

FACT SHEET

Mayor Brown's Youth Initiative

At the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast on January 17, 2014, Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown announced the launch of his Youth Initiative.

The mayor's youth initiative includes three key actions as starting points.

Expand Mayor's Summer Jobs Program

The Mayor will expand the Summer Jobs Program to increase the number of private-sector employers and youth participants. The program provided more than 600 jobs last summer.

Involving employers from the private, public and nonprofit sectors, the program offers part-time and full-time work experiences to promising young people in the community who otherwise might not have the opportunity.

Youth participants receive job-readiness training, coaching and real work experience. Each youth is assigned a job coach, who serves as a liaison with the program office and the job site supervisor.

The program runs from June 16 through August 8. Participants work for either six or eight weeks. It is open to Duval County residents from age 16 to 21.

Businesses interested in participating can get more information from these sources:

Website: www.coj.net/summerjobs
Email: MayorsSummerJobs@coj.net
Phone: 904-630-CITY

Information for youth interested in participating in the Mayor's Summer Jobs Program will be available in the spring.

Expand Teen Court and Neighborhood Accountability Boards

The Mayor is requesting City Council approval to reallocate funds to increase the number of first-time, nonviolent juvenile offenders able to participate in Teen Court and Neighborhood Accountability Boards, which offer a constructive alternative to arrest and detention for misdemeanor offenses. This action enhances a program currently used by the Sheriff's Office, the State Attorney's Office, and the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court.

Mayor Brown filed legislation (2014-8) for City Council approval to transfer \$55,568 from Jacksonville Journey to Court Administration in support of two part-time program managers to monitor juvenile participants and ensure they complete all sanctions.

With these two case managers, an additional 250 eligible youth would be able to participate each year.

This funding support will also expand the Neighborhood Accountability Boards from their two current locations (at Ribault High School and Oak Hill Elementary) to a third site that will serve Mayport and the Beaches area. The Accountability Boards are operated by volunteers who live or work in the specific area and they follow a restorative justice model that promotes community safety and offender accountability.

Establish a Young Leaders Advisory Council

By Executive Order, the Mayor will establish a Young Leaders Advisory Council to help develop the future leaders of Jacksonville.

The Advisory Council will be an opportunity for young people with leadership potential to learn more about city government and effective citizenship in order to make a positive difference as young leaders. It will also enable young people to share their concerns and offer their ideas to city officials on how to make Jacksonville a better community.

The Advisory Council will be composed of a diverse group of 25 seniors and 25 juniors from any local high school. Participation will be for two years (except for the inaugural class of seniors). Advisory Council members will be selected based on recommendations from high school principals and community organizations.