



**RECOGNITION/APPOINTMENTS ITEM NO. 5.B.**

**FOR COUNCIL:** July 22, 2024

**WARD IMPACTED:** City-Wide Impact

**SUBJECT:** Presentation and Recognition of the 2024 Youth Enrichment Program (YEP) Participants, as requested by the Human Resources Department.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** None; Presentation only.

**STRATEGIC PLAN LINK:**

Goal 1. Financially Sound City Providing Quality Basic Services

**STRATEGIC PLAN SIGNIFICANCE:**

Objective 1c. Engaged residents that are well informed and involved in an open governance process

**BACKGROUND:** The Youth Enrichment Program (YEP) started in 2019 to support a partnership between youth and local government in the City of Bloomington. Students aged 15-22 are matched with a mentor in one of the City's 14 departments to learn skills in civic engagement, office etiquette, and collaboration.

For high school students, the program provides a comprehensive understanding of the professional duties that support municipal governments. For college students, the program creates an authentic channel through which young adults can explore their interests, future career paths, and strengths in an office environment. All participants gain a sense of responsibility for the City's well-being, which is essential to local government whose future depends on today's youth.

**COMMUNITY GROUPS/INTERESTED PERSONS CONTACTED:** The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) and students from McLean County schools.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** N/A

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING IMPACT:** N/A

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IMPACT:** This request meets the following goals and objectives of the Bloomington Comprehensive Plan 2035: N/A

Respectfully submitted for consideration.

Prepared by: Leslie Yocum, City Clerk