



## YOUTH PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

*Planning Commission Retreat – September 7, 2023*

### **Question:**

Is the Planning Commission interested in further exploring youth member(s)?

### **Background**

Youth/young adults are often a key voice that is underrepresented in local planning decisions. Since 2007, the City's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) Board have appointed two youth members. The positions held by youth members have evolved over the years, but currently are structured as follows:

- The board is 9 positions total, with 2 held by members between the ages of 15-19 at the start of their term
- Youth member terms are for one-year and are aligned with the academic year (Sept 1-June 30)
- Youth members may serve a maximum of 4 one-year terms
- Youth positions are non-voting members

Other cities in the region address youth representation in a variety of ways. Examples include:

- City of Pacific: One Planning Commission position reserved for youth (age 16-21), with one-year term
- City of Edmonds: Establishes that a high school or college youth may participate as a nonvoting member on any board or commission
- City of Auburn: "Ex Officio" nonvoting high school youth representative for the Planning Commission, with one-year term.
- YMCA of Greater Seattle Get Engaged Program: Places individuals 18-29 on Seattle boards and commissions – one year terms as fully vested and voting members. Started in 2001 and is dedicated to cultivating the next generation of leaders and advocating for the influence of young voices in city affairs.