

Mayor's Youth Commission Updates

Health & Safety Committee
August 5th, 2026

Agenda



Background

Overview of Proposed Changes

Rationale

Strategic Partnerships

Deeper Dive

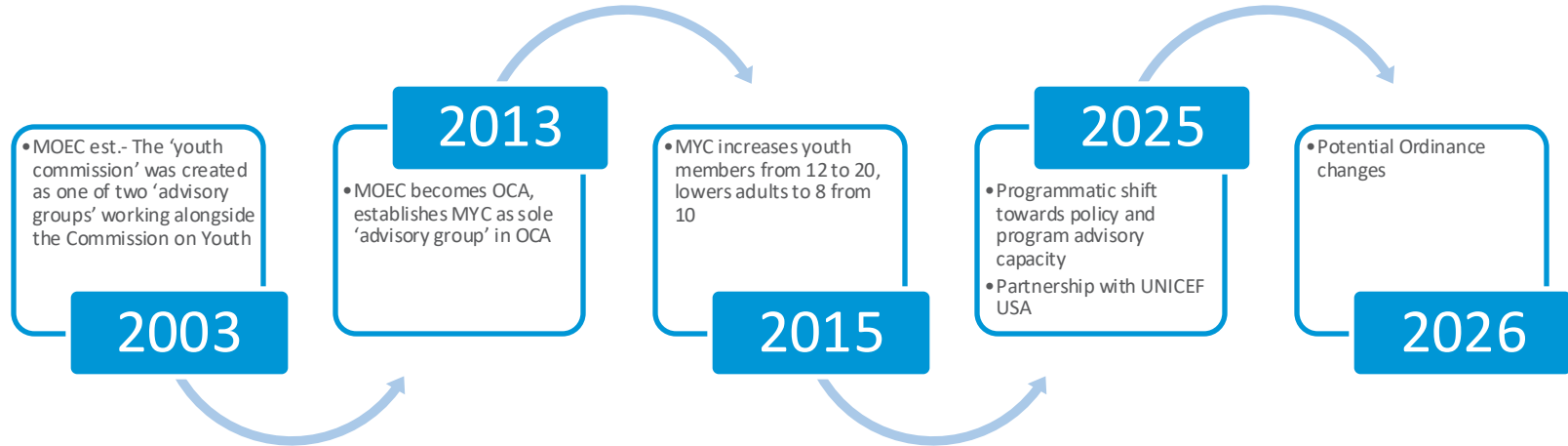
Questions

Recommendation



Amend Chapter 2, Article VIII
of the Denver
Revised Municipal Code to
increase diverse
representation,
improve youth participation
in City initiatives, and
generally improve the
functions and impact of the
Mayor's Youth Commission

MYC History



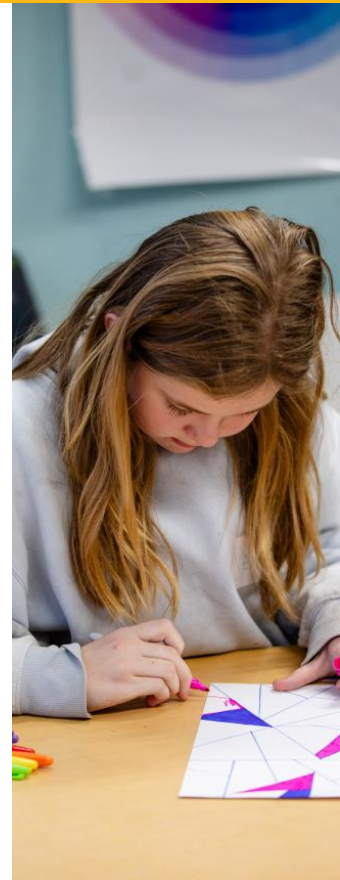
MYC Today

- 28 total commissioner - 20 youth & 8 adults
- Youth-High School Students
- Adults- combination of city employees and community organization reps
- OCA staff facilitates
- Commissioners identify priority areas, organize and produce proposals to address identified need



Proposed Changes

1. Expand the number of youth commissioners from 20 youth to 30
2. Include specific appointment criteria to enhance diverse perspectives and representation across the City
3. Change the age of eligibility to 14 - 18 at the time of appointment
4. Clarify the role of the MYC as an advisory board for the Mayor and the City, beyond Children's Affairs
5. Remove the prohibition on compensation for youth commissioners only
6. Shorten terms to 2 years, allows for reappointment
7. Adjust structure of terms to reduce administrative burdens
8. Removes the position of "Chairperson" to allow for programmatic flexibility





Rationale

More Representation

- Ensuring more perspectives are at the table
- Increase Representation from around the City

More Youth Participation

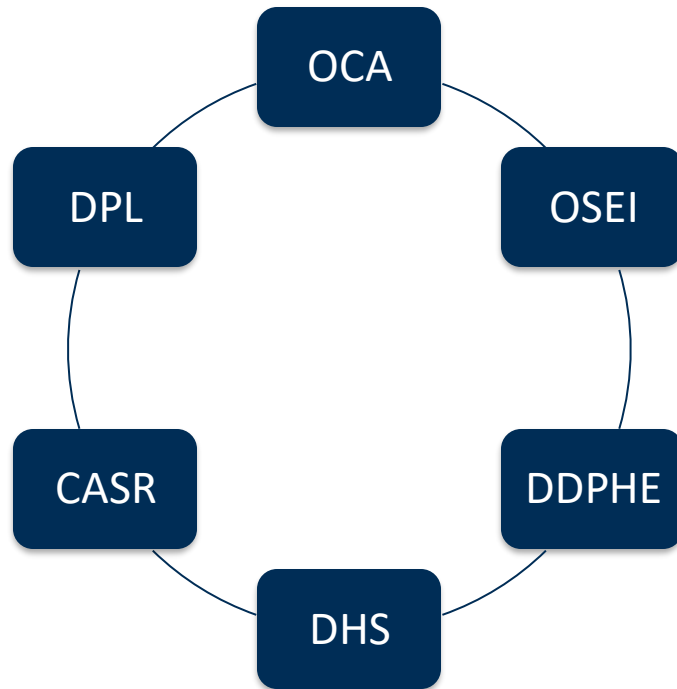
- Ensuring that Youth Voice is central to more City decision making processes
- Youth are an asset if we give them space to participate

More Impact

- Build stronger, more responsive programs with youth
- Allow youth hands-on experiences with workforce experiences in City work

Equity MAPS Process

- Multi-agency process facilitated by OSEI
- Ensure potential policy changes advance equity goals
- Support building infrastructure to measure the impact of reforms at a micro and macro level





Denver & UNICEF USA CFCI

- Key Priority - Increase Youth Participation in Local Government
- Enhanced Child Centered Governance
- Foundation for greater impact in our CFCI process



Child
Friendly
Cities
Initiative

unicef 
for every child

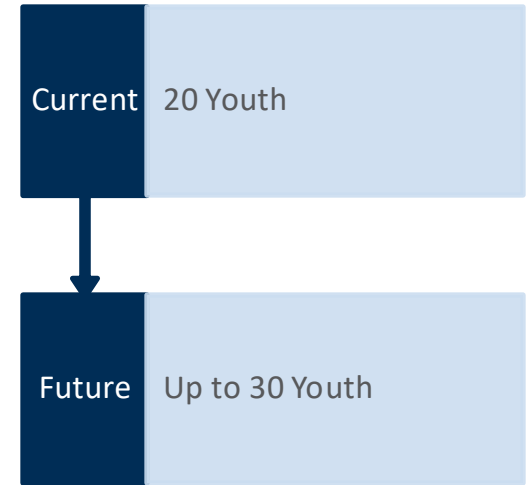
Deeper Dive

Mayor's Youth Commission Ordinance Change Recommendations



1. Increase the size of the MYC

- Bring more youth in for more youth voice
- Ensure greater representation
- Aims to support a structure to better engage more City agencies



2. Appointment Criteria

- Ensure each Council District has two youth commissioners that either reside or attend school in their district

Council District	# Based on School	# Based on Residency
1	3	0
2	1	0
3	0	0
4	1	0
5	2	4
6	1	5
7	1	2
8	5	3
9	0	0
10	2	0
11	1	2

3. Age of Eligibility

Capture wider scope of youth voice

Allow commissioners to serve full terms without “aging out”

Allow for representation of youth in transition from school to workforce

Current

14–18-Year-olds (HS students)

Future

14–18-Year-olds at the time of appointment

4. Clarifying the Role of the MYC

- Current language calls for the MYC to advise *only* the director of OCA
- Proposed Change calls for advisory role for the Mayor and other city leaders
- Allows for MYC to be a more robust and centralized youth participatory body



5. Removing the Prohibition on Youth Commissioner Compensation

- Would only apply to youth and would NOT require compensation
- Help to increase participation from young people who may otherwise need to work
- Identified as a best practice for equitable youth engagement





6. Shorten Terms

- Acknowledges that the lives of teenagers (and adults) evolve
- Allows opportunity for youth to grow into leadership roles upon reappointment

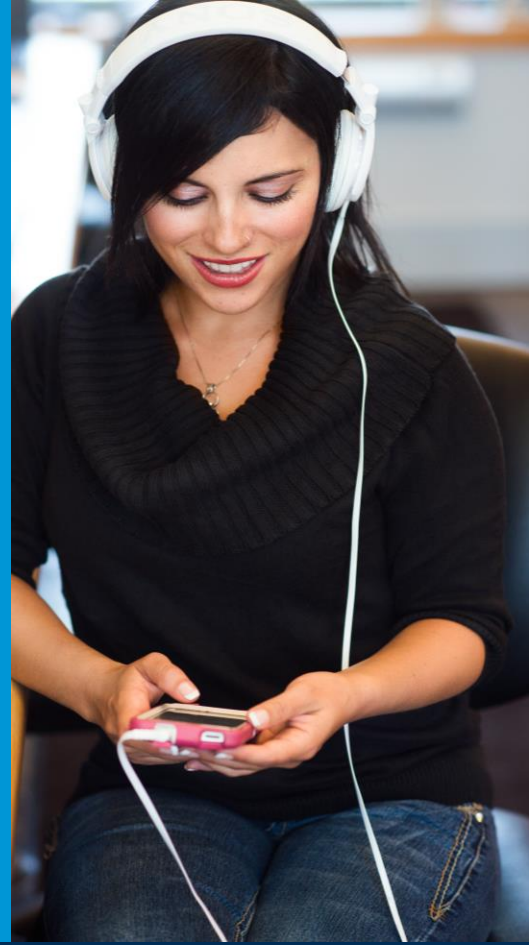
3 Years- No
Reappointment



2 years w/
Reappointment
Opportunity

7. Restructure Term Expiration

- Current: Appointment slots don't reset when a commissioner leaves
- Future: New appointees serve full terms, not remainder of a vacated term





8. Remove the Position of Chairperson

- Allow for more program design flexibility
- Has become functionally irrelevant



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A large group of approximately 30 people of various ages and ethnicities are posed for a group photo in a formal room. The room features tall wooden bookshelves filled with books, two blue flags on poles, and wooden paneling. In the foreground, there are large, empty wooden tables. The word "Questions" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Questions
