



Youth Commission

Wednesday, February 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Bristol City Hall-111 North Main Street Bristol, CT 06010 Room G-1

1. Call to Order

Chair Matthew Gotowala called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

a. Pledge of Allegiance

b. Attendance

Members Present:

Matthew Gotowala, Chair
Deborah Ahl, Vice Chair
Richard Kilby, Commissioner
Cecilia Garay, Commissioner
Jonathan Lukasiewicz, Commissioner
Antonio Chatfield, Commissioner
RJ Motel, Commissioner
Alexander Parenti, Commissioner
Donna Osuch, Commissions
Steven Seymour, City Council Liaison
Dr. Joshua Medeiros, Superintendent
Stephen Bynum, Youth and Community
Services Supervisor

Absent:

Ryan Broderick, Commissioner

2. Public Participation

Nothing to report.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Approval of Minutes: December 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Kilby to approve the December 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Motel; all in favor; motion carried.

4. Supervisor's Report

a. Supervisor's Report

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Supervisor's Report. Supervisor Bynum provided updates on the number of recent intakes, referrals, community concerns, and the outcome of the Holiday Gift Giving Program. Supervisor Bynum thanked and acknowledged all those who aided in another successful holiday season; Discussion followed.

b. Project Aware Updates

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Project Aware Updates. Youth and Family Coordinators Ashante Malone and Raven Cody updated the commission on the benefits of the programs that are currently running and the programs that are set to begin; Discussion followed.

c. BEST Update

BEST Project Coordinator Deedra Willingham presented the BEST Update. Project Coordinator Willingham updated the commission on upcoming events, and the start of the Youth Coalition that will be meeting every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 4:30 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. at the Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services office on 51 High Street; Discussion followed.

d. Year to Date Financials

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the Year to Date Financials; Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros stated that the Board of Finance Meeting will be on February 24, 2026, and will be presenting next year's budget. Included in the budget request will be the request to fund the BEST Project Coordinator position as a full-time employee, and extend the invite to the commission for added support; Discussion followed.

e. Youth Diversion Team

Youth and Community Services Supervisor Stephen Bynum presented the updates on the Youth Diversion Team; Discussion followed.

5. Youth Report

Commissioner RJ Motel presented the Youth Report. Commissioner Motel has created a Facebook account to increase public awareness of the work of the Youth Commission; Discussion followed.

6. New Business

a. Consider expanding the Youth Commission to a Youth and Community Services Commission and refer the matter to the City Ordinance Committee.

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the expansion of the Youth Commission to a Youth and Community Services Commission and refer the matter to the City Ordinance Committee. Dr. Medeiros stated that Community Services is not officially represented on any city board; Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Vice Chair Ahl to approve the expansion of the Youth Commission to a Youth and Community Services Commissioner and refer the matter to the City Ordinance Committee.

Seconded by Commissioner Chatfield; all in favor; motion carried.

b. Youth and Prevention Leaders Awards Discussion and Program Review

Chair Matthew Gotowala presented the Youth and Prevention Leaders Awards Discussion and Program Review. The Youth and Prevention Leaders Awards Ceremony will be held on May 6, 2026; Discussion followed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chatfield to begin the Youth and Prevention Leaders Award Program.

Seconded by Commissioner Parenti; all in favor; motion carried.

c. Department Strategic Master Plan - Littering Campaign - Youth Involvement Ideas

Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Superintendent Dr. Joshua Medeiros presented the Department's Strategic Master Plan - Littering Campaign and youth involvement ideas; Discussion followed.

d. By Commissioners

Nothing to Report

7. Old Business

a. By Commissioners

Commissioner Kilby thanked the newest commissioners for their involvement and engagement.

8. Adjournment

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Chatfield to adjourn at 7:23 p.m.
Seconded by Commission Motel; all in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amaris Estrada
Recording Secretary
Youth Commission