



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 15, 2010

**TO:** The Honorable Richard Conlin  
President, Seattle City Council

**FROM:** City Councilmember Mike O'Brien, Chair of the Seattle Public Utilities and  
Neighborhoods Committee

**SUBJECT:** City Council Appointments to the Seattle Youth Commission

---

City Council created the Seattle Youth Commission to promote the full participation of Seattle youth in the legislative and civic process and to represent and voice the youth perspective to Seattle's elected officials. The duties of the Commission include:

- Drafting policy proposals on topics of its choosing and presenting these proposals to the Mayor and the City Council;
- Organize forums of Seattle youth to better educate the City about the opinions of youth on civic issues affecting both their specific communities and the city at large and to inform youth about the City's policies, programs, and process for public engagement;
- Organize an annual Youth Town Hall with participation from the Mayor and members of the City Council to discuss issues affecting the city and the perspective of youth on these issues;
- Testifying at City Council meetings and public hearings;
- Providing an annual report to the relevant Council Committee about the commission's activities.

During the first quarter of 2010, staff of the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods (DON) worked with an inter-departmental City team as well as community stakeholders to recruit Commissioners with a diversity of experience, skills, and interests. DON staff circulated information about the Commission to a range of audiences, including high schools, advocacy organizations that focus on youth involvement; organizations that serve people of color, parent groups, and service-based organizations. We distributed information about the new Commission and the application process in print, via the internet, and by word-of-mouth.

Thirty-five individuals submitted applications to serve on the Commission. Applications were reviewed by the Department of Neighborhoods, Parks Department and Office of Civil Rights staff as well as past members of the Seattle Youth Commission. Members of the Mayor's Office as well as staff from my office conducted interviews for twenty-five spots which are broken down into thirteen neighborhood districts and twelve at-large positions.

The Commission allows for twenty-five spots and will twenty-three members until youth from the Ballard and Delridge neighborhoods can be recruited and interviewed. Thirteen will be appointed by the Mayor, twelve appointed by the City Council. All appointments are subject to City Council confirmation. Commissioners will serve a one-year term.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>	<u>Position</u>
<b>Name</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>	<b>Position</b>
Chetan Chandrashekhar	6-1-2011	At Large
Mohamed Adan	6-1-2011	At Large
Sahra Osman	6-1-2011	At Large
Lynsie Tang	6-1-2011	At Large
Alex Jonlin	6-1-2011	At Large
Louisa Dunwiddie	6-1-2011	At Large
MarieClaire Sbragia	6-1-2011	At Large
Kian Vesteinsson	6-1-2011	At Large
Fleciah Mburu	6-1-2011	At Large
Sofia Smith	6-1-2011	At Large
Isaac Pearson	6-1-2011	At Large
Silbee Sanchez	6-1-2011	At Large

The appointment bios for the 2010-2011 at-large commissioner appointees are as follows:

### **Chetan Chandrashekhar**

Chetan represents Seattle's Northeast Neighborhood District. Next year, he will be a junior at Ingraham High School. He is passionate about his community and looks to Ballard as a model 'walkable' neighborhood. He is interested in facilitating community conversations about what Seattle youth in Seattle want to see their community look like and writing policy recommendations to address those concerns. He has also been involved in global Visionaries and One World Now.

### **Mohamed Adan**

Mohammed Adan identifies with the Rainier Valley neighborhood in the Southeast Neighborhood District. Next year he will be a senior at Garfield High School. He is interested in learning more of how the city operates and how he can impart that knowledge on others. He is also interested in learning how he can improve his community and contribute to the current civic process. Mohammed feels strongly that the city operates optimally when all people are participants in the process; therefore it is critical that we cultivate these future participants through programs such brings years of experience in community outreach, peer leadership

**Sahra Osman**

Sahra Osman identifies with the Northgate neighborhood in Seattle's North Neighborhood District. Next year, she will be a senior at Mountlake Terrace High School. She brings a strong voice for social justice and community building. Sahra is most passionate about youth violence and community beautification. Through her work at her high school she created the Justice Activism in Youth Legal Literacy program (JAYLL) which worked with the police department and elected officials to help educate youth about their rights building off an annotated version of the role reversal model. Sahra serves on the National Honor society and also participates in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America program.

**Lynsie Tang**

Lynsie identifies with both the South Park neighborhood in Seattle's Greater Duwamish Neighborhood District and the Rainier Beach neighborhood in the Southeast Neighborhood District. Next year, she will be a senior at Garfield High School. Lynsie is interested in making a positive difference in her community and sees the youth commission as a means for doing so. She brings to the commission her vast experience with social-networking and blogging. She is well equipped to represent the interests and perspectives of her peers as an unbiased party. She will also be involved in Garfield's swim team and the Science Café next year. She feels strongly that because youth cannot vote on the decisions that affect them, it is important that they have an opportunity to get involved in those decision processes in other ways.

**Alex Jonlin**

Alex is a returning member to the Seattle Youth Commission. He identifies with the Ravenna community in Seattle's Northeast Neighborhood District. An incoming senior, Alex worked on issues of pedestrian safety last year presenting an expansion of the Safe Routes to School program to the Mayor and to the City Council. Alex is a founding member of the Washington State Legislative Youth Advisory Council to Governor Gregoire.

**Louisa Dunwiddie**

Louisa is a junior at Garfield High School and identifies with the Ravenna community in Seattle's Northeast Neighborhood District. Louisa is most passionate about youth violence and community open space. As a member of her high school swim team, Louisa knows the importance of community center pools and park recreation. Through the Youth Commission she hopes to foster more youth participation and input into important budget and policy decisions.

**MarieClaire Sbragia**

MarieClaire identifies with Seattle's East Neighborhood District and attends Garfield High School. MarieClaire is passionate about transportation issues as well as investing in art programs for youth.

**Kian Vesteinsson**

Kian identifies with Seattle's Southeast Neighborhood District and is passionate about the youth perspective and its influence of our elected officials. He has worked to educate his community about city events and practices. He regularly participates as a volunteer in community auctions

which raise money for community improvements. As a commissioner Kian hopes to learn more about how to bring government to a community level.

### **Fleciah Mburu**

Fleciah is a returning member to the Seattle Youth Commission. As a student at Franklin High School who identifies with Seattle's Southeast Neighborhood District, Fleciah is very passionate about youth violence and youth opportunities which promote alternatives for youth after school. In addition, Fleciah is interested in promoting better communication between the Seattle Police Department and Seattle youth. Last year, Fleciah presented to the Mayor and the City Council on the topic of youth violence recommending the implementation of a Young Fathers Coalition.

### **Sofia Smith**

Sophia identifies with the Columbia City community in Seattle's Southeast Neighborhood District. Sophia is interested in civic engagement opportunities for youth and on promoting opportunities so that youth can understand how to make a change. She is very passionate about issues of global warming and the development of green jobs particularly through the promotion of cleaner transit options that reduce our carbon footprint. Next year, Sophia will be a freshman at the Seattle Academy for Arts and Science.

### **Isaac Pearson**

Isaac identifies with Seattle's Central District and attends Garfield High School. Isaac main interest is to promote positive role models and mentors for at-risk youth. He is concerned with the false images and hopes for easy success that surround youth on a regular basis. As a Youth Commissioner he hopes to learn how the City interacts with its different communities. Next year he will participate in the Running Start program at Garfield.

### **Silbee Sanchez**

Silbee identifies with Seattle's South Park community in the Greater Duwamish district. As a student at West Seattle High School Silbee has work on promoting healthy communities and healthy lifestyles including raising awareness about the use of tobacco and is involved in the Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) program.