



2022 INFORMATION PACKET

# YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL



Board of  
Police Commissioners

# RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL

APPROVED THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022

WHEREAS, Detroit's youth have been vital to the creation and mission of the Board of Police Commissioners. The Board and countless other organizations rooted in civil rights owe tremendous gratitude and a debt to young activists, advocates and heroes. The Greensboro Sit-Ins, the Children's Crusade, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and many other youth-led groups and events helped energize the civil rights movement in the last century and continue to inspire current activism for social justice; and

WHEREAS, Many Board members routinely interact with young people, and the Board has had youth as interns in its investigative unit, the Office of the Chief Investigator, where they learned about investigations, complaints, professional and personal responsibility, and other areas of civilian oversight and law enforcement. The Board also actively includes youth in its outreach and public education efforts. During its 2018 training sessions, the Board invited Detroit high school students to share their experiences and interactions with police during an open dialog with community leaders. The Board also has held community meetings at Wayne County Community College District campuses and at Detroit Public School Community District locations, including Cody High School, home to the Academy of Public Leadership, and at Western International High School, where classes attended a BOPC meeting. The Board included high school and college students in the planning, marketing, and presentation of events in 2019 when it hosted Detroit's first-ever conference of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement and celebrated the 45th Anniversary of the Board's creation. Additionally, even during the pandemic, local college students also have participated as summer interns with the Board; and

WHEREAS, Such efforts have ensured the Board reaches and hears diverse youth. However, the Board believes it now needs a formal structure for youth participation. Through the advocacy and leadership of Commissioners Lisa Carter and Annie Holt, the Board will form a Youth Advisory Panel. The general requirements are: 1) the panel must include at least seven Detroit teenagers and young adults to reflect the seven BOPC districts; 2) the youth may range in age from 15-24 years old; and 3) youth must show an interest in civilian oversight and the role of law enforcement in the community. Other criteria for participation and application will be set in a timely manner to launch the panel and begin its important role in 2022.

Therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners establishes the Youth Advisory Panel to help amplify the voices of Detroit youth and ensure a formal structure for youth to engage with the Board as leaders and decision-makers with supervisory control and oversight of the Detroit Police Department.



## DEAR YOUNG DETROITER,

Thank you for your interest in the Youth Advisory Panel for the City of Detroit Board of Police Commissioners.

As the community oversight agency for the Police Department, our Board wants to help amplify the voice of Detroit's youth. Our Youth Advisory Panel provides young advocates with a platform for consistent engagement and input with Police Commissioners as the leaders with supervisory control and oversight of the Detroit Police Department.

Membership on the Youth Advisory Panel is an opportunity to help shape a new era of community policing and social justice.

As part of our role with Detroit police and public safety, our Board frequently works on issues, policies, practices, funding, and complaints related to law enforcement and public safety. We also are a member of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE). Our Board works collaboratively with NACOLE, communities, and professionals in the U.S. and other countries on all issues central to effective policing in the 21st Century.

Youth Advisory Panel members can expect to engage in important conversations and serve as an active resource for Police Commissioners and our stakeholders in civilian oversight. Each youth will have educational, civic, and networking opportunities that can assist in achieving future goals.

Based upon applications, interviews, and other considerations, our Board looks forward to meeting our goals for diverse representation and effective voices among members on the Youth Advisory Panel.

We hope you review and complete the application for the Youth Advisory Panel. Again, we appreciate your interest in our panel, and we look forward to your continued advocacy for Detroit's progress and future.

Sincerely

Lisa Carter, District 6

Annie Holt, At-Large

# ABOUT THE BOARD COMMISSIONERS

## PRECINCTS

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- DOWNTOWN SERVICES**

**Linda Bernard**  
District 2

**Cedric Banks**  
District 3

**Willie E. Bell**  
District 4

**Willie E. Burton**  
District 5

**Lisa Carter**  
District 6

**Ricardo Moore**  
District 7

**Bryan Ferguson**  
District 1

**At-Large**

**Jesus Hernandez**

**Jim Holley**

**Annie Holt**

**QuanTez Pressley**

The Board of Police of Commissioners was created in 1974 by a new City Charter adopted by a 1973 vote of the people as part of a series of reforms sought after the 1967 civil rebellion against police brutality and racial oppression in the City.

Mayor Coleman A. Young convened the first meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners on July 22, 1974. The first Commissioners appointed were Rev. Charles Butler, Douglas Fraser, Edward Littlejohn, Susan Mills-Peek and Alexander Ritchie. This first board fulfilled the community's vision of broad representation by residents with diversity in race, gender, religion, ethnicity, backgrounds, and professions.

Residents have changed the Charter over the years. The current 2012 Charter vests

broad supervisory control and oversight over the Police Department in the Board, which has 11 Police Commissioners. Seven are elected by district and four are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

The Board meets weekly on Thursday at 3 p.m. except on the second Thursday of the month, when the Board holds a community meeting at 6:30 p.m. in various locations within Detroit Police precinct service areas. The Board has four committees - Budget, HR, Policy, and Citizen Complaints - that meet monthly.

Since 1974, all members of the Board of Police Commissioners have served as volunteers; Police Commissioners do not earn salaries.

YOU MUST BE  
**BOLD, BRAVE, AND  
COURAGEOUS**  
AND FIND A WAY  
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THE WAY**

John Lewis



## YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the Youth Advisory Panel is to provide a platform for consistent youth engagement and advocacy with the Board as the charter-mandated entity with supervisory control and oversight of the Detroit Police Department.

The Board desires the Youth Advisory Panel to serve as a regular and active resource for Detroit Police Commissioners and its stakeholders in civilian oversight, a role central to effective community policing and social justice.

Participation will provide youth with exposure to government and leadership and provide educational, civic, and networking opportunities that can assist them in achieving their future goals.

## YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL PARTICIPATION CRITERIA

Youth must be City of Detroit residents between the ages of 15-24 years old.

Other criteria for consideration

1. Each youth must complete and submit an application by the annual deadline. A completed application includes a signed support statement from a parent or guardian for any minor or a community leader for those aged 18 and over
2. Youth should be enrolled in a school or college OR active as a community advocate
3. Youth should be interested in community policing, civilian oversight, or government/civic affairs.

## INTERVIEW REQUIREMENT

Youth must participate in an interview as part of the selection process for members of the Youth Advisory Panel.

## NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION

The Board will notify applicants about their status using email or telephone information supplied in the application. Successful applicants also will receive additional information essential to participation in the Youth Advisory Panel.

## YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL COMPOSITION

Panel membership is comprised of at least seven (7) Detroit residents. Youth may range in age from 15-24 years old.

## MEETING SCHEDULE

1. Meetings are held monthly and may be in-person or on a virtual platform.
  - The first meeting serves as orientation, which includes a swearing-in for Youth Advisory Panel members.
  - Members must attend the orientation meeting in person
2. One annual community forum is held that serves as the Panel-led summit for today's youth to network and enhance their education and civic engagement.
  - Panel Members plan the event and determine the event's agenda
3. Youth Advisory Panel members may attend any BOPC public meeting or event; however, attendance is not mandatory.

## THE YOUTH PANEL SELECTION OF LEADERS

The Youth Advisory Panel members vote to select two (2) Lead Advocates after its orientation.

Lead Advocates are selected annually. Lead Advocates are responsible for:

- Alternating to conduct the panel meetings
- Submitting an Advocate Report on a quarterly basis/from each meeting
- Lead Advocates work with the Board staff to determine meeting agendas, schedules, and other logistics.

## DECISIONS OF YOUTH PANEL

- Recommendations or decisions by the panel requires a simple majority of the panel members attending

## YOUTH COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS

The Youth Advisory Panel assists the Board in public education and engagement with residents, including:

- One annual publication about the Youth Advisory Panel and its goals
- One annual summit or forum that enhances awareness and education around civic responsibility, community policing, and civilian oversight

## ONGOING AND LENGTH OF PARTICIPATION

Applications for the Youth Advisory Panel are available annually.

Each Youth Advisory Panel member MUST re-apply through a new statement of commitment

- Minors need approval by signature of a parent/guardian.

## BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

- Each member of the Youth Panel will receive a Certificate of Recognition from the Board of Police Commissioners
- Youth Panel members will be invited to participate in media and speaking engagements as needed
- As Youth Panel leaders, the Youth Panel Advocates will be eligible to attend BOPC-authorized designated trainings and conferences recommended by Board Executive Staff based on active participation, involvement, and success as panel members.

### ADMINISTRATION

*Interim Board Secretary, Melanie White*

1301 Third Street, Suite 767 | Detroit, Michigan 48226  
Phone: 313-596-1830 | Email: [bopc@detroitmi.gov](mailto:bopc@detroitmi.gov)

### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

*Interim Chief Investigator, Lawrence Akbar*

900 Merrill Plaisance | Detroit, Michigan 48203  
24-Hour Complaint Lines:

- Phone: 313-596-2499 | Fax: 313-596-2482
- Online form: [detroitmi.gov/bopc](http://detroitmi.gov/bopc)



**Board of  
Police Commissioners**



# YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL PARTICIPANTS: COMING SOON

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