



For Immediate Release  
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Record Number Of Students Will Be  
Preparing and Debating City Ordinances, Campaigning for Council  
Office,  
And Participating In Lively Panel Discussions,  
At 2009 YMCA Youth in City Government Conference October 6 & 7

October 1, 2009 – A record nearly 200 students from 17 high schools will be learning about city government and responsible citizenship at the October 6 & 7 YMCA Youth in City Government Conference. Teens of diverse abilities, socio-economic, cultural and religious backgrounds will be working together and independently in participatory exercises to strengthen their skills for having an active voice in their communities. **(A list of participating high schools, and schedule of times and activities is below.)**

Coordinated by the YMCA Youth City Council elected at the previous conference, the fall conference will include panel discussions with city leaders over issues impacting teens; workshops on debating and political journalism; a lively exercise on understanding cultural differences and breaking down the walls between countries; debating ordinances; and campaigning for 2009 to 2010 YMCA Cincinnati youth council and mayor positions.

The conference will conclude at 1:00 p.m. on October 7 with a swearing in ceremony of the newly elected council in Cincinnati City Hall Council Chambers. The teen council will officially be introduced before the City of Cincinnati Council meeting beginning at 2:00 p.m. that day.

"This is really exciting to be expecting such great attendance this year. These students are our future. It is so important for them to have the communication skills they will be working on, and to have an understanding of government," said Jana Lavellle Nattermann, youth zone director for the YMCA of Greater Cincinnati.

The year-round YMCA Youth in City Government program gives Cincinnati students the opportunity to learn about local, state, national and international politics. It offers teen participants a venue to gain leadership skills, strengthen their ability to express ideas clearly and persuasively, and learn fellowship by working together with peers from diverse backgrounds.

As the area's largest youth and family-focused not-for-profit, the YMCA reinforces character values through assets-based programs and services to more than 143,000 individuals, kids and families annually. Adult mentors encourage young people to be caring, responsible, respectful, and honest through sports, summer camps, structured child and afterschool care, and leadership building programs. Branches offer quality time for families, resources for parents,

and a variety of opportunities for seniors to be active. The Membership for All sliding scale fee structure means everyone, no matter their ability to pay, can always benefit from the YMCA. Last year alone more than 17,400 families and individuals enjoyed healthier and happier lives because generous partners helped the YMCA in its vision to be accessible to all.

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## **FACTS**

YMCA Youth in City Government Conference

### **WHEN and WHERE:**

October 6, 2008      Duke Energy Center      from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
October 7, 2008      Cincinnati City Council Chamber (City Hall) and lunch at Cincinnati Club  
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### **AGENDA:**

#### **October 6, 2009**

8:30	Registration	
8:45	Breakfast	
9:00	Youth Council Introductions, slide show	
9:10	Devotion	Christina Jones, Youth Council Member
9:20	Welcome	Chris Monzel, City Council Member
9:30	Ice Breakers (lead by youth council)	
10:00	County Commissioners – David Pepper, Greg Hartmann	
10:30	Small Group Break Out (discussion on upcoming panel – how do you want your city to change, work on questions)	
10:50	Panel Discussion	Room 200
	Jude Johnson – Parks Department	
	Sgt. William Bell - CPD	
	Chris Eilerman – City Manager's Office	
	Andrew Glenn – Public Services	
	U Give	
11:30	Lunch with City Council Candidates	Room 200

12:30	Youth Council Discussion	Room 200
1:00	Workshops (each 20 min – all groups rotate through each workshop)	
	Debating – Mercedes Roling	Room 201
	Ordinance Writing – Miles Lindahl	Room 202
	Campaigning – Travis Hines	Room 203
	Biased School – youth council	Room 204
2:30	Closing session	Room 200

### **October 7, 2008**

8:30	Meet at City Hall
8:45	Speeches/Voting
9:40	Debate ordinances
10:45	Leave for Cincinnati Club
11:00	Civic Engagement Luncheon
12:45	Return to City Hall
1:00	Swearing in ceremony with City Solicitor John Curp
1:30	Community forum
2:00	City council meeting

**Dismissal will be after city council meeting**

### **Participating High Schools**

Aiken High School	Purcell Marion High School
Aldersgate Christian Academy	Riverview East Academy
Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy	School for Creative & Performing Arts
Hughes Center	St. Xavier High School
McAuley High School	The Summit Country Day School
	Ursuline Academy
Mother of Mercy High School	Western Hills University
Mt. Notre Dame High School	Western Hills Design Tech
Oyler High School	Woodward