

Youth Empowerment Committee



Members:

Councilman Terrance Freeman, Chair

Councilman Raul Arias

Councilman Ken Amaro, Vice Chair

Councilman Randy White

Councilmember Ju'Coby Pittman

John Everett, KHA (Ex-Officio)

Guiding Principles

Principle	Focus
What You Know	Strengthen education, digital skills, and applied learning that lead to employment.

Who You Know

Expand mentorship and professional networks that continue beyond high school.

Where You Go

Create safe community spaces that double as hands-on learning and innovation hubs.

How You Grow

Maintain mentorship, recreation, and career support through age 24.

Committee Priority**Implication for Investment Strategy**

1. Education, life skills, mentorship, civic engagement

Fund continuity beyond high school, not just in-school enrichment. Youth want long-term guidance, not temporary programming.

2. Recreational access & safe community spaces

Invest in trusted, near-home hubs that function as belonging + purpose + opportunity pipelines — not just recreation.

3. Job training, career pipelines, apprenticeships

Prioritize paid work-based pathways tied to real hiring pipelines — not awareness-only programming.

4. Public safety, lighting, technology-enabled infrastructure

Safety must include transportation, emotional safety, and technology-enabled access — or youth will not participate, regardless of program quality.

Youth Empowerment Committee (YEC) Meeting Agenda

Focus Area: Education, Life Skills, Mentorship & Civic Engagement

Date: November 13th

Time: 4:00 – 5:00 PM

Location: Lynwood Roberts Room – 117 W. Duval Street, 1st Floor, St. James Building

1. Call to Order – Councilman Terrance Freeman, Chair (4:00 – 4:05 PM)

- Welcome and opening remarks
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2. Purpose of Meeting – Chair Freeman (4:05 – 4:08 PM)

Objective:

Discuss models of education, mentorship, and civic engagement to guide investments under the **Youth Empowerment RFP**, a unified \$5M initiative advancing four funding tracks for FY27:

1. Education, Life Skills, Mentorship & Civic Engagement
 2. Recreational Access & Safe Community Spaces
 3. Job Training, Career Pipelines & Apprenticeships
 4. Public Safety, Lighting & Technology-Enabled Infrastructure
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3. System Impact Overview – John Everett, Kids Hope Alliance (4:08 – 4:12 PM)

Purpose: Provide a brief, system-level snapshot connecting all youth empowerment efforts to citywide outcomes.

Content:

- Key insight: Sustained mentorship and postsecondary continuity show the highest ROI — supporting Track 1’s proposed \$1.5M allocation.
- Framing question: *“How do we scale what’s working while ensuring access across neighborhoods?”*

4. Partner Presentations: Track 1 – Education, Life Skills, Mentorship & Civic Engagement (4:12 – 4:42 PM)

Presenter	Organization / Program	Focus
Jason Peoples	Jacksonville Arts & Music School <u>"What A Leader"</u>	Leadership, creative skill development, mentorship through the arts
Sara Alford	Big Brothers Big Sisters – <u>Beyond School Walls</u>	Corporate mentorship, professional networking, civic engagement

(12 minutes each, 3-minute Q&A)

5. Committee Discussion: RFP Design & Policy Implications (4:42 – 4:53 PM)

Simplified Guiding Questions:

1. Do these funding priorities feel like the right mix to make the biggest difference for young people?
2. How do we make sure the programs we fund don't stop at high school — and that they work together instead of in silos?

Outcome:

Council identifies 1–2 takeaways to guide inclusion in the **Education, Life Skills, and Mentorship Track** of the Youth Empowerment RFP.

6. Key Takeaways & Next Steps – Chair Freeman & Staff (4:53 – 4:58 PM)

- Summarize discussion themes and draft recommendations (to be incorporated into RFP framework).
 - Confirm consensus on funding allocations and policy direction.
 - Preview next YEC meeting: **Recreational Access & Safe Community Spaces** (February 2026).
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7. Public Comment (4:58 – 5:00 PM)

- 1–2 minutes per speaker (remarks related to education, mentorship, or civic engagement).