

**City of Chandler
Mayor's Youth
Commission**

2018

**Teen Town Hall
Report**



CHANDLER CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

Jay Tibshraeny

Council Members

Kevin Hartke

Sam Huang

Terry Roe

CHANDLER CITY STAFF

Community Services Department Director

Brenda Brown

Recreation Manager

Joe Petrella

Recreation Superintendent

Sandy Muñoz-Weingarten

MAYOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION MEMBERS 2017-2018

Officers

Monet Tam, Chairman

Sarah Gilliam, Vice Chairman

Rohit Nandakumar, Secretary

Commission Members

Aditya Ashar

Sarah Gilliam

Eva Pham

Kameron Dawson

Shahd Abdelkarim

Adithy Hassan

Zeba Rizvi

Anusha Natarajan

Nikita Bharati

Nivea Krishnan

Grant Williams

Vaisha Nair

Grace Church

Staff Liaison

Tony Baumann, Recreation Coordinator II

Trevor Groth, Recreation Coordinator I

The Mayor's Youth Commission would like to extend a special thanks to Even Stevens, Sprouts, Einstein Bros. Bagels, and Safeway for their donations used to provide breakfast and lunch. We would also like to thank the City of Chandler for providing giveaway items and for the use of amenities such as the Council Chambers for the forum.



Mayor Jay Tibshraeny and the Chandler City Council

TEEN TOWN HALL

February 22, 2018



Hosted by the City of Chandler Mayor's Youth Commission

SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. – 8:25 a.m.	Arrival, Registration & Breakfast Community Center Courtyard
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Opening Session - Council Chambers Welcome- Chairman Monet Tam Guest Speaker- Von Bryant Teambuilding activity
9:35 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Discussion Groups Authority in the Community – Community Center Room 109 Living by the Golden Rule – Community Center Room 110 Addiction – Community Center Room 111
10:50 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Guest Speaker- Jenn Kaye Community Center Rooms 109, 110 & 111
11:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.	Lunch Community Center Courtyard
12:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Discussion Groups – Resolutions Authority in the Community – Community Center Room 109 Living by the Golden Rule – Community Center Room 110 Addiction – Community Center Room 111
1:35 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Group Presentations & Closing Remarks Community Center Rooms 109, 110, & 111

The Mayor's Youth Commission sponsored its ninth annual Teen Town Hall on Thursday, February 22nd, 2018 at the Community Center and City Hall Council Chambers. The 166 teens that attended the conference were registered from various Chandler high schools, middle schools and charter schools. The purpose of Teen Town Hall is to bring together teenagers from the community to discuss topics of concern with each other and offer recommendations for practical solutions that the community can implement. To ensure input from all sectors of our community, individuals from numerous private and public high schools and non-profit groups within the City of Chandler were invited to participate.

The Teen Town Hall began with Mayor's Youth Commission Chairman, Monet Tam, welcoming the participants. Monet then introduced the council and Mayor, who gave a brief welcome to the group. The Mayor thanked the students for coming to the event and being engaged in issues that pertain to them. Monet Tam then introduced Von Bryant, the event's first keynote speaker, who invigorated the students. First, Bryant described his childhood experience living in an unsafe, poverty-stricken trailer park with his grandmother and how his experiences shaped him into the person he is today. Then, he shared how his grandmother is his role model as she taught him many lessons he continues to apply to his daily life and share with others. He emphasized an analogy regarding the "seeds" leaders' plant. As catalysts of change in their communities, youth leaders nurture the seeds in our community and inspire others to take action. Bryant finished by noting the importance of the event and recognizing the steps the attendees have all taken towards being leaders in the community by attending the Teen Town Hall event.

After the conclusion of Bryant's speech, the participants were led in an icebreaker activity by Trevor Groth, Recreation Coordinator for the City of Chandler Teen Programs. He introduced a rock, paper, scissors challenge which engaged all the students and sparked excitement in the room.

After Trevor concluded, Monet returned to describe the schedule for the day and have participants break into their respective groups. Participants were assigned to either **Authority in the Community**, **Living by the Golden Rule**, or **Addiction**. Each group was led by a delegate from each respective organization and assisted by Mayor's Youth Commission members.

Each group was assigned a question related to their topic to discuss. Commission members educated participants on their assigned topic, encouraged participation, and asked their group to think critically about the issue and come up with possible solutions. Leaders helped the groups define the problem, identify possible contributing factors, and discuss what is currently being done.

After the discussion groups met for over an hour, the conference reconvened for a speech by Jenn Kaye. She began with a series of activities where students defined the qualities of a leader and the assets each individual possesses which makes them a leader. She shared that being an active member of society rather than looking for ways

to be outwardly appreciated by others results in more personal satisfaction. Then, she connected her speech to a simple anecdote where she cleaned up her community's trash and noticed the effect on the aesthetic of her neighborhood. She emphasized how when a problem arises, students can take an active role in seeking a solution to better their community.

Following lunch, participants returned to their groups to create resolutions for the issues outlined in their first discussion. Groups were given an hour to focus on solutions to address their assigned question and develop practical recommendations that could easily be implemented within the City of Chandler. After the discussions, the entire group of participants reconvened to discuss and present each of the resolutions collectively. Each discussion group selected a representative to speak to all the Teen Town Hall participants about their group's issue and proposed recommendations.

The Teen Town Hall ended with closing remarks from Mayor's Youth Commission Vice-Chairman, Sarah Gilliam. She thanked the participants for attending and contributing to the discussion. Sarah informed the participants that the results of their hard work would be compiled into a report that would be shared with the Mayor and members of City Council at a City Council meeting in the near future.

In addition, this Teen Town Hall report will be made available to various agencies, organizations, clubs, and schools for review. It will also be used as a resource in the community, providing both teens and adults the opportunity to communicate openly with one another about important issues that affect them.

The following pages provide details on each of the three topics of discussion at this year's Teen Town Hall, as well as the specific recommendations for change developed by each group.

AUTHORITY IN THE COMMUNITY DISCUSSION SUMMARY

SESSION SPEAKERS: OFFICER QUINN AND OFFICER KEIPERT

OBJECTIVE

- To resolve potential issues and narrow the perceived hierarchy gap between youth and authoritative figures

SUMMARY

- Officer Quinn, School Resource Officer from Hamilton High School, has been involved in police civic training and the police force for 23 years
- Officer Keipert, School Resource Officer from Chandler High School, has been a School Resource Officer at Chandler for 5 years and an officer for 20 years
- Students identified possible causes of barriers between youth and authority including stereotypes and the uniform which may create misconceptions about their personality
- Student identified the following as a couple of current issues that hinder the relationships between youth and authority:
 - Current events that trigger issues related to police brutality and youth
 - Feelings of intimidation that youth believe police officers demonstrate
 - Student mistrust of the police
 - Inherent nature to distrust authority
 - Approachability and unwillingness of students to approach officers

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

1. Educational Classes and Assemblies

- Offer classes to the general public and schools regarding the significance of authoritative figures in our community
- Allow authoritative figures to present in history classes about their work and the significance of their role
- In order for youth to develop a connection with figures of authority, they can participate in a variety of programs including:
 1. Youth Citizen Academy (Fall, Summer, and Spring) which meets for six hours each day from Monday to Thursday where they can learn about the importance of authority from officers
 2. Youth Cadet Program allows youth the opportunity to collaborate and learn about the police department through national competitions
 3. Youth Wilderness Trip is a free program that teaches the youth wilderness tips and skills on how to become a strong leader

2. Video

- Collaborate with City of Chandler Police Department to create a video in order to spread awareness about the kind, protective authoritative figures present in the City of Chandler who ensure our communities are safe and secure

3. School Resource Officer

- Ensure every public school in Chandler has access to a School Resource Officer through collaboration with the Chandler Unified School District and City of Chandler Police Department
- Have private and public schools collaborate with the City of Chandler Police Department to provide resources to their students

Authority in the Community Group Assistants:

Anusha Natarajan, Mayor's Youth Commission Member

Nikita Bharati, Mayor's Youth Commission Member

LIVING BY THE GOLDEN RULE DISCUSSION SUMMARY

SESSION SPEAKER: LEANN BASHA

OBJECTIVE

To encourage the adoption of “Golden Rule” traits high school students and discuss how they can integrate values of the Golden Rule into their lives.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

- Although most people often associate the notion of the “Golden Rule” with the cliché of treating others how one would like to be treated, it contains much power and truth
- The Golden Rule transcends boundaries of religion, race, and language, and can be found across cultures
- The Golden Rule teaches us to consider the implications of our actions and words before we do something or express an opinion. Viewing others with the same tolerance and respect that we would like to be extended to us promotes healthy relationships and productive discussions
- As teenagers, we understand best the issues facing the younger generation, and, as follows, serve best as champions of the Golden Rule both as we implement it into our daily lives and as we organize community-wide resolutions to distinguish Chandler as a “Golden Rule City.”

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

1. Teen Performance Night- Help promote a sense of community unity by allowing teens in Chandler to showcase their musical talents and to establish connections with one another
2. “What the Golden Rule Means to Me” Competition – Have teens submit a piece of artwork, video, or written piece that reflects the significance of the Golden Rule
3. Teen Summit- Conduct monthly meeting with teens from Chandler that allows for an open discussion platform for prominent issues in the community
4. City mural- Combine artwork related to the Golden Rule into a mural and display at the Chandler Community Center
5. Business Marketing Campaign- Pass out Golden Rule wristbands or business cards to local businesses or sponsors to give out to customers in order to spread the word about the Golden Rule

Living the Golden Rule Group Assistants:

Grant Williams, Mayor’s Youth Commission Member

Nivea Krishnan, Mayor’s Youth Commission Member

ADDICTION DISCUSSION SUMMARY

SESSION SPEAKER: DR. JILLIAN VANSELOW

OBJECTIVE

- To teach Chandler teens how to recognize the signs of and understand ways to combat drug and alcohol addiction

SUMMARY

- Dr. Vanselow, president of Core Recovery, specializes in bio psychosocial substance abuse assessments, treatment planning, and other aspects of addiction recovery.
- The students learned how addiction is a bio psychosocial disease and is a physical problem as much as a mental one, meaning that addiction must be treated medically and through therapy.
- Dr. Vanselow discussed the sixteen principles to an efficient addiction recovery program including:
 - A long-term program with multiple interventions periods to make adjustments
 - Tailor program to address a specific population or audience characteristic
 - Program focus on supporting communication between the individuals, their families, and teachers
- The students split into groups at each table in the second session and discussed ways to both prevent and help solve the current addiction problem.
- After they determined their best solution in groups, they proposed the solutions to the other groups, and then all the students collaborated to finalize their three best ideas.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

1. Community Center Get Together

- Host sessions once or twice a month to bring community members together
- Invite guests to come to share their experiences with addiction
- Make the sessions open to everyone from teachers to parents to students, so this results in a better understanding of different perspectives
- Provide therapists and counselors that can talk to students who are experiencing stress and anxiety, so they have something other than drugs to find relief
- Use stickers or posters to advertise these events in schools and in the community

2. Addiction “Reach Out” Campaign

- Put hotline for drug/alcohol abuse and other helpful numbers on Pop Sockets and stickers to then hand out to students as a reminder that help is available
- Create a campaign that includes student discussions and use the stickers as advertisement techniques to spread the message about addiction
- Provide anonymous discussion boards for students to post questions or ask for help on this topic

3. Parent-Teacher Discussion Sessions

- Facilitate meetings that both parents and teachers can attend to educate them on signs of addiction; allow these adults to collaborate and work on agreeable methods for helping students
- Provide adults with information on how to approach a student if they are exhibiting addictive behaviors
- Utilize psychologists from Core Recovery and counselors in schools to come teach the parents

Addiction Group Assistants:

Sarah Gilliam, Mayor’s Youth Commission Member

Kameron Dawson, Mayor’s Youth Commission Member