

WELCOME

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Youth  
Commission  
Advisory  
Board

- Find a seat anywhere
- Sign in on the sign-in sheet at your table
- Fill out a name tag & put it on
  - First name, school/organization, pronouns (if you're comfortable)
- Grab an agenda and introduce yourself to your neighbors

We will begin shortly!




**NEWTON**

**YOUTH COMMISSION  
ADVISORY BOARD**

**MONDAY  
OCTOBER 27,  
2025**

# AGENDA – OCTOBER 27, 2025

- Open Meeting – 6:30pm
- Welcome, Housekeeping, Expectations, and the Open Meeting Law
- Getting to Know You
- Overview of Newton's Municipal Government
  - Guest Presenter: Shin-Yi Lao, Newton Health & Human Services Commissioner
- Discussion
- Announcements, Upcoming Programming
- Close Meeting – 8:00pm



**Thank you for  
being here.**



# EXPECTATIONS

- Be on time (or early!)
- Email me if you will be late, need to leave early, miss a meeting
- Only miss 1-2 meetings
- Take breaks
- Phone's off and away
- Participate in discussions (step up, step back)
- Respectful (ideas, people, space, time)
- Ask questions

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# ELEVATE YOUTH VOICE & EXPERIENCE

WE WORRY ABOUT WHAT A [YOUNG  
PERSON] WILL BECOME TOMORROW,  
YET WE FORGET THAT HE IS SOMEONE  
TODAY. STACIA TAUSCHER, ARTIST & DANCER



# NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION

NINE NEWTON YOUTH  
ADVISED BY THIS BOARD

# MASSACHUSETTS OPEN MEETING LAW

Because we're a public board, our work must be **open and transparent**.

- Meetings are **open to the public**.
- **Agendas** must be posted **48 hours in advance**.
- Discuss **only items on the agenda**.
- **Decisions and votes** happen in public meetings.
- No discussing board business by **text, email, or chat**.
- **Meeting minutes** must be recorded and shared.

**Bottom line:** Keep discussions public and stay on the agenda.



LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER

FOUR CORNERS

# FOUR CORNERS

- Each corner of the room is labeled with A, B, C or D.
- A question will be read out loud.
- Go to the corner that best matches your answer.

# FOUR CORNERS

## **What makes a strong community?**

- A.** People who care about each other
- B.** Shared goals and traditions
- C.** Open communication and transparency
- D.** Access to resources and support

# FOUR CORNERS

**What's your favorite Newton spot to spend time?**

- A. Crystal Lake
- B. Newton Free Library
- C. A Village Center (Newton Centre, Newtonville, etc.)
- D. A park or trail (Cold Spring, Hammond Pond, etc.)

# FOUR CORNERS

**How do you like to get involved in your community?**

- A.** Volunteering or helping others directly
- B.** Attending events or meetings
- C.** Sharing ideas or speaking up
- D.** Supporting from behind the scenes

# FOUR CORNERS

**What's your go-to Newton event?**

- A. PorchFest
- B. Newton Harvest Fair
- C. Village Day
- D. July 4th Celebration at Albemarle

# FOUR CORNERS

**What's the best way to make change happen?**

- A. Voting and civic participation
- B. Organizing or protesting
- C. Educating and raising awareness
- D. Working with leaders or local government

# FOUR CORNERS

**What would you love to see more of in Newton?**

- A.** Youth leadership and voice in city decisions
- B.** Fun community events and spaces for teens
- C.** Environmental and sustainability projects
- D.** Efforts that promote inclusion and belonging



# YOUTH COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD

OCTOBER 27, 2025

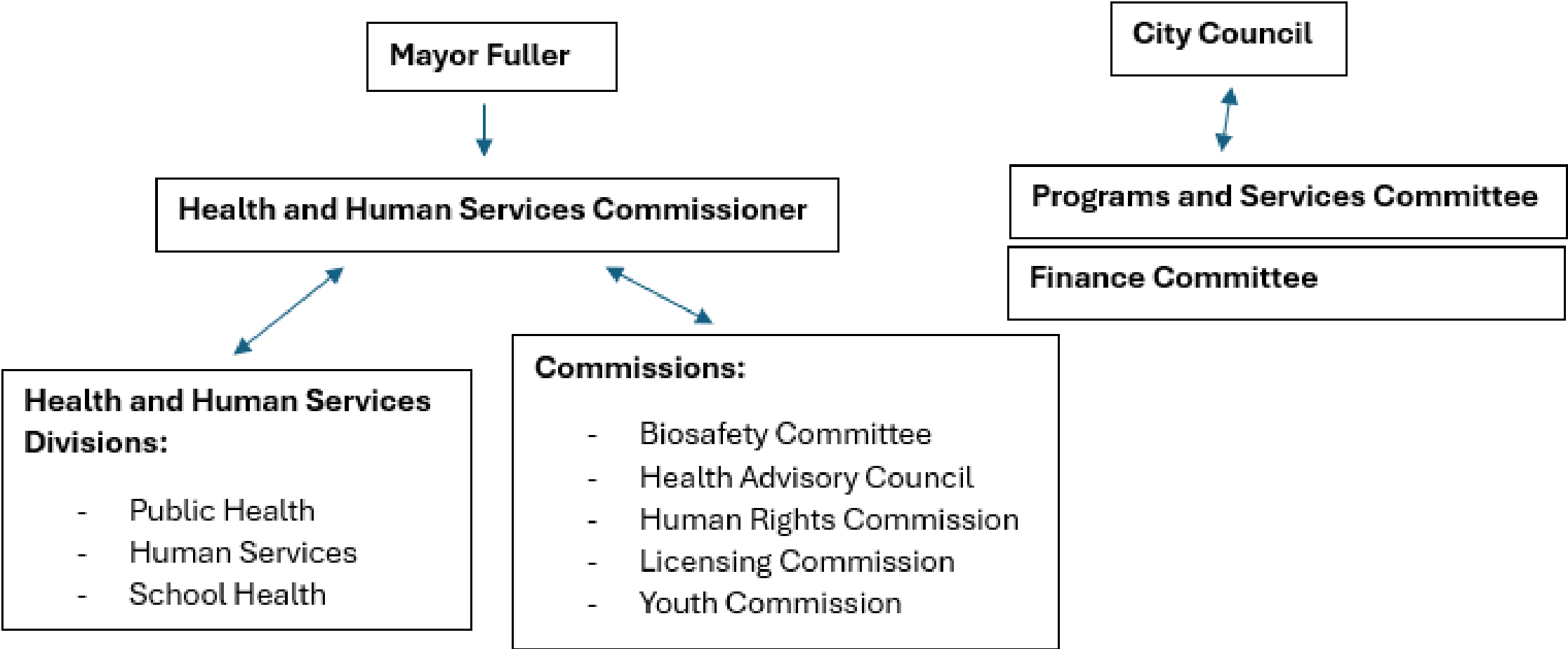


# YCAB BASICS

- Created by Newton city ordinance to "...advise the youth commission and offer recommendations in respect to matters concerning Newton youth."
- Appointed by the Mayor for two-year terms
- 30 members: 15 youth and 15 adults representing youth-serving organizations in Newton

# YC & YCAB GOALS

- Encourage youth leadership
- Improve access to youth resources at local, state, and federal levels
- Coordinate services and activities for young people
- Develop and implement youth-focused programming
- Ensure continuity and long-term impact of youth efforts



**Mayor Fuller**

**City Council**

**Health and Human Services Commissioner**

**Programs and Services Committee**

**Finance Committee**

**Health and Human Services Divisions:**

- Public Health
- Human Services
- School Health

**Commissions:**

- Biosafety Committee
- Health Advisory Council
- Human Rights Commission
- Licensing Commission
- Youth Commission



# DISCUSSION

## ADULTS & YOUTH

**ADULTS** - WHAT BARRIERS MIGHT PREVENT YOUNG PEOPLE FROM GETTING INVOLVED — AND HOW CAN WE HELP REMOVE THEM?

**YOUTH** - WHAT MAKES IT EASY OR HARD FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TO GET INVOLVED IN COMMUNITY ISSUES?



# REPORT BACK

ADULTS & YOUTH





# DISCUSSION

ALL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

**WHAT ARE THE TOP 2-3 ISSUES FACING  
NEWTON'S YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY?**



# REPORT BACK

ALL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

# ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

- What's going on?



# THANK YOU!

See you next time –

Monday, November 17, 2025 @ 6:30pm

\*Don't forget! Forms, co-chair sign-up.