have their voices heard
- Advocate for and on behalf of all Black youth on key issues related to the City's programs and initiatives
- Provide an opportunity for Black youth to develop a network within the community to build and strengthen relationships with one another and key stakeholders
- Provide leadership experience for Black youth
- Seek input on important issues affecting Black youth via forums and workshops
- Support City of Markham initiatives that relate to the mandate

Responsibilities

Members of the Mayor's Black Youth Liaison Committee will be required to:

- Attend meetings, engage in discussion, and help formulate recommendations to the Mayor, City Council and senior City staff, as appropriate
- Participate in project meetings, workshops and learning opportunities that are in keeping with the Committee's Mission
- Share information with their networks (e.g.: school newsletters, social media) as agreed by the Committee
- Bring issues and opportunities to the Mayor's Black Youth Liaison Committee, the Committee Chair or Staff Liaison, as appropriate
- Raise awareness of the positive contributions that Black youth are making to our community

Mayor's Black Youth Liaison Committee Membership

The Mayor's Black Youth Liaison Committee shall be composed of 8 to 12 appointed representatives, with 1 to 2 representatives from each community within the City of Markham (Markham, Milliken, Thornhill, and Unionville). The members will be appointed for 2-year staggered terms. The Committee members will select the Chair of the Committee. A meeting schedule will be determined by the Committee.

Eligibility Criteria for the Mayor's Black Youth Liaison Committee

- Be between the ages of 15 to 19 at the start of the term
- Be a resident of the City of Markham
- Be engaged, enthusiastic, and pro-active
- Be committed to attending meetings regularly
- Have the ability to engage with integrity and respect for others
- Be able to bring new ideas and provide input to advance positive outcomes

Membership for the Mayor's Black Youth Liaison Committee will be sought through: secondary schools, post-secondary institutions, youth groups, City of Markham Recreation & Culture programs, places of worship, community groups and youth-focused organizations.

Term of Appointment

The standard term of appointment will typically be aligned with the school year.

Committee members will be appointed for 2-year staggered terms.

Members can ask for their membership to be extended for additional terms. The City of Markham must approve extended terms of appointment.

The term of appointment can be reduced should a member:

- resign
- miss more than 3 consecutive meetings

Should a member resign, a replacement will be found through the recruitment process currently in place for City of Markham Advisory Committees.

Application and Selection Process

Recruitment for new members is always open, subject to available vacancies on the Committee.

Individuals must complete an application form and forward it to the City Clerks Department.

- Candidates will be interviewed and selected based on the candidates' interview and application content
- Upon selection, candidates will be appointed by Council and invited to attend regular Committee meetings.