



City of Palm Bay, Florida  
**YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD  
APPLICATION**

Office of The

AUG 23 2024

City Clerk

The vision for the City of Palm Bay's Youth Advisory Board is to empower caring youth dedicated to personal development and servant leadership. If you are interested in applying for membership to the Board, please complete the following application.

Applicants **MUST** be a City of Palm Bay resident for at least 1 year and be in grades **9-12**. Please type or print clearly in blue or black ink. Attach additional sheets as requested. ALL information must be completed in order to be considered for the Palm Bay Youth Advisory Board.

**Student Information:**

Name: **Caelen Joven Garcia** Age: **16**

School: **Westshore Jr/Sr High School** Grade: **11**

Home Address: **133 Brandy Creek Circle**

City: **PALM BAY** State: **Florida** Zip Code: **32909**

Home Telephone: **321-355-0179** Cell Phone: **321-355-0179**

Email: **realcaeleng@gmail.com** Date of Birth: **04/17/2008**

Parent/Guardian: **Joven Garcia**

Do you have transportation to get to Youth Advisory Board meetings/events? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Please attach your response to the following:

1. Why do you want to serve as a member of the Youth Advisory Board?
2. What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good member?
3. If you could bring one thing to this city or change one thing, what would it be?

**When reapplying, you do not need to answer questions 1 to 3 above.**

Please provide two (2) adult references (non-relatives) with phone numbers. You must also attach letters of recommendation from these individuals. The letters of reference should be from a dean, principal, teacher, guidance counselor, pastor, coach, employer, neighbor, etc.

1. Name: Justin Snively Contact No.: 321-345-8304
2. Name: Athena Pietrzak Contact No.: 321-242-4730 x. 28681

I have read and understand the commitment required for the City of Palm Bay's Youth Advisory Board and realize the importance of teamwork and cooperation, and I am willing to make this commitment.

Student Signature: Caelen Joven Garcia Date: 8/21/24

**Parent/Legal Guardian Permission:**

I hereby give my permission for Caelen Joven Garcia to seek the position of board member on the City of Palm Bay's Youth Advisory Board.

Parent/Guardian Signature: Joven Garcia Date: 8/21/24

Home Telephone: 321-394-6863 Cell Phone: 321-394-6863

**Emergency Contact Information:**

Name: Joven Garcia

Relationship: Father Contact No.: 321-394-6863

Mail to or drop off at:

City of Palm Bay  
Office of the City Clerk  
120 Malabar Road, SE  
Palm Bay, FL 32907

Email complete packet to:

Judy.Denis@pbfl.org

**Why do you want to serve as a member of the Youth Advisory Board:**

By being on the youth advisory board, I hope to make my voice heard by speaking up for stronger education in our city. For context, usnews.com ranked 19 public schools in Brevard County and the best our city got in the list was 13th, Bayside High, and the lowest being 18th, Heritage High School (Pineapple Cove got 8th place, however, this isn't very impactful given the relatively small enrollment and its status as a charter school). To me, this is unacceptable as a student in our city. How are we supposed to have any sort of pride in our city if every other city in the county has better schools than us? By joining the Youth Advisory Board, I hope to be the flame that ignites a desire in our city to fight for better schools which will allow our kids to get the future they deserve.

**What personal skills and characteristics do you possess that would make you a good member?**

I truly believe that God gave me a passion for politics which provides me the ability to help people. This passion has grown into my planned future career being in politics and much of my thought revolving around social issues in our country such as in education and reproductive access. Additionally, I have an extremely powerful work ethic; when I believe in something, I always work my best at it. This is exemplified with my ongoing high school career as a varsity swimmer, a competitive debater, an officer serving my second term as the Student Government Communications Officer in my school, my running for Junior Class president, my path to consistently exercise, and being a member of Westshore Band for the 5th year, and much more. Moreover, I possess articulative public speaking which I believe is a tool that has the potential of uniting our city to be stronger.

**If you could bring one thing to this city or change one thing, what would it be?**

I would bring reform to our city dedicated to infrastructure development based on education (as I summarized earlier), jobs, and regional culture. The current state of construction in Palm Bay worries me because kids in Palm Bay are growing up in a city that is memorable for its car washes,

storage units, endless housing zone, rather than for its unique culture or people. Instead, our city could focus on construction that replaces infrastructure that brings in jobs and businesses. By focusing on bringing in local businesses, we can unite our community together by having citizens support each other with goods/services and economically in a personal way. Furthermore, by having citizens interact through local businesses, we can get to know each other more and build a regional culture, rather than mindlessly driving by one another.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Justin Snively and I am the band director at West Shore Jr./Sr. High School in Melbourne, Florida. I have had the pleasure of knowing Caelen Garcia for the last three years as his teacher. In my position, I have the distinct privilege of seeing the same students in my class every year until they graduate. It's always exciting seeing students develop their own opinions, passions, and identities as they grow up throughout their time at West Shore. Students like Caelen, who began asking questions about policies and politics in 9th grade, running in school elections and becoming the class Communications Officer in 10th grade, and who continues to serve his class, and seek more opportunities to test his leadership skills in 11th grade. If there's one piece of advice Caelen has taken from me, it's that experience is the most important teacher. He's not afraid to put himself out there. He knows that "winning" a highschool election is not the test of his leadership skills. Instead, it's enacting the policies he promised, continuing to keep his word, and leading by example that is what is most important. As a Junior in my class, he continues to work just as hard now as he did when he was first learning the saxophone in beginning band. He challenges himself daily, learning new music and testing his abilities to perform at higher and higher levels. This past year he was able to take his performance skills to new heights. He received the highest rating of "Superior" for his solo performance at the district level band competition and was invited to perform for judges at the State level as well, being one of the few students from our school to attend. He is a student I can count on to be there when he's needed. He deals with pressure and set-backs by coming up with solutions. He's not afraid to ask for advice and guidance. He comes in prepared, is a confident speaker and musician, and steps up to volunteer when we need his help in the band. I think he would make a great addition to any group, given the opportunity to serve them.

Justin Snively  
Band Director  
West Shore Jr./Sr. High School

August 21, 2024

RE: Palm Bay City Council

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Caelen Garcia. He was one of the top students in my AP US History class last year and I feel he is an extremely qualified leader. Caelen was successful in my class due to his work ethic. He always turned in his work on time and did extra credit when offered. AP US History, along with his other AP classes, has taught Caelen time management. He is a Junior at West Shore Junior/Senior High School, which is ranked 43 in the nation among high schools.

West Shore prepares our students for college and the real world. I still have conversations with Caelen about the current issues in the world including our economy, the war in Gaza and the current Presidential candidates. In our classrooms we often debate issues to bring forth academic discussion and the knowledge of an issue. Caelen always participated with vigor, willing to stand up for his beliefs.

I feel Caelen would be a perfect choice for the Palm Bay City Council position due to his leadership skills including being the Student Government Association Communications Officer for two years and running for Junior Class President and his personal ethics. Caelen is a determined, dedicated and ambitious individual.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Athena Pietrzak

AP Teacher/ West Shore Jr/Sr High