



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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**City of Newton, Youth Commission
September 8, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.**

Attendance/Introductions:

Spencer Solcoff, Arman Tendulkar, Zack Gusenoff, Nolan Anthony, Shivani Gulati, Allie Guo, Audrey Wei, Preethika Vemula, Nicole Tarasenko, Ava Freeman, Sydney Finkelstein, Rana Moeinzad, Rhiannon Esposito, Rachel Alpert-Wisnia, Esther Zhang, Mia Chu, Leo Lin, Shiv Sawhney, Ethan Situ, Ethan Dhadly, Jessie Traxler, Tia Joseph, Lucy Ponce, Maya Garg, Megan Coffey, Meghan Murtagh, Kathy Shields, Michelle Menken, Kim Gilbert, Terry Yoffie.

Maura O’Keefe, Asst. City Solicitor:

- The Asst. City Solicitor, Maura O’Keefe led meeting participants through an open meeting law training and shared its relationship to the Youth Commission.
- Questions related to the training or OML should be directed to Maura: mokeefe@newtonma.gov.

Zoning update:

- Over the past year the Planning Department has been engaging the community on village center redesign.
- The engagement has included: focus groups (youth specific held in early June), POLIS survey (<https://pol.is/4vfmwwzdds>) and through Vision Kits.
- Data collection ends on October 3.
- Public info session of what was learned from engagement efforts to be held in November.
- Nevena from Planning Dept to attend October meeting.

Gun Shop update:

- The letter of support for the ban of the gun shop began back in June.
- Writing of the letter was put on pause due to Youth Commission summer recess.
- A commissioner did ask the group if there were any updates on the status of this issue with another member responding that a personal statement from Ward 2 Councilor at Large, Tarik Lucas, was recently released. The update was then read by adult advisor, Kathy Shields. The statement that was read can be found here: <https://mailchi.mp/teamtarik/gun-store-update-gas-leaks-and-arpa?e=ebd60593d2>
- An advisory board member expressed confidence that the letter of support for the ban is well outlined and could be ready for a Youth Commission vote very soon.
- It was also suggested by an adult advisor and supported by a commission and advisory board member that individual letters of support for the ban, written by young people are important, encouraged and is an additional way to get involved.

Vote 16 update:

- The Vote 16 project is currently on pause due to circumstances beyond the Vote 16 Committee.
- Vote 16 is not a Youth Commission program, however Youth Commission members can get involved if they choose to do so on their own time.
- Vote 16 updates will be shared when they become available.

Other Business:

Current meeting schedule & format:

- 2nd Wednesday of the month - 6:30 p.m.
- Hybrid format (In person held at Newton Free Library & Virtual)

Vision for 2021-2022 Youth Commission

- 5 open Commissioner positions
- 2 Commissioners to become co-chairs and lead meetings (alternate each month)
- 1 Commissioner to take meeting minutes/notes

Meeting closed at 8:00 p.m.