

NEWS



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MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAYOR NUTTER ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO THE PHILADELPHIA YOUTH COMMISSION

Philadelphia, February 20 - Mayor Michael A. Nutter has announced his four appointees to the Philadelphia Youth Commission: Jamira Burley, Bianca Diaz, David Smith and Matthew Zaccagni. Their term begins immediately and will end on August 31, 2009.

“The Youth Commission is a way for our city’s young leaders to become actively involved in City government, and also for City officials to benefit from the ideas and perspectives of young Philadelphians,” said Mayor Nutter. “I look forward to working with the Youth Commissioners and will create other ways in which to provide opportunities for students to become involved.”

The Youth Commission is a panel of 21 young Philadelphians between the ages of 12-23. Each member of City Council appoints one member to the Commission and the Mayor appoints four members. Altogether, Youth Commissioners are meant to represent the diversity of the city and the voices of young Philadelphians. The Commission will be overseen by members of the administration and City Council, with the active involvement of partnering community organizations, and will review upcoming legislation and policies that affect youth and young adults. The Commission will also advise and offer recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on those issues.

Mayor Nutter and Councilwoman Reynolds Brown will convene the first meeting of the Youth Commission on March 6th. Members of the administration and City Council will be invited to attend and welcome the Commissioners. The Commission will meet monthly and prepare an annual report on its activities, goals, and accomplishments.

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Biographies:

Jamira Burley is a freshman at Temple University, where she majors in International Business with a minor in Mandarin Chinese. She is the Past-President of City-wide Student Government and volunteered with PCCY and Councilwoman Reynolds Brown to advocate for the establishment of the Youth Commission. Jamira is a graduate of Overbrook High School, where she developed Panther Peace Core, a student peer mediation and anti-violence program. Panther Peace Core recently received a grant from the State to expand the program to all ten of Philadelphia's persistently dangerous high schools. Jamira will head the implementation of the program through the School District of Philadelphia, where she is an intern in the Office of College & Career Awareness.

Bianca Diaz, 16, is a junior at Edison High School in North Philadelphia. She is a member of the Youth Advocacy Council and the Éxito Work Readiness Program at Congreso de Latinos Unidos. Bianca has attended the annual National Council of La Raza conference for the past two years, where she attended workshops on issues such as immigration, civic engagement and juvenile justice. In 2007, she was chosen to attend the first Senate Democratic Latino Youth Summit in Washington DC, where she was a panelist speaker.

David Smith, 17, is a junior at West Catholic High School. He is serving his third year as a City Hero with the City Year City Heroes program, a program for high school students who do community service on the weekends. David is also a participant of Upward Bound, World Affairs and is in the cultural diversity club at his school.

Matthew Zaccagni is a freshman at LaSalle University, where he majors in Communication Studies and Political Science. He has been an active member of the Philadelphia Youth Commission Working Group and was heavily involved in advocating for the passage of legislation establishing the Youth Commission. Matthew is a graduate of the Philadelphia High School for Creative & Performing Arts, where he served as the school representative to the City-wide Student Government.

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