

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

In 2008, after a great deal of development and planning, the City of Lowell Youth Council was founded by the Lowell Youth Violence Prevention Coalition (*Youth Reaching Out*) in April of 2010. The mission of the City of Lowell Youth Council is to make a positive impact on the community through the involvement of its youth in local government to provide insight, perspective and leadership on those issues affecting them.

The forming of this youth council was done through a collective coalition effort of youth agencies in Lowell, MA, including the *Lowell Community Health Center Teen Coalition, Big Brother Big Sister of Greater Lowell, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell, YWCA of Lowell, and the United Teen Equality Center.*

The youth council is a fairly new formed organization and has just started laying the ground work of what is to come. Youth members of the council work closely with city officials such as members of the City Council Youth subcommittee and the City Manager in order to ensure that the voices of their peers being heard.

Currently, the youth members of the council are working with other youth led organizations to decrease the voting age for local elections from 18 to 17 so that high school seniors may take part in selecting those who lead them. Other areas of interest include education, employment, recreation, safety, health and neighborhood issues among many others.

The Lowell Youth Council was officially sworn in on April 13, 2010 by the City Council. The Youth Council consists of nine youth councilors and is currently accepting new applicants. The membership is open to Lowell residents between the ages of 13 – 20 and members do not have to be enrolled in school. We are looking for motivated young individuals dedicated to helping the Lowell community at large through civic engagement.

For more information on the City of Lowell Youth Council and its application process please contact:

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Sincerely,

**Francis Ndicu**  
Chair of City of Lowell Youth Council

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