



MICHAEL S. YENNI
MAYOR

CITY OF KENNER

PRESS RELEASE

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APPLICATIONS FOR MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL DUE NO LATER THAN NOV. 1

Kenner, LA. – Students who want a unique opportunity to learn how government works in the City of Kenner and to provide input on important issues being considered by Mayor Michael Yenni and the City Kenner have less than one week left to apply for a position on the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council.

The Mayor's Youth Council will be made up of no more than 20 high school students who live in Kenner and want to make a positive difference in their home town, said Alisha Chowdhury, a Kenner resident and senior at Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies in Metairie.

Chowdhury is a member of the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council, a group of 21 representatives from throughout the state. Members of that group were urged to come up with local projects and Chowdhury put together a proposal showcasing the benefits of a mayor's youth council in Kenner.

"Alisha has provided me an avenue to educate and energize kids about their hometown and to involve them in the process of making a difference," Yenni said. "As they become young adults, this will only help in reaching the goal of the Kenner 2030 Plan, which is to convince young adults to make their home in Kenner. The youth are the future of our community and it is important that we, as officials in city government, invest in and communicate with our young leaders."

Chowdhury said the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council may be able to provide some vital feedback to Yenni or City Council members.

"Maybe one student says something in a council meeting and it sparks something in a council member," she said. "There's a real chance to make a difference."

Another goal of the new council will be to give back to the city by planning a service project. But Chowdhury said the group can decide on a service project once the members have been chosen and have gotten to know one another.

Sherri Breaux, retired staff of the Louisiana Senate and Louisiana Youth Advisory Council, said Chowdhury's idea is an excellent opportunity for Kenner youth to step up and speak out.

"The youth council will give young people a meaningful voice," she said. "Right now, they are not voters and feel like perhaps their voice doesn't matter. They don't feel connected. Once they see that what they say does make a difference, they will really feel connected."

The qualifications for membership in the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council are that the student be a Kenner resident between the ages of 14 and 19, attend a public or private high school or home school program, be willing to attend monthly meetings and have a strong interest in civic participation and to search for and work toward community solutions.

Applications will be available at area high schools or can be downloaded from the City of Kenner's website, www.kenner.la.us. The application must include a parental consent form, two reference letters and must be postmarked no later than Nov. 1, 2013. A review committee will evaluate the applications and announce the new members on Dec. 2, 2013.

Applications can be electronically submitted to MYAC@kenner.la.us.

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