How Did We Get Here?

- Children, Youth, and Families Master Plan
  - Resolution adopted March 3, 2009 – Council commits to:
    - “Creating opportunities for meaningful youth involvement, such as internships or service on appointed boards or commissions”
    - “Offering training and mentoring opportunities to employees to learn how to meaningfully engage youth in decision making that affects their lives”
    - “Seeking alignment with CYFMP when making policy or procedural decisions that directly impacts children, youth, and families”

- Council direction
- Community interest
Why Youth Civic Engagement?

• Provide avenues for youth to express opinions
• Involve youth in planning and decision-making
• Prepare youth to be good citizens
• Builds skills, experience and confidence
• Provides opportunities to make a difference
• To build a better community!
Importance of Youth Engagement

Youth Contribute to Communities

Communities Contribute to Youth

“There must be an unwavering belief that youth engagement in government is good for government.”

-Building Effective Youth Councils
Developing the Model

• Staff researched national models
  – Hampton, Virginia
  – Caldwell, Idaho
  – NLC – Institute for Youth, Education, and Families
  – Alliance for Innovation
  – Children, Youth, and Family Master Plan

• Range of options
  – Informal ad-hoc group
  – Formal with Youth Engagement Coordinator
Youth Engagement Pathways at the City of Durango

Model adapted from Hampton, VA Youth Commission
Service Pathway

• Short-term, meaningful volunteer opportunities that introduce community engagement to broad range of youth
  – Durango High School requirement for graduation
  – Animas High School commitment to community service
• Examples:
  – Trash pickup/park maintenance
  – Special events
  – Developing flyers, brochures, etc.
  – Library
  – Recycling center
Influence Pathway

- Youth participate in advisory roles to provide input
  - Ex-officio members of City Boards & Commissions appointed by Council
  - Council liaison
  - Focus groups
- Higher level of commitment than Service Pathway
- Some examples:
  - Public Art Commission
  - Teen Library Advisory Board
  - Transit Advisory Board
  - Water Commission
  - Natural Lands Preservation Advisory Board
  - Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Shared Leadership Pathway

• Mayor’s Youth Advisory Commission
• Mentorship opportunities
• Skill development
  – Leadership
  – Municipal budgeting
  – Public speaking
  – Leading change
• Other opportunities
  – CML annual conference
  – NLC Congressional City conference (D.C.)
  – NLC Congress of Cities (Denver, Dec. 2010)
Mayor’s Youth Advisory Commission Recommendations

• Composition
  – 7 members + 2 alternates
  – Open to all 9th – 12th graders in the City
    • Animas High School
    • Durango High School
    • Home schooled
  – No predetermined make-up of commission – seek to represent all grades
  – Elect among themselves:
    • Chair (or Co-Chairs)
    • Vice-Chair
    • Secretary
    • Treasurer
Mayor’s Youth Advisory Commission Recommendations (cont.)

• Terms
  – One-year term
  – September 1 through August 31
  – Youth apply and are interviewed and appointed by Council
  – Interviews in March/April (mid September for 1st year)

• Meetings
  – Monthly meetings
  – Likely Thursday evenings
  – Council Chambers

• Budget
  – Projects
  – Skills development/possibly travel
Mayor’s Youth Advisory Commission Recommendations (cont.)

• Recruitment Strategy
  – Flyer and application
  – Work with media to generate interest
    • Herald
    • Radio
    • City Span 10
    • Student Newspapers
  – Work with Jr. High Schools to generate interest among 8th graders
Mayor’s Youth Advisory Commission Recommendations (cont.)

• **Staffing**
  – Mayor is Council liaison to Commission
  – Joint staffing commitment
    • City Manager’s office
    • Dale Garland – Durango High School
    • Jake Lauer – Animas High School

• **Work plan**
  – Resolution to create Commission
  – Memorandum of Understanding with 9-R and AHS
  – Develop draft by-laws
  – Orientation Program
  – Recruitment Strategy/Communication Plan
Mayor’s Youth Advisory Commission Recommendations (cont.)

- Authentic participation
  - Assign real issues and ask for recommendations
  - Need to see outcome or results
  - Examples of issues:
    - Their own by-laws
    - City use of social media
    - Education channel programming
    - Graffiti prevention
    - Others??
Questions?

A BIG Thank You to:

• Dale Garland, Durango High School
• Jake Lauer, Animas High School
• Michael Ackerman, Animas High School