

From: Vanessa Carusone
To: Patsy Adkins
Subject: Fwd: City Internship
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 7:49:10 AM

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mackenzie Grannell <kenzmom0528@gmail.com>
Date: March 30, 2017 at 6:53:27 AM EDT
To: "Vcarusone@cityofnorthport.com" <Vcarusone@cityofnorthport.com>
Subject: City Internship

My name is Mackenzie Grannell formerly known as Mackenzie Jacobs. I was a city intern my senior year of high school and it was amazing. I learned a lot from the experience and it helped me in ways that still today continue to shape my life. Before the city internship I didn't care much about what was going on in the community but when I became an intern I started to see what was actually going on and started trying to become more involved with things going on. Still today I make sure to stay involved in what's going on around my own community and city. As a high school kid, most don't care about what the city does or have to say. When the previous commission decided to do away with the program it was kinda sad. I hope that the new commission can get the program back and give kids the chance to learn a few things about city politics, what makes the city run, how decisions get made/passed, what goes on behind the scenes of big city events such as Halloween, and Easter! This may not seem like a big thing but it is a big thing getting kids involved with their community and getting them to care about what's happening. I know that when my sister and I would go back to the school after the internship we would tell our friends and others about what was happening or going on. We also happened to have been apart of our student body so that helped as well. The program I thought was fantastic, we spent just enough time with Patty and Helen behind the scenes learning how the city worked as we did with the commissioners themselves learning what they did. I know many kids if given the chance would love to take part in the internship. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mackenzie

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From: Vanessa Carusone
To: Patsy Adkins
Subject: Fwd: Letter to Commissioners
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 7:30:46 AM

Another

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: sandtrapper17@aol.com
Date: March 30, 2017 at 12:04:58 AM EDT
To: vcarusone@cityofnorthport.com
Subject: Letter to Commissioners

To Whom it May Concern:

As a member of the Youth Opportunities Advisory Board and as a City Intern, I feel these were times when I really felt like I was a valued part of the community. I was given opportunities that only a handful of students experienced in high school.

As a YOAB member I liked meeting at City Hall. Cindy Bassett was our staff liaison who allowed us to exchange a free-flow of ideas that could enhance our City. We were especially excited and nervous to present ideas to the board.

As a member of YOAB, I was asked to represent the city for the Teens Tackle Politics program held in Venice. I got to meet many more elected officials and sit on a panel and give my opinion about issues facing teens. The newspaper covered it and it helped me with my college scholarship applications.

I really wanted to have a similar event for more students but at North Port City Hall.

The absolute highlight of my experience as a YOAB member was helping put thousands of cut up grocery bags into chicken wire to create a giant birthday cake for all city commissioners to ride on for the city's 50th anniversary parade down Sumter Boulevard. - Hey isn't the city approaching the 60th anniversary. You better get a new youth board together to help carry on this tradition down Sumter Boulevard. The cake was a real hit. Again it received some positive publicity.

With great events also came some road blocks. As a youth opportunities advisory board, we weren't allowed to be hands on with our projects. For example: when we wanted to sell candles as a fundraiser to help a local cause on behalf of the board, we were stopped by Fire Chief Bill Taffee. I didn't really understand why.

Then when we wanted to have a day of healing for families after the rape and murder of 6-year-old Coral Rose Fullwood, we were told no. We were told we couldn't have a party in the park for families to celebrate this little girl's memory. We were actually told if we did it for this family we had to do it for others. My question was how often are kids murdered in the city?

I ended up putting collection jars out at Slice of New York and collecting money on my own for toys to give to the rest of the Fullwood siblings for the holidays.

With today's students, no youth board or internship will work if you aren't asking them to interact on social media. That might mean they load photos on Facebook of their trips to Tallahassee or the Florida League of Cities or while participating on the city's Relay for Life team.

All I know is if you make it boring by asking a student to file paperwork and it doesn't

seem like a meaningful experience the advisory board or internship programs won't last. I believe teenagers are underestimated and we weren't used to our greatest capacity as interns. That said, I really did learn when participating in hands on activities like going to Tallahassee and delivering letters to the state to try to bring a hospital to North Port. Again, it's something only a few students can say they ever did to try to bring something so meaningful to our town.

I think interns could help with government day at City Hall and Take Your Kid to Work Day. They could help spread the word for things like the health expo, back to school expo and New comers Day. They could drop off flyers at places like Starbucks or in break rooms where they work or teach City employees new ways to effectively get the message out to the younger generation.

They could also do things like interview employees and take photos and give them to the media department. Interns could be used in so many ways in nearly all departments. They have to have good mentors who care about the internship and understand the purpose for the student's involvement.

I would ask Imagine and NPHS to send over about 10 students to review your ordinance or expected job duties to see if it seems realistic of today's students. They might surprise you and give you things you didn't think of because you are adults.

Respectfully,
Cheyenne Emrich
North Port

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From: Vanessa Carusone
To: Patsy Adkins
Subject: Fwd: YOAB
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 7:25:12 PM

Another letter:)

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Felicia D'angeleo <stylemefelicia@yahoo.com>
Date: March 29, 2017 at 6:50:17 PM EDT
To: Vanessa Carusone <vcarusone@cityofnorthport.com>
Subject: YOAB

Dearest Commissioners,

This board was nothing but A positive influence for its members and our community. I was surprised and disappointed when I heard it was disbanded.

The youth are our future and nobody knows the true struggles for the youth in North Port but them.

Serving on this board (years ago), we made a positive presence in the community and fought for the youth's concerns and well being. For instance, we made a huge impact with the amount of students to A school bus. Kids were standing in the walkway due to overpopulating each bus. This was A huge safety issue that YOAB addressed & resolved. Being part of the initial Board, there was not a lot I would've changed as we were asked to develop our own goals and objectives, along with naming the board. I believe that by empowering our board to be a part of decisions and change was the reason for our groups success. We had a strong city liaison in Cindy Bassett, who spent many weekends by our side in projects and events. I should also mention that the Commission at the time was very willing to listen to our concerns and take action.

My term on the board allowed me to learn and enhance my leadership skills. I am now actively involved in the North Port community and am a regional manager of a North Port corporation.

I don't see how this board could be anything but beneficial to North Port. There are very limited activities for the youth in our area. If there are young adults wanting to make a difference in our "world" we know and love as North Port, please don't deny them that?

In closing, the youth of our community are our future. Let them start improving it now; one step at A time.

Thank you,
Felicia D'angeleo
[941.243.8780](tel:941.243.8780)
3605 Needle Terrace
Sent from my iPhone

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

E-mail messages sent or received by City of North Port officials and employees in connection with official City business are public records subject to disclosure under the Florida Public Records Act.

From: Vanessa Carusone
To: Patsy Adkins
Subject: Fwd: YOAB letter
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 4:26:16 PM

Here's another letter to include

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Brittney Adams <brittadams16@gmail.com>
Date: March 29, 2017 at 4:06:28 PM EDT
To: vcarusone@cityofnorthport.com
Subject: YOAB revized

To whom it may concern,

I'm Brittney Adams and was a board member and chair of North Port's Youth Opportunity Advisory Board between 2005- 2009. I have many fond memories and friends I am still close with from YOAB.

Some of my favorite aspects of being involved in local politics at a young and impressionable age, are the ability to feel like I was being heard. Most kids in those, and these days, dont get heard enough and YOAB gave me and other students a voice and a stage to make things happen in our community.

I was informed, and participating in event planning and organization all over our town such as, the Back to School Expo held each year, North Port skate park and bike park planning, Hurricane Charley releif, North Port's 50th Anniversary Parade and Block Party, our annual Poinsettia Parade and festival and many other projects. Members of YOAB were very involved with the early planning of the Morgan Center.

All of this community service gave me a great idea of how to work closely on a, professional basis with political adults and my peers to make positive changes

in my home town. Plus we got a great, hands on, understanding of how Sunshine State Laws and Statues work and why they are so important and even some budgeting responsibilities.

In my opinion, North Port's Youth Opportunity Advisory Board could have been more effective if it had a different name, and was properly advertised and some sort of recruitment process. Not many people knew of, or understood the point of the board and because of that, it was more difficult to retain members and public youth interest. At times, it was hard to even keep an adult liasion on staff for our monthly meetings. This caused many agenda items and meetings to get tabled, which made us somewhat less effective as an advisory board.

Now a days, I am a small business owner, and still a resident of North Port. I would have to say my experience being a part of YOAB has made me more aware of national and local government and the choices I make as a voter, and how important it is to make informed decisions when in that voters booth. I have a strong understanding of working closely with others to reach a common goal for more then just myself, but for the future of our youth as a whole.

I learned most of all about and North Port as a community and how our local government directly effects each citizen in our town. I felt a sense of accomplishment and responsibility as a representative of my peers, and generation of North Port's youth to come. I'm hoping to see similar Youth Appointed organizations in the future, so my niece and nephew, and their kids and experience what being a leader feels like.

Thank you
Brittney Adams
4252 Fonsica ave
North Port FL

Records Act.

Michael D. Bellis

March, 2017

The Honorable Vanessa Carusone
Vice-Mayor
North Port City Commission
4970 City Hall Blvd.
North Port, FL 34286

Dear Vice-Mayor Carusone,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my thoughts on the former Youth Opportunities Advisory Board (YOAB). My time serving on and eventually chairing the YOAB are some of my proudest memories of my time in North Port.

The YOAB provided young people a formal introduction to municipal service and a tangible way to affect change in their community. The program was held to the same standards as other City advisory boards which helped reinforce the importance of our work. The support staff and City Clerk's office helped ensure Robert's Rules were followed as well as all applicable Sunshine Laws.

The group, however, was not without its flaws. No founding documents (charter, bylaws, etc.) were made readily available to members, so our purpose was vague at best. We met regularly, but our meetings lacked an overarching goal or intended outcome. Instead, we would bounce from project to project. Often we were told to have fundraisers such as car washes or bake sales. This struck me odd as no other advisory board was subjected to the same self-funding requirement. It is also unusual to have a City-sanctioned advisory board act as a separate entity operating outside the traditional bounds of municipal government.

If this Board is to be reimagined in the future, I implore you to create substantive and measurable outcomes for the members. The next generation needs to be set up for success and I feel this is the only realistic means to do so.

I am deeply indebted for the opportunities afforded to me on YOAB. My time with the City has informed all me subsequent work as the Executive Director for United Way of Charles County in Maryland. The YOAB helped shape my personal views on servant leadership, civic engagement, and social wellbeing. If I can be of any additional assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Yours in Service,


Michael D. Bellis

Patsy Adkins

From: Vanessa Carusone
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 2:02 PM
To: Patsy Adkins
Subject: Fwd: Board

Here's the last

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: vcnp21@gmail.com
Date: March 30, 2017 at 1:31:25 PM EDT
To: Vanessa Carusone <vcarusone@cityofnorthport.com>
Subject: Fwd: Board

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Justin Willis <justincodywillis@gmail.com>
Date: March 30, 2017 at 11:42:52 AM EDT
To: Vanessa Carusone <vcnp21@gmail.com>
Subject: Board

Please read this and let me know what you feel needs to be added.

My name is Justin Willis; I am a business owner and a dad of 5, and I was the first chair of the North Port Youth Opportunity Advisory Board. YOAB was a big part of my teen years and an even larger part of where I got my passion for our City. Our board had its weakness, but we also had our strengths. The initial intent of the board was for us to collect information from the youth about what they wanted for North Port, this vision changed over the years to a more task driven board.

The YOAB worked on many things in our time. One of which is now our Freedom Festival. Imagine, that festival was originally supposed to be a parade and festival to honor those who died during 9/11. Another board took over the event when the "Adults" decided it was too big for us to handle. That was one of the greatest issues with our board, we had a vision, and a plan, we just couldn't get the full support and trust of the liaisons that we needed. It seemed that "they" felt that we weren't ready.

I hope the Commission will bring the YOAB back to life. TRUST needs to be key with this board. Find a liaison that will let the youth on the board do what they need to do. A person that will give them the clear direction of what you want, not

someone that will take over the board. Appreciate them, and listen to them! Allow the youth to create the bylaws. Allow them to create a mission statement! These are great learning opportunities.

I believe that The Youth Opportunity Advisory Board played a part in who I have become today. It taught me leadership skills, and also, how to be a Community Service driven individual. YOAB was a great asset to our City, and our Youth as it will be again.

--

Sincerely,
Justin Cody Willis
941-237-7907

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