

# Junior Council Person Program

## Overview and Application for Participation

**About the Program:** The Junior Council Person Program is designed to provide participants with an overview of city government. This will be accomplished through 12 weeks of workshops and council meetings whereby participants will meet professionals in civil service careers, understand department responsibilities to the people of Bridgeport and experience first-hand the valuable role city council members play in representing their respective constituencies and bringing about positive change.

**Eligibility** – Participants must be Bridgeport residents who are in their Sophomore, Junior, or Senior year of high school. Out of school youth are also eligible to apply but must be 16 years of age or older.

**Selection Process** – Once an application is received, brief interviews will be conducted to ensure both the applicant and the program director feel confident in the applicant's ability to fulfill program expectations. During this time, applicants will have an opportunity to ask questions.

### **12 Week Overview**

**Weeks 1, 2, and 3** - focus on an overview of city government, council responsibilities, and a tour of critical departments.

**Week 4** - participants sit alongside their assigned council person where they will observe, take notes, and ask questions.

**Weeks 5, 6, and 7** - participants learn about the voter registration process, requirements to run for public office, availability of youth services, summer jobs, working papers, and college/career opportunities as well as emergency management operations including an overview of police and fire.

**Week 8** - participants sit alongside their assigned council person.

**Weeks 9 and 10** - overview of Public Health, Economic Development and Neighborhood Revitalization as well as community engagement opportunities and potential careers available in education.

**Week 11** - participants sit alongside their assigned council person.

**Week 12** – participants gain a better understanding of budget and appropriations

Awards presentation, pictures, and family gathering – During council meeting

For more information, please contact the Department of Youth Services by emailing one of the following individuals: [tammy.papa@bridgeportct.gov](mailto:tammy.papa@bridgeportct.gov)

Completed applications can be emailed or dropped off in person at City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Room 301