



**ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL
PARKS, RECREATION AND FAMILY SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES
Owusu Anane, Chair**

Meeting called by: Owusu Anane, Chair | Date: April 22, 2025 | Time: 5:36 PM

Committee Members Present: Anane, Chair | Johnson | Love | Flynn | Conti

City Personnel Present: Shaniqua Jackson (City Clerk), Bryan Jimenez (Legislative Director), Alyssa Kamara (Junior Policy Analyst); Johnathan Jones (Commissioner of Recreation), Raphael Tucker (Deputy Commissioner), Diamond Quiles (Youth Program Facilitator), Tyler Simmons (Youth Outreach Coordinator)

Minutes

Agenda Item(s):

- **SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

Questions and Discussion:

- Committee Chair Owusu Anane invited Commissioner of Recreation Johnathan Jones and his staff to present an update on the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) to members of the Parks, Recreation and Family Services Committee.
 - Chair Anane inquired why the deadline for submitting documents was not extended to which Commissioner Jones explained that promotion had begun earlier and that they were still lacking job opportunities for those who met the deadline.
 - Committee Member Jack Flynn asked how many program participants reenroll. Commissioner Jones shared that approximately half of the participants choose to reenroll, noting growth among eighteen-year-olds.
 - Committee Member Flynn requested information on how local businesses may participate in the program, to which Commissioner Jones noted that the sign-up form for potential Employment Program Worksites could be found on the [city website](#).
 - Council Member Conti requested a list of participating businesses, to which Commissioner Jones agreed to provide one.
 - Council Member Anane asked Commissioner Jones how the Council may assist the program to which Youth Program Facilitator Diamond Quiles shared the need for increased South End business participation.
 - Commissioner Jones added that larger businesses that stay open later may be helpful, expressing the need for diverse participant opportunities.
 - Committee Member Conti inquired about how long participants may work, to which Commissioner Jones explained that participants may only work 4-hour shifts, preferably not on weekends.

- Committee Member Derek Johnson asked for the total number of registrants and participants. Commissioner Jones responded that there were upwards of 200 registrants and ultimately 800 participants.
 - Committee Member Johnson discussed barriers to enrollment. Commissioner Jones elaborated that advertising early may help, but it is important for parents to keep track of their children's essential documents.
 - Council Member Johnson expressed the need to bridge the gap between registrants and participants. Commissioner Jones agreed.
 - Commissioner Jones discussed the registration process, noting that there are 500 students who do not have an SYEP placement due to a lack of worksites. He reiterated the need to keep track of children's essential documents.
 - Council Member Johnson noted the importance of the school district's participation and lengthening the registration process; Commissioner Jones shared his hopes for streamlining the process.
 - Committee Member Johnson suggested that Commissioner Jones advocate for this issue at a roundtable.
- Committee Member Joyce Love asked about the youngest age one could participate, to which Commissioner Jones replied that 14 was the threshold.
 - Committee Member Love asked if a participant would be able to return to the program after being dismissed. Commissioner Jones explained that children are never permanently banned from participation; he proceeded to discuss the progressive discipline process which could lead to a temporary expulsion.
- Committee Chair Anane asked about extending the Summer Youth Employment Program age range to 14 through 24. Commissioner Jones explained that the current age range works well, but the Youth Opportunity Office provides resources to people up to the age of 24.
- Committee Member Flynn emphasized that participants are paid through the city, encouraging worksites to sign up.
- Council Member Joyce Love asked about the age cut-off to which Commissioner Jones explained that children must be 14 years old by the sign-up date. He also shared the opportunity for 15-year-olds to become lifeguards at the new Lincoln Park Pool.

Public Comment:

No public comment was heard.

Adjourn:

The chairperson asked for a motion to adjourn at 6:09 PM, Council Member Love moved to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Conti, and the motion passed by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alyssa Kamara
Junior Policy Analyst