

## **Middle School and Teen Advisory Committees FY 17 Annual Report**

The Teen Advisory Committee was composed of: Kevin Baker, chair, Isaiah Wilkes Sgt at Arms, Xavier Wilkes, Andrew Zhang-Co Chair, Secretary 1, Lamarri Moore-Sgt at Arms Brittaney Dacier-Treasurer, Julian Basena, Adanya Kober-Hobson, Feyi Orsidipe, Anna Harrington, Nathan Lemons, Elizabeth Burnett (Secretary II).

The Middle School Advisory was composed of: Zhion Perkins-Chair (Secretary 1), Trokon Anderson-Co Chair (Secretary II), Shakari Prue, Ryan Elaoud

Staff liaison was Safire Windley

The Committees met 10 times during the year

### **Accomplishments:**

At the beginning of the FY 17 fiscal year the Middle School and Teen Advisory Committees began hosting the popular *Friday Night Live* event beginning in May 2016 - these events were held on the last Friday of each month from 7-10pm and were developed by the committee members to give middle and high schoolers a fun yet safe outlet on a Friday night. Youth enjoyed music, basketball, contests, video games, door prizes and pizza. Each event was associated with a particular theme and decorations were coordinated around the theme. Over 100 youth were served.

The Middle School Advisory hosted its 5th Middle School Take Over at the Supreme Sports Club on June 17, 2016. The concept of the event was to allow middle school youth to have full reign of all of the amenities at the club, Youth enjoyed swimming, roller skating, basketball, racquetball, climbing wall and iDance. Forty-nine youth attended the Take Over.

At the close of the summer both Middle and Teen Advisory Committees again this year hosted free pool parties for their respective peers. The pool party for middle schoolers was held on July 5<sup>th</sup> and the party for high schoolers was held on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Both pool parties were held at Locus Park Neighborhood Pool. Youth enjoyed swimming, water games, contests and snacks. A total of 37 youth were served.

At the beginning of a new school year, the Teen Advisory Committee started by identifying the theme/focus for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Hear My Voice Teen Day. The 2016 theme called *Shatter the Stigma* was a collaborative effort with Jame's Place Inc. and focused on substance used disorder (SUD) among youth. Once the theme and role of the organization was finalized the advisory committee soon began hosting auditions for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Columbia Teen Idol competition. This year there were 3 audition sites 2

at The Barn with the last being held at the Lord & Taylor department store in the Mall in Columbia. The committee members selected twenty (20) semi-finalists to compete at the semi-finals hosted at the Slayton House in Wilde Lake.

Both Middle and High School Advisory members hosted the Columbia Teen Idol Semi-Finals on September 29th at Slayton House and were responsible for running the entire show. The top 10 finalists were selected to compete at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Columbia Teen Idol Competition during Hear My Voice Teen Day.

Towards the end of FY 17 both Middle and High School Advisory Committees hosted Xbox Tournaments April 28, 2017 and May 12<sup>th</sup> respectively-. The new game Rocket League was introduced and played at both tournaments. The winners won gift cards from GameStop Store. Thirty-four youth were served.

### **FY18 Proposed Charges**

1. Assist CA in advocating for and about youth programs. Inform and advise CA of community issues and opportunities as they relate to Columbia youth.
2. Plan and execute activities through which a safe and welcoming environment can be offered to Columbia youth.
3. Promote opportunities through which Columbia youth can express themselves and find their voice.
4. Partner with like-minded organizations to enhance the quality of life for Columbia youth and teens.