

City of Anderson - OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 12:01 a.m.

Mayor Kevin S. Smith Implements Mayor's Youth Commission

Mayor Smith revives the Mayor's Youth Commission after a nine year absence, seeing the importance of exposing students to municipal public policy.

Mayor Kevin S. Smith sat down with a group of local area high school students to discuss the importance of civic engagement and education before city council meeting, Thursday, February 14. Later, the students were sworn in as Mayor's Youth Commission members during the city council's regular meeting.

The Mayor's Youth Commission was implemented this year at the request of the Mayor to give youth local government education and experience. The need for youth to better understand the process of local government was realized in 1980 when the Mayor's Youth Commission was first established and later repealed and created under new provisions in 1996. Mayor Smith revives the Youth Commission this year after an absence of at least nine years.

"Education is an important asset. Our goal is to engage students with current day public policy challenges," Mayor Kevin S. Smith said. "I look forward to learning from them, too; their perspective on current issues facing Anderson today."

The goal of the Youth Commission, as stated in Ordinance number 54-96, is to "instill the principles of government by which this City operates, [and] in order to enable the youth of the City of Anderson to advise the members of government of the concerns of the youth of this City ..."

Students were recommended and selected by the Mayor's Advisory Board comprised of teachers from Anderson High School, Anderson Preparatory Academy, Indiana Christian Academy, and Liberty Christian School as well as two community members.

Responsibilities of the Youth Commission will include but are not limited to:

- Attending city council meetings
- Acting as liaisons between the Mayor's office, city council, and local youth through school announcements
- Advocating for particular development projects on behalf of local youth.

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