



City of North Port

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-12

1 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF THE**
2 **CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA, CHAPTER 4, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, TO CREATE**
3 **ARTICLE VIII - NORTH PORT YOUTH COUNCIL; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; PROVIDING**
4 **FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND**
5 **PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the City of North Port (the “City”) desires to engage youth within the community in discussions
8 of issues important to young people and to provide advice to the City Commission on such matters; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the City Commission previously established a North Port Youth Council to facilitate youth
11 participation in local government; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the City Commission subsequently adopted Ordinance No. 2021-32, which repealed the
14 provisions establishing the North Port Youth Council after consideration of its membership, quorum
15 requirements, and attendance provisions; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the City Commission has since determined that it is in the best interest of the City to reestablish
18 the North Port Youth Council through the creation of Article VIII, as set forth herein, in order to provide
19 for effective youth representation and participation in the governmental process; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the City Commission wishes to coordinate with community partners, including the Boys & Girls
22 Clubs of Sarasota and DeSoto Counties STAR Leadership Training Program, to support youth leadership
23 development and civic engagement; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the City further seeks to encourage youth involvement in initiatives that enhance the quality
26 of life within the community, a goal that will be advanced through the North Port Youth Council; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, the mission of the North Port Youth Council is to provide insight and feedback on youth-related
29 matters, including but not limited to city ordinances, long-range planning, and City-sponsored programs
30 and activities; and
31

32 **WHEREAS**, the City Commission finds that these amendments serve the public health, safety, and welfare
33 of the citizens of the City of North Port, Florida.
34

35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA:**
36

37 **SECTION 1 – FINDINGS**

38

39 1.01 The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated in this ordinance by reference.

40

41 1.02 In accordance with Florida Statutes Section 166.041(4)(a), the City timely posted a business
42 impact estimate on the City’s website on or before the date the newspaper published notice of
43 this ordinance’s final reading.

44

45 **SECTION 2 – ADOPTION**

46

47 2.01 Chapter 4 of the Code of the City of North Port, Florida is hereby amended as follows:

48

49 **“Chapter 4 – BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

50

51 **ARTICLE VIII. – ~~RESERVED~~ NORTH PORT YOUTH COUNCIL**

52

53 **Sec. 4-170. – Establishment.**

54

55 The North Port Youth Council (“NPYC”) is hereby created and established as an advisory board.

56

57 **Sec. 4-171. – Membership.**

58

59 The NPYC shall consist of seven (7) to eleven (11) student members in the following manner:

60

61 (a) Every student member shall reside within the limits of the City of North Port for a period
62 of one (1) year prior to the appointment and shall remain a resident through his or her
63 term.

64

65 (b) Every student member shall be at least fourteen (14) years of age, currently enrolled in
66 high school, and under the age of nineteen (19) years at the time of appointment.

67

68 (c) Representation: The City Commission shall endeavor to appoint members so that a
69 diverse representation reflecting the community is achieved. Members of the NPYC
70 should include representation from the following sources:

71

- 72 (1) One student member from North Port High School;
- 73 (2) One student member from Imagine High School;
- 74 (3) One student member from Wellen Park High School upon its opening August 2026;
- 75 (4) One student member representing home schoolers or other sources, including but not
76 limited to a private school, charter school or virtual school; and
- 77 (5) Up to five members chosen from the student community at-large.

78

79 If a representative cannot be found from the above-listed schools within three (3) consecutive
80 meetings of the NPYC, the City Commission may fill such position with an at-large student
81 member. The NPYC shall have two (2) alternate student members from the community at -large.

82

83 (d) Application: To be eligible for appointment, interested students shall follow the
84 application process as established by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota and DeSoto

85 Counties. The completed application packet shall be submitted to the City for City
86 Commission approval and nomination. Student members should have successfully
87 completed the STAR (Students Taking Active Roles) Leadership Training Program
88 administered by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota and DeSoto Counties. Applications
89 submitted by minor students may use the organizational address of the Boys & Girls Clubs
90 of Sarasota and DeSoto Counties in lieu of a residential address in order to protect student
91 privacy while maintaining compliance with Florida public records requirements.

92
93 (e) Term of Service: Members of the NPYC shall serve a term of one (1) year. After serving
94 they must be reappointed by the City Commission to continue serving on the NPYC. When
95 filling a vacancy, a full term begins once the remaining time for said vacancy has expired.

96
97 (f) A member shall retain their seat for the remainder of their term even if they transfer to
98 another school within the City. An alternate may be appointed only if the member
99 resigns or becomes otherwise ineligible.

100
101 (g) Members serve at the pleasure of the City Commission, and any member may be removed
102 with or without cause by the City Commission at any time.

103
104 **Sec. 4-172. – Duties of members.**

105
106 (a) The purpose of the NPYC is to provide a voice for the youth of the City, bridge the gap
107 between City officials and the City’s youth, and promote the following objectives:

- 108
- 109 (1) To assist in planning and promoting programs and services for youth;
- 110 (2) To educate and raise awareness of youth issues;
- 111 (3) To inspire positive action in the community;
- 112 (4) To provide a voice for youth in the community;
- 113 (5) To promote youth participation in community affairs;
- 114 (6) To act as an advocate for youth and teens;
- 115 (7) To review those municipal matters referred to by the City Commission and, as
116 appropriate, make recommendations on those matters;
- 117 (8) To make recommendations to the City Commission pertaining to the composition,
118 function and obligations of the NPYC; and
- 119 (9) To develop annual goals and objectives.
- 120 (10) To identify a community issue affecting youth within the City and undertake a project
121 or initiative during the term of service designed to address such issue and report the
122 results and recommendations to the City Commission.

123
124 (b) Duties of student members: If applicable, student members may provide informational
125 updates to their respective student councils, student boards, or student bodies regarding
126 publicly discussed actions of the NPYC. Student members shall not deliberate on behalf
127 of the NPYC or represent the position of the NPYC outside a duly noticed meeting. Any
128 information or feedback from a school community may be presented to the NPYC for
129 discussion at a public meeting in accordance with Section 4-173(d). Student Members
130 shall attend at least one (1) City Commission meeting per year in rotation during their
131 term on the NPYC.

133 (c) Election of Officers: The NPYC shall elect, by a majority vote of members present, a Chair
134 and Vice-Chair; each officer shall hold office for a term of one (1) year and/or until a
135 successor is elected. No officer shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. Election
136 of officers shall be held annually during the first meeting held in October. The Staff Liaison
137 will act as Chair for the enabling meeting to elect initial Officers, who shall serve until the
138 annual election. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

139
140 (1) Chair. The Chair shall be responsible for the administration of the affairs of the NPYC
141 and shall preside over all meetings of the NPYC.

142
143 (2) Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the Chair’s absence
144 and shall assist the Chair as needed. The Vice-Chair shall prepare an annual report,
145 with assistance from the NPYC, at the first meeting in March, summarizing the
146 activities of the NPYC for presentation to the City Commission.

147
148 (d) Reporting: The NPYC shall make recommendations to the City Commission by written
149 memoranda on a quarterly basis or more frequently as deemed necessary by the City
150 Commission. The NPYC should make every effort to attend the meetings of the City
151 Commission where the recommendations or written memoranda of the NPYC are to be
152 presented or considered.

153
154 **Sec. 4-173. – Meetings.**

155
156 (a) A member will be deemed to have resigned from their seat if the member has three
157 absences from regular NPYC meetings within a 12-month period. The City Commission
158 may appoint an alternate to fill the vacancy.

159
160 (b) All meetings of the NPYC shall be open and public and the City Clerk shall keep minutes
161 and records. Regular meetings may be held monthly at an appropriate location as
162 deemed by NPYC and approved by the City Clerk to ensure proper notice and recording
163 capabilities. Meetings dates and times will be set by the NPYC at its first meeting and
164 reviewed for formal approval annually thereafter. The North Port Youth Council will meet
165 no less than quarterly.

166
167 (c) The majority of the NPYC membership shall constitute a quorum.

168
169 (d) A special meeting may be called at any time by either the Chair or Staff Liaison. The City
170 Clerk shall notify each member by mail or electronic mail or telephone calls at least 48
171 hours in advance of the special meeting. The call and notice shall specify the time and
172 place of the special meeting and the business to be transacted. No other business shall
173 be considered at such meeting.

174
175 **Sec. 4-174. – Role of City Commission.**

176
177 (a) The City Commission may communicate upcoming issues to the NPYC, so it may respond
178 accordingly.

179

180 (b) The City Commission shall maintain the responsibility to educate the NPYC, through staff
181 and/or necessary budgeted seminars or workshops with regard to the operation and
182 other issues of city government.

183
184 (c) The City Commission may provide additional support staff and budget as deemed
185 necessary by the Commission, to the NPYC to assist the Council in carrying out its duties.

186
187 **Sec. 4-177. – Rules of procedure.**

188
189 (a) The NPYC may promulgate other regulations governing the procedure of the NPYC. No
190 procedural regulation shall be contrary to the provisions of this Article or other applicable
191 law.

192
193 (b) Amendments to the other regulations may be recommended at any time by any NPYC
194 member; provided, however, that any such amendment(s) shall be clearly set forth on the
195 agenda and the membership has been notified in writing. Upon the presentation of any
196 recommendation for amendment(s), the issue shall be considered by the NPYC and, if a
197 majority of the NPYC present approves, a committee shall be formed to study the
198 proposed amendment(s). If the committee finds the amendment(s) worthy of NPYC
199 consideration, the amendment(s) will then be presented for NPYC deliberation.

200
201 (c) Enactment of the other regulations and passage of any amendment to same requires a
202 two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the NPYC present.

203
204 **Sec. 4-175. – Governing priority.**

205
206 The provisions of Chapter 4, Article I of this Code shall apply to the NPYC. In the case of any
207 conflict between Article VIII and any other provisions of Chapter 4, the provisions of Article VIII
208 shall govern.”

209
210 **SECTION 3 – CONFLICTS**

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212 3.01 In the event of any conflict between the provisions of this ordinance and any other ordinance, in
213 whole or in part, the provisions of this ordinance will prevail to the extent of the conflict.

214
215 **SECTION 4 – SEVERABILITY**

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217 4.01 If a court of competent jurisdiction finds that any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase,
218 or provision of this ordinance is for any reason invalid or unconstitutional, that provision will be
219 deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and will not affect the validity of the
220 remaining portions of the ordinance.

221
222 **SECTION 5 – CODIFICATION**

223
224 5.01 In this ordinance, additions are shown as underlined and deletions as ~~strikethrough~~. Any
225 additional codification information and notations appear in *italics*. These editorial notations are
226 not intended to appear in the codified text.

228 **SECTION 6 – EFFECTIVE DATE**

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230 6.01 This ordinance takes effect immediately upon adoption.

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232
233 READ BY TITLE ONLY at first reading by the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, in public
234 session on April 7, 2026.

235
236 ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of North Port, Florida, on the second and final reading in
237 public session on April 21, 2026.

238
239
240 CITY OF NORTH PORT, FLORIDA

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243 _____
244 PETE EMRICH
245 MAYOR

246
247 ATTEST

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250 _____
251 HEATHER FAUST, MMC
252 CITY CLERK

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254
255 APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CORRECTNESS

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257
258 _____
259 MICHAEL FUINO, B.C.S.
260 CITY ATTORNEY