



**Item:** Ordinance 3045, Creating Title 2, Chapter 51 of the Official Codes of the City of Great Falls, Establishing a Youth Council

**From:** Patty Cadwell, Neighborhood Council Coordinator/Weed and Seed Director

**Initiated By:** Great Falls Youth Council

**Presented By:** Patty Cadwell, Neighborhood Council Coordinator/Weed and Seed Director

**Action Requested:** City Commission accept Ordinance 3045 on first reading and set final reading for September 1, 2009

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**Suggested Motion:**

1. Commissioner moves:

“I move that the City Commission accept Ordinance on first reading, and set final reading for September 1, 2009.”

2. Mayor calls for a second, discussion, inquiries from the public, and calls the vote.

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**Staff Recommendation:** It is recommended the City Commission accept Ordinance 3045 on first reading and set the second and final reading for September 1, 2009. (Youth Council members will be out of town for the August 18, 2009 Commission meeting).

**Background:** The Great Falls Youth Council has been in existence for 1 year with 6 active members. Its formation occurred as a result of a vision that actualized in the form of a Weed and Seed strategy. Weed and Seed personnel distributed applications to Great Falls High, CMR High, and Central High. Twenty-one applications were received and there are 6 core members who plan to solicit other members in the future. These youth believe their input to the City Commission and their actions to improve youth involvement can positively influence the citizens of Great Falls.

To date, the Youth Council has conducted a survey of 500 high school students that they wish to present to the City Commission. The Youth Council also plans a video survey of residents of the Weed and Seed site. In addition, youth members plan to begin the process of establishing a Youth Center in Great Falls: a place where youth can gather for fun and learning. The Youth Council members will be attending a NeighborWorks USA Youth Leadership Institute August 16 – 20, 2009 through a partnership between Weed and Seed and NeighborWorks.

The Great Falls Youth Council will fall under the workload of the Neighborhood Council Coordinator. The Youth Council will meet at least monthly.

**Concurrences:** Members of the Weed and Seed Steering Committee; Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent of GFPS; NeighborWorks Great Falls, and members of the Neighborhood Councils concur that a Youth Council, serving in an advisory capacity to the City Commission, will benefit the citizens of Great Falls through the civic and social involvement of the youth members.

**Fiscal Impact:** There will be no fiscal impact to the City of Great Falls.

**Alternatives:** The City Commission may deny Ordinance 3045.

**Attachments/Exhibits:** Ordinance 3045, Exhibit A and Youth Council Mission and Bylaws.