



CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Consideration of resolutions for the dissolution of the Novi Youth Council and creation of the Mayor's Youth Forum

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Community Relations

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Novi Youth Council has seen declining participation and is no longer the most effective model for sustained youth engagement.
- Creating a Mayor's Youth Forum would establish an open, inclusive platform for all Novi high-school-aged residents to share ideas, discuss issues, and engage with City leadership.
- Meetings will be topic-driven, focusing on initiatives identified by City Council, departments, or community partners, encouraging broad and diverse participation.
- Establishing the Mayor's Youth Forum would affirm City Council's ongoing commitment to fostering youth involvement in civic affairs through the new venture and additional opportunities such as events and volunteer initiatives.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The City of Novi has long recognized the importance of involving youth in civic life. In the past, this was accomplished through the Novi Youth Council, a structured 13-member body that required an application, interview, and appointment process. Over time, however, participation and sustained commitment declined, with many students finding meaningful civic and leadership opportunities through school-based programs and extracurricular activities.

To better reflect the needs and interests of Novi's youth, City staff recommend that a more flexible and inclusive model will be more effective. The Mayor's Youth Forum will provide all high-school-aged residents with an open opportunity to share ideas, discuss issues, and engage directly with City leadership. Meetings will be topic-driven, based on priorities identified by City Council, City departments, and community partners, encouraging broad participation that reflects Novi's diversity.

The dissolution of the Novi Youth Council and creation of the Mayor's Youth Forum underscores the City Council's continued commitment to youth involvement in civic affairs and ensures that young residents remain active contributors to the community's future.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of resolutions for the dissolution of the Novi Youth Council and creation of the Mayor's Youth Forum

CITY OF NOVI
COUNTY OF OAKLAND, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION REGARDING DISSOLUTION OF NOVI YOUTH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, Michigan, held in the City Hall of said City on _____, 2025, at ____ o'clock P.M. Prevailing Eastern Time.

PRESENT: Councilmembers _____

ABSENT: Councilmembers _____

The following preamble and Resolution were offered by Councilmember _____ and supported by Councilmember _____.

RECITALS

Whereas, the City of Novi City Council previously established the City of Novi Youth Council to make recommendations to City Council on issues relative to the youth of Novi, serve as youth ambassadors, and encourage education of youth regarding City government and citizen participation; and

Whereas, the Youth Council has consisted of 13 members at the high school level who are Novi residents, appointed for two-year terms based on an application, essay, interview, and appointment by City Council; and

Whereas, the Youth Council has operated with designated leadership positions, attendance requirements, an annual budget, and staff support from the City of Novi as directed by the City Manager; and

Whereas, over time, attendance and sustained commitment from members has declined, with many students finding other valuable avenues for civic and leadership involvement through school-based programs and extracurricular activities; and

Whereas, for many participants, Youth Council service has been one of several valuable activities contributing to their personal and academic growth, rather than their primary avenue for ongoing municipal engagement; and

Whereas, after careful consideration, the City Council has determined that the Youth Council, in its current form, is no longer the most effective means of engaging Novi's youth in local government; and

Whereas, the City Council remains committed to fostering youth involvement in civic affairs and will continue to explore new and innovative ways to encourage and support such engagement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Novi hereby dissolve the City of Novi Youth Council, effective immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council directs City staff to continue developing and recommending additional opportunities for youth engagement in the community — including, but not limited to, participation in events and volunteer initiatives — with the understanding that a new forum for teen involvement will also be established to further strengthen these efforts.

AYES:

NAYS:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, and State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2025, and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting have been kept and made available to the public as required by said Act.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk
City of Novi

CITY OF NOVI
COUNTY OF OAKLAND, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION REGARDING CITY OF NOVI MAYOR'S YOUTH FORUM

Minutes of a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, Michigan, held in the City Hall of said City on _____, 2025, at ____ o'clock P.M. Prevailing Eastern Time.

PRESENT: Councilmembers _____

ABSENT: Councilmembers _____

The following preamble and Resolution were offered by Councilmember _____ and supported by Councilmember _____.

RECITALS

Whereas, the City of Novi City Council values the perspectives and contributions of its young residents and recognizes the importance of fostering civic engagement among high school students; and

Whereas, the City seeks to provide an open and welcoming platform for youth to share ideas, discuss issues, and participate in shaping the future of the community; and

Whereas, the Mayor's Youth Forum will be open to all high-school-aged residents of Novi, with no application or appointment process required, ensuring equitable and inclusive participation; and

Whereas, the Forum will meet on a regular basis, with each meeting focused on a specific topic or initiative identified by City Council, City departments, or community partners; and

Whereas, this flexible, topic-driven format will encourage broader involvement, reflect Novi's diversity, and strengthen connections between the City's leadership and its youth;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Novi hereby create the **Mayor's Youth Forum** as a civic engagement initiative to involve high-school-aged residents in open dialogue, community problem-solving, and leadership development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council directs City staff to coordinate, develop operational guidelines, and facilitate the Mayor's Youth Forum, promote participation among Novi's youth, and ensure meaningful discussion on topics of importance to both the community and its young residents.

AYES:

NAYS:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Novi, County of Oakland, and State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2025, and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting have been kept and made available to the public as required by said Act.

Cortney Hanson, City Clerk
City of Novi