



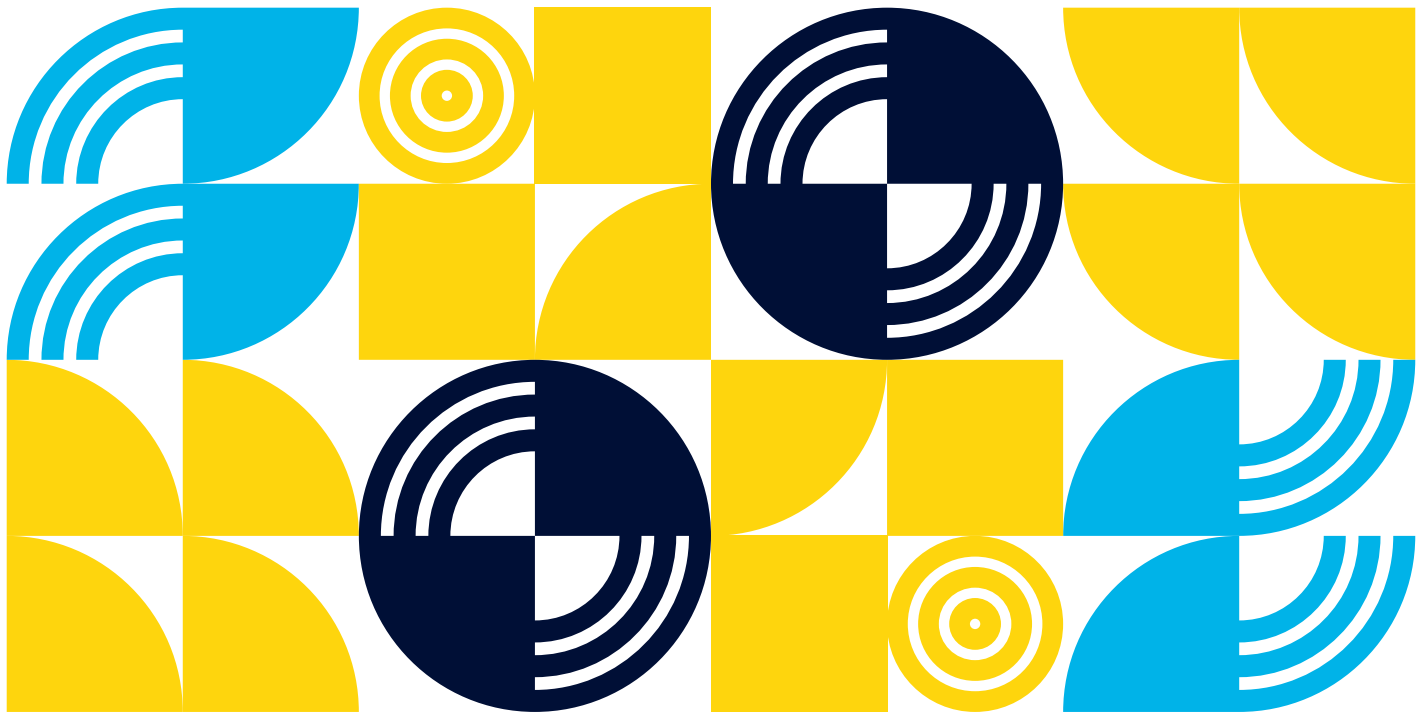
City of Bloomington Common Council

Legislative Packet – Addendum

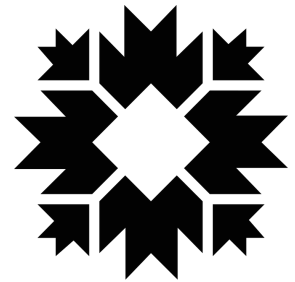
Posted on Tuesday, 15 April 2025

Wednesday, 16 April 2025

Regular Session at 6:30pm



City of Bloomington **Commission on the** **Status of Black Males**



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Commission on the
Status of Black Males

2024 **Annual** **Report**

PREPARED BY :

Andrew Shannon

Liaison, Commission on the Status of
Black Males

andrew.shannon@bloomington.in.gov
812-349-3483

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

401 N Morton Street,
Suite 260

Bloomington, IN, 47403

BLOOMINGTON.IN.GOV/CSBM



Table Of Contents

02

Message from the Chair

Vision for the future and goals for the next year

03

About Us

Commission Purpose

Organizational Overview

Commission Staff

06

Key Achievements and Impact

Major Accomplishments & Program Highlights

Strategic Goals and Initiatives

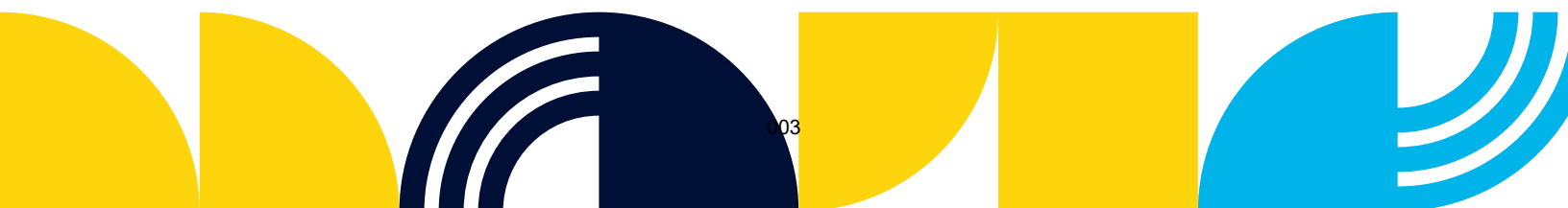
Community and Stakeholder Engagement

18

Get Connected

Call to Action

Contact Information



City of Bloomington **Commission on the** **Status of Black Males**

Message from the Chair

James Sanders, CSBM Chair

As Chair of the Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males (CSBM), I am honored to share the progress we have made over the past year. Since our founding in 2001, the CSBM has been dedicated to addressing the challenges Black males face in our community while also celebrating their achievements and contributions. Our mission remains steadfast: to foster empowerment, equity, and opportunity through meaningful initiatives and advocacy.



While we take pride in our accomplishments, we must also acknowledge the ongoing challenges that demand our attention. Systemic disparities in education, health, criminal justice, and employment continue to impact Black males, and despite our efforts, much work remains. We are committed to pushing forward, addressing these inequities, and advocating for lasting change.

Community engagement is essential to our success. Although we have made great strides in bringing people together across different sectors, our work is never complete. We actively seek new partnerships, fresh ideas, and increased participation to expand our impact. We encourage community members, organizations, and businesses to join us in this important mission.

Additionally, financial support remains a critical need. As we broaden our reach and enhance our programs, we rely on the generosity of those who share our vision. Every contribution—whether time, resources, or funding—helps us move closer to a stronger, more equitable future.

Looking ahead, the CSBM remains unwavering in its commitment to advocacy, collaboration, and action. We will continue hosting forums, organizing impactful events, and working alongside local, state, and national partners to drive meaningful progress. Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Together, we can create lasting change and ensure a brighter future for Black males in Bloomington.

Sincerely,
James Sanders

City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Commission Purpose

2024 Annual Report

The Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males (CSBM), established in 2001 and housed within the Community and Family Resources Department, is committed to addressing disparities affecting Black males while recognizing and celebrating their contributions. Comprised of seven appointed members, CSBM focuses on advocacy, action, and collaboration to foster equity and opportunity in Bloomington.

The Commission's core objectives include:

- **Addressing Key Issues:** Developing action committees that tackle disparities in education, health, criminal justice, and employment to ensure Black males have access to the resources and opportunities needed to thrive.
- **Driving Systemic Change:** Serving as a catalyst for public and private initiatives that create meaningful, sustainable solutions to the complex challenges affecting Black males, recognizing that their well-being strengthens the entire community.
- **Engaging the Community:** Organizing forums, summits, and neighborhood-based discussions to foster dialogue, advocacy, and collective problem-solving.
- **Building Partnerships:** Collaborating with organizations such as the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males, the African American National Council, and local commissions to share knowledge, strategies, and best practices for improving outcomes.
- **Celebrating Success:** Recognizing the achievements of Black males through leadership development programs, educational celebrations, and initiatives that uplift positive role models and inspire future generations.



City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Commission Purpose

2024 Annual Report

CSBM in Action: Aligning Purpose with Impact

The Commission's activities and initiatives directly support its mission by addressing systemic challenges and promoting community engagement.

Key programs include:



- **Health & Well-Being:** The Black Barbershop Health Initiative provides free health screenings and wellness education, addressing health disparities within the Black male community.

- **Education & Leadership:** Programs such as the Black Male Youth Summit and Black Male Grads focus on mentorship, academic achievement, and leadership development, fostering a pipeline for success.



- **Family & Community Engagement:** The Million Father March encourages fathers and mentors to support students as they return to school, reinforcing the importance of family involvement in education.
- **Recognition & Upliftment:** Initiatives like the Outstanding Leaders of Tomorrow awards celebrate young Black males who demonstrate leadership and excellence, providing visibility to their contributions and inspiring others.

Through advocacy, collaboration, and action, the CSBM remains steadfast in its mission to empower Black males, advance equity, and build a stronger, more inclusive community for all.

City of Bloomington
Commission on the Status of Black Males

Organizational Overview
2024 Annual Report



James Sanders, Chair
Manager, Missile Energy Systems
Branch at Naval Surface Warfare
Center, Crane Division
MLK Birthday Commission
Term Expires: 2027-01-31



Patrick Smith, Secretary
Appointed By: Mayor
Term Expires: 2027-01-31



Dhakir Abdullah
Appointed By: Mayor
Term Expires: 2026-01-31



Isaiah Brock
Appointed By: Mayor
Term Expires: 2027-01-31



Siddhu McLeod
Appointed By:
Common Council
Term Expires: 2026-01-31



Diana Opata
Appointed By:
Common Council
Term Expires: 2027-01-31





Cornelius Wright
Appointed By:
Human Rights Commission
Term Expires: 2026-01-31

Staff



Andrew Shannon
CSBM Liaison

 Chair
 Secretary

City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Key Achievements and Impact

2024 Annual Report

Major Accomplishments: Black Male Youth Summit

The **Black Male Youth Summit** has become a signature event for empowering young Black males in the Bloomington community. The summit provides personal and professional development opportunities with community leaders, building confidence and leadership skills. It's become a recognized platform for future leaders to connect, learn, and grow.

- **Statistics or Metrics:**

- Over **200** young Black males have participated in the summit since its inception.
- An estimated **85%** of participants report feeling **more confident** about their future and leadership potential after attending the summit.
- The event has gained support from over **10 local organizations** that sponsor and contribute to the summit.

- **Stories or Testimonials:**

- "Attending the Black Male Youth Summit helped me understand the importance of leadership and gave me the tools to succeed, not just in school, but in life," said **Jamal, a high school sophomore and summit participant**. "It opened my eyes to how I can make a difference in my community."

- **Challenges**

- One challenge faced by the summit is **limited financial support**, which has at times restricted the number of participants and activities.
- To resolve this, the CSBM has actively sought additional sponsorships and collaborations with local businesses, allowing for an expanded reach in recent years.

200

Participants

Since the program's
inception

85%

**reported increased
confidence about
their future**

10

**local organizations
have sponsored the
summit**

City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Key Achievements and Impact

2024 Annual Report

Major Accomplishments: Black Barbershop Health Initiative

The **Black Barbershop Health Initiative** has helped increase awareness around men's health, providing free health screenings and engaging discussions about health disparities affecting Black males. It has become an essential avenue for improving access to healthcare and starting health conversations in the community.

- **Statistics or Metrics:**

- Over **300 individuals** have received free health screenings through this initiative since it began.
- Health screenings have identified potential health risks for over **50 participants**, who were encouraged to seek further care.
- The initiative has reached **4 local barbershops**, expanding its footprint and accessibility.

- **Stories or Testimonials:**

- "I didn't realize how important it was to check my blood pressure until I got my free screening at the barbershop. It could've saved my life," said **Tyrone, a participant** in the initiative. "This is exactly what our community needs—healthcare where we're comfortable, in a place we go every week."

- **Challenges:**

- A primary challenge has been ensuring **continuous participation** and **follow-up health care**. To overcome this, the CSBM has partnered with local health clinics and healthcare providers to ensure that those who need further care are able to access it promptly.

300

Participants
in the health
screenings

50

**Participants notified
of potential health
risks during their
screening**

4

**local barbershops
involved in the
initiative**

City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Key Achievements and Impact

2024 Annual Report

Major Accomplishments: Outstanding Black Leaders of Tomorrow

The **Outstanding Leaders of Tomorrow Awards** have celebrated the achievements of Black youth and adults who demonstrate leadership, scholarship, and community involvement. This event not only recognizes individual accomplishments but also inspires others to strive for greatness.

- **Statistics or Metrics:**

- Since its inception, the awards have recognized over **50 individuals**, both high school students and adults.
- **75% of recipients** have gone on to pursue higher education or become active community leaders.

- **Stories or Testimonials:**

- "Winning this award gave me the confidence to pursue my dreams," said **Keisha, a past recipient** who is now attending college on a scholarship. "It felt like my community was standing behind me, and that gave me the drive to keep going."

- **Challenges:**

- One of the challenges faced in the awards program is **balancing the recognition of youth versus adults**, ensuring that both groups are adequately celebrated. The CSBM has resolved this by adjusting the categories and selection process to ensure a fair representation across all age groups.

50

individuals
have been
recognized by
the program



75%

**of recipients have
pursued higher ed. or
become community
leaders**

City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Key Achievements and Impact

2024 Annual Report

Major Accomplishments: Million Father March

The **Million Father March** has been a powerful initiative, bringing together fathers, mentors, and role models to show support for students on the first day of school. This program encourages active fatherhood and creates a visible presence in the lives of children, reinforcing the importance of education.

- **Statistics or Metrics:**

- Over **200 fathers and mentors** have participated in CSBM's Million Father March in recent years.
- The program has engaged nearly **50 local organizations** in its efforts to increase paternal involvement in education.

- **Stories or Testimonials:**

- "Walking my daughter into school on the first day was something I'll never forget. It made me feel like I was making a real impact on her education and future," said **Marcus, a father** and first-time participant. "I know now that my involvement means everything to her."

- **Challenges:**

- The biggest challenge is the **potential lack of father figures** in certain families, making it difficult to engage enough mentors for the event. The CSBM is addressing this by **expanding its outreach to other male role models**, including older **brothers and uncles**, as well as encouraging mentorship throughout the school year.

200

**fathers and
mentors**

have participated
in recent years



50

**local organizations
have been engaged
by the program**

City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Key Achievements and Impact

2024 Annual Report

Major Accomplishments: Black Male Grads Celebration

The **Black Male Grads Celebration** is a meaningful program that highlights the academic success of Black male students at all levels. The event serves as a public acknowledgment of their hard work, combating stereotypes about Black males and reinforcing the importance of education.

- **Statistics or Metrics:**

- Each year, the CSBM celebrates over **30 Black male graduates** from high school, college, and vocational schools.
- **90% of graduates** who participate in the event feel more motivated and supported in their post-graduation plans.

- **Stories or Testimonials:**

- “I was the first in my family to graduate college, and being recognized by my community made the achievement feel even more special,” shared **Jamal, a recent graduate**. “It reminded me that education is the key to breaking barriers, and my community is rooting for me.”

- **Challenges:**

- One challenge has been the need to **expand the reach to more recent graduates**, particularly those in college or vocational training. The CSBM is working on partnering with universities and trade schools to ensure that the celebration includes graduates **from all educational paths**.

30

**Black graduates
honored each
year**



90%

**of honored grads feel
more supported and
motivated**

City of Bloomington
Commission on the Status of Black Males

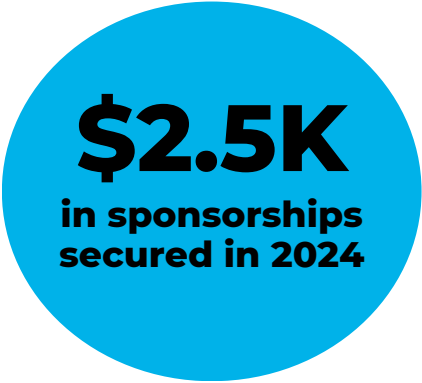
Key Achievements and Impact

2024 Annual Report

Major Accomplishments: Program Data Review

In conclusion, each of these initiatives highlights the dedication of the CSBM to address critical issues facing Black males in Bloomington. While there have been challenges, the Commission continues to innovate and collaborate with the community to ensure positive outcomes for Black males in all facets of life.

Initiative	Key Focus	Total Participants	Success Rate	Community Support
Black Male Youth Summit	Leadership & Development	200+	85% of attendees feel more confident about their future	Supported by 10+ organizations
Black Barbershop Health Initiative	Health Awareness & Screenings	300+ received free health screenings	50+ identified health risks & sought care	Expanded to 4 barbershops
Outstanding Black Leaders of Tomorrow	Leadership & Recognition	50+ award recipients	75% pursued higher education or leadership roles	Community-driven nomination process
Million Father March	Education & Mentorship	200+ fathers/mentors engaged	Increased father involvement in schools	50+ organizations involved
Black Male Grads Celebration	Education & Achievement Recognition	30+ graduates honored annually	90% feel motivated & supported post-graduation	New partnerships with universities & trade schools



City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Program Highlight: Winter Wonderland 2024

by James Sanders, Chair

In the spirit of community and holiday joy, the Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males (CSBM) proudly partners with the Banneker Community Center and other local organizations to host the annual **Winter Wonderland** event. This event, which most recently took place in December 2024, was a heartwarming success and served as a shining example of what can be accomplished through collaboration and dedication.

In less than two months, a small group of committed community leaders came together to organize and execute the event. Despite the tight timeline, the CSBM ensured that the Winter Wonderland event provided a joyful experience for **over 200 children (ages 3 to 15)**. The event featured a variety of activities, including fun games, arts and crafts, and, of course, the highlight of the day—pictures with Santa Claus, who was present in full festive attire, making sure every child felt special.

In addition to the memorable activities, each child received a gift, ensuring that the holiday spirit was spread far and wide. Watching the smiles on the children's faces as they participated in these activities was a moment of pride for the entire team.

As the chair of CSBM, I was incredibly proud to see the success of this event. Every child was served, and it was clear that the event made a meaningful impact on families in our community. The collaborative efforts of the Banneker Community Center and other local partners were instrumental in making the Winter Wonderland event a memorable experience for all involved.

This event is a perfect example of what can be achieved when community organizations come together to create something special for our young people, and it reaffirmed the CSBM's mission to promote positive experiences and opportunities for Black males and their families.

Challenge & Resolution: One of the challenges faced in organizing the event was the limited time frame. However, through effective teamwork, resourcefulness, and a collective desire to make a positive impact, we were able to pull off the event with great success. This experience proved that even under tight circumstances, our community's commitment to supporting its youth can lead to impactful, meaningful events.

200

children served
in 2024



City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Strategic Goals and Initiatives

2024 Annual Report

Initiative 1:

Expand the Black Barbershop Health Initiative

- **Objective:** Expand the Black Barbershop Health Initiative to attract a wider audience or to visit other community locations, offering health screenings, mental health support, and health education.
- **Action Steps:**
 - Partner with healthcare providers to increase the types of screenings offered.
 - Ideas include:
 - mental health screenings
 - diabetes screenings
 - cholesterol checks
 - Increase the initiative's reach through offering it at more barbershop locations.
- **Expected Outcome:** Improved health awareness and early detection of health issues in Black males.

City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Strategic Goals and Initiatives

2024 Annual Report

Initiative 2:

Leadership Development Program for Black Males

- **Objective:** Create a leadership program to mentor Black males, focusing on social justice, civic engagement, and public service.
- **Action Steps:**
 - Organize workshops, lectures, and field trips with prominent Black leaders and activists.
 - Encourage involvement in local government and advocacy efforts.
- **Expected Outcome:** Increased civic participation and leadership from Black males in Bloomington.

City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Strategic Goals and Initiatives

2024 Annual Report

Initiative 3:

Public Awareness Campaign

- **Objective:** Launch a comprehensive public awareness campaign that highlights the challenges and successes of Black males in Bloomington, focusing on education, health, employment, and community engagement.
- **Action Steps:**
 - Create materials, including:
 - brochures
 - social media posts
 - Seek out ways to engage the public, raise awareness, and change perceptions (e.g. local media appearances).
- **Expected Outcome:** Increased community understanding of the unique challenges facing Black males and greater public support for initiatives aimed at improving their status.

City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

2024 Annual Report

Thank You to Our Community Partners, Stakeholders, and Donors

The Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males (CSBM) is deeply grateful for the support of our community partners, stakeholders, and donors.

Your dedication, resources, and advocacy make our work possible, helping to uplift Black males and create lasting change.

Your contributions—whether through time, expertise, or financial support—enable impactful programs like the Black Male Youth Summit, scholarships, and leadership initiatives.

Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive community. Thank you for your commitment to this mission. We look forward to continuing this important work with you.



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
Inc, Sigma Kappa Lambda
Chapter



Banneker Community
Center



Griffin Realty



Monroe County Probation



Pizza X

City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

2024 Annual Report

Celebrating Our Community Stakeholders:

Christine McAfee

Juvenile Probation Officer & JDAI Coordinator

The Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males extends our deepest appreciation to **Christine McAfee**, Juvenile Probation Officer and JDAI Coordinator, for her unwavering support and partnership since 2020.



Through her leadership and the **Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)**, critical funding has helped sustain our Youth Summits, fostering opportunities for young people and expanding alternatives to court referrals, with a strong focus on racial equity. This support has made a lasting impact on Bloomington's youth, helping to create pathways for success and empowerment.

While national funding priorities have shifted, we remain incredibly grateful for all that this partnership has made possible. **Christine, your dedication to our youth and community has been invaluable, and we thank you for your years of commitment and advocacy.**

Though this chapter of funding has come to an end, the work continues, and we celebrate the progress made because of your support. Thank you for being a champion for Bloomington's youth!

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives (JDAI) provided

\$1,500.00 in Annual Grant Funding

in support of the Black Male Summit and Young Women's Leadership Summit starting in 2020

for a total of \$6,000.00 over 4 years

City of Bloomington

Commission on the Status of Black Males

Get Connected: We Need YOU!

2024 Annual Report

Join Us in Empowering Black Males in Bloomington

The Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males (CSBM) is dedicated to addressing the challenges Black males face in our community—but we can't do it alone. We need you to help create positive change, uplift our youth, and ensure that Black males have access to the opportunities they deserve.

Volunteer Your Time

- Be a mentor, assist with events, or lend your expertise to our initiatives. Your time and commitment can change lives.

Support Our Mission with a Donation

- Every dollar goes toward impactful programs like the Black Male Youth Summit, health initiatives, scholarships, and leadership development. Contact us to inquire about donating.

Partner with Us

- Businesses, organizations, and leaders—let's work together to host events, provide resources, and strengthen community connections. Collaboration makes us stronger.

Show Up & Support CSBM Events

- Join us at events like the Million Father March and Winter Wonderland. Your presence sends a powerful message of support and solidarity.

Spread the Word

- Share our mission, events, and success stories with your network. Awareness leads to action, and action leads to change.

Ways to Get Involved

City of Bloomington

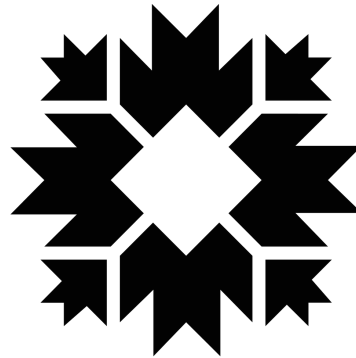
Commission on the Status of Black Males

Keep in Touch

2024 Annual Report

Thank you for reading our 2024 Annual Report. Together, we can create a brighter future for Black males in Bloomington. Be part of the movement.

Get involved today. Visit our website, attend an upcoming meeting, or reach out to learn how you can make a lasting impact.



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Commission on the
Status of Black Males

Monthly Commission Meetings are Open to the Public

Join the Commission on the Status of Black Males for our monthly meetings, held every second Wednesday at 5:30-6:30 PM in the Hooker Conference Room (Room #245) at City Hall.

Contact the Liaison to the Commission on the Status of Black Males

Have questions? Use the following contact information to connect with CSBM's Staff Liaison, Andrew Shannon

Andrew Shannon

Phone: (812) 349-3559

Email: andrew.shannon@bloomington.in.gov

Mail:

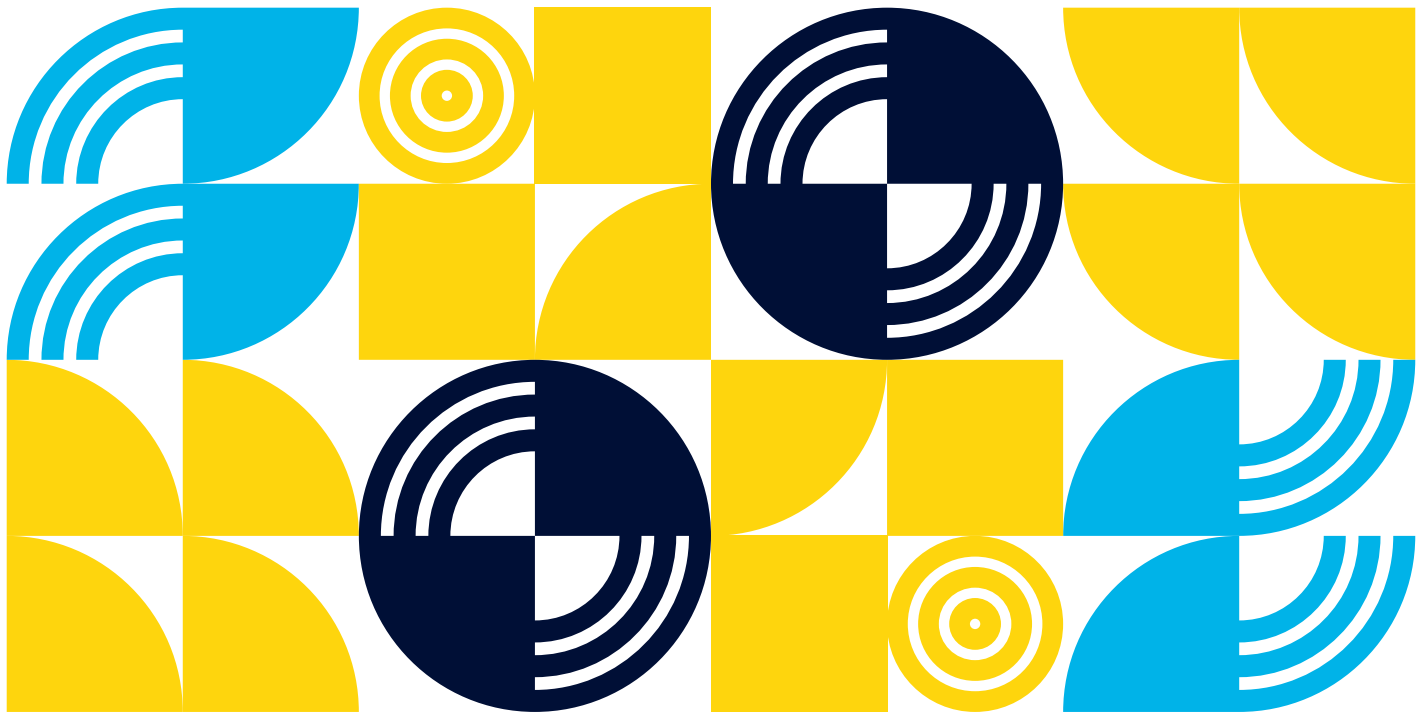
ATTN: Andrew Shannon

401 N. Morton Street, Suite 260

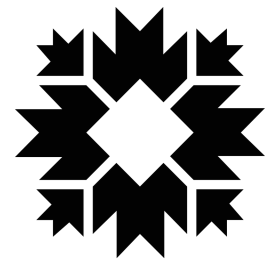
Bloomington, IN, 47404



**Let's build a stronger,
more vibrant community—together.**



City of Bloomington **Commission on the** **Status of Children** **and Youth**



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
Commission on the
Status of Children and Youth

2024 **Annual** **Report**

PREPARED BY :

Andrew Shannon

Liaison, Commission on the
Status of Children and Youth

andrew.shannon@bloomington.in.gov

812-349-3559

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

401 N Morton Street,
Suite 260

Bloomington, IN, 47403

BLOOMINGTON.IN.GOV/BOARDS/STATUS-OF-CHILDREN

TABLE OF CONTENTS1

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR3

COMMISSION PURPOSE4

COMMISSION OVERVIEW5

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS6

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS8

FINANCIAL INFORMATION9

STRATEGIC GOALS AND INITIATIVES.....10

CALL TO ACTION11

CONTACT US12

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear fellow Bloomingtonian,

The Commission on the Status of Children and Youth saw an exceptional amount of growth and planning in 2024. We have made several strategic investments, including the creation of four new subcommittees and an events calendar that depicts the scope and diversity, and responsibility of our programming. With the creation of the subcommittees, commissioners now have a direct outlet for utilizing and enhancing their expertise, as well as more opportunities to actively participate and contribute to our efforts. Subcommittees will help streamline Commission meetings, slowly converting them to structured report-outs with approving of action items and sharing information. Most importantly, the children and youth of Bloomington will have a bolstered commission, dedicated to them, that has the growing capacity to meet the various levels of advocacy.

We value lived experience and pathways for the community to be involved in the change they want to see. In 2025, we will conduct listening sessions with community members, and host guest speakers from various agencies across the county to hear their stories and understand their needs. From these new or enhanced relationships, we plan to submit recommendations to elected officials and agency administrator. Although a high volume of turnover within the Commission caused a absence of programming in the last year, we are actively planning events, partnerships, and volunteer opportunities for our commissioners to engage in. Nearly once a month, Commission members will be out in the community, learning how to advocate for and serve the children and youth of Bloomington and Monroe County.

When I was first appointed in 2023, I remember feeling like anything was possible for the CSCY. The capacity the Commission had was both limited and endless, which left me feeling daunted by the sheer potential. We needed more than a shared passion for children to strengthen our Commission. Establishing mechanisms through which commissioners can deepen their passion was the key. With overwhelming excitement from myself and my colleagues, we are ready to make an impact, and I truly cannot wait to see what future holds for the CSCY.

It has been a privilege to serve Bloomington and Monroe County through the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth over the past year, and I eagerly await the opportunity to share not only the future success of the Commission, but the children and youth we care so deeply about.

Respectfully,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Reynolds-Nylund".

Erin Reynolds-Nylund, MSW
Chair

COMMISSION PURPOSE

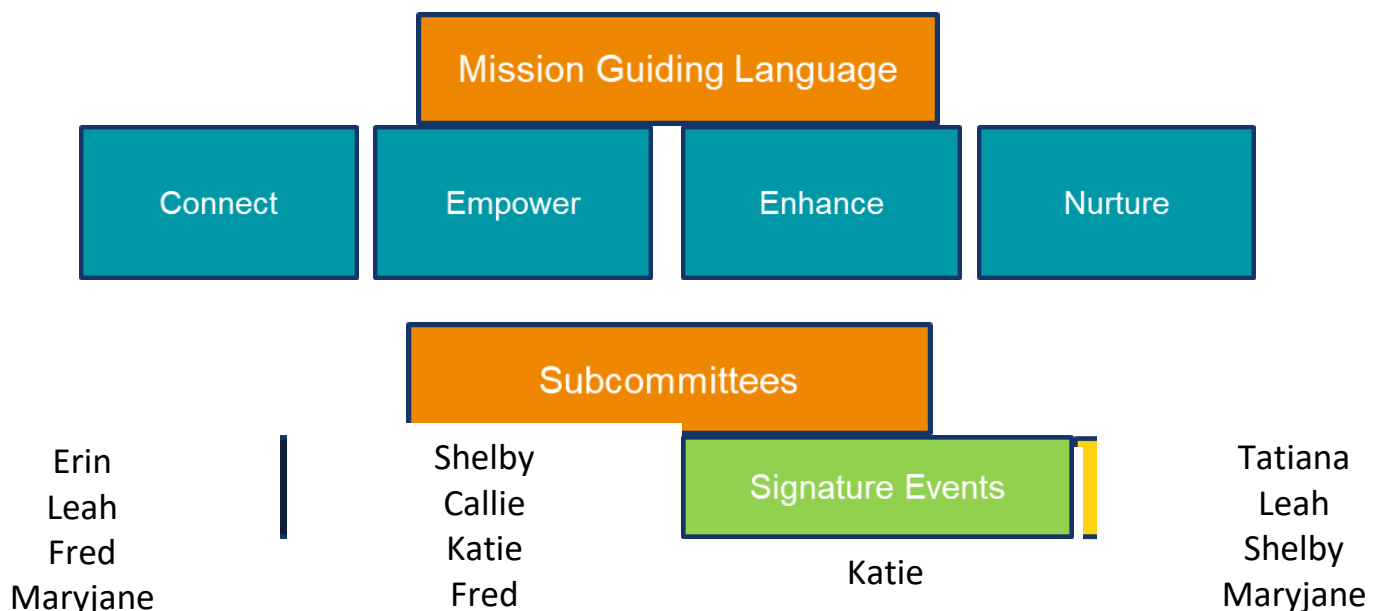
The purpose of the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth is to promote connections in our community which empower, enhance, and nurture children and youth. The Commission uses resources and information to make recommendations to people and organizations with authority intending to create and support systems that encourage healthy development of Bloomington's children and youth.

The CSCY is enabled under the Bloomington Municipal Code 2.23.050 whose objectives are as follows:

- a) Identify and assess needs, resources, and services relating to children and youth;
- b) Encourage collaboration between local agencies, schools, businesses and individuals;
- c) Monitor legislative developments relating to children and youth;
- d) Encourage local, state, and federal legislation that will improve the lives of children and youth;
- e) Empower children and youth to have a stronger voice in our community
- f) Empower children and youth to reach their full potential
- g) Report assessments and make recommendations; and
- h) Celebrate successes.

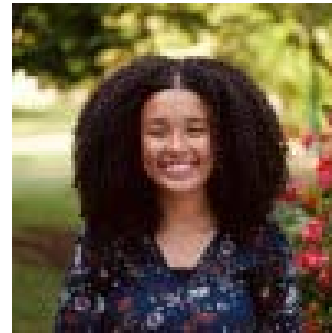
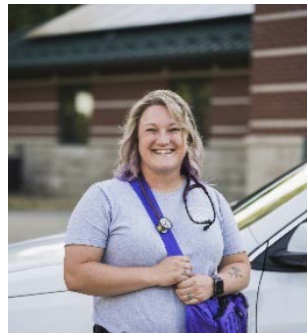
The CSCY is composed of nine volunteer commissioners. The City of Bloomington supports the Commission with a staff liaison. Commissioners serve two-year terms. Five commissioners are appointed by the mayor, and four are appointed by the City Council. The CSCY has existed since 2004.

In early 2024, the CSCY conducted an internal audit of initiatives, looking back over eight years of volunteer opportunities, events, and projects to understand the breadth and impact of the Commission. This internal audit served as the genesis for what is CSCY's largest, most focused strategic plan to date. The CSCY created four subcommittees and tasked them with respective activities to allow for targeted, mission driven programming. Creating an organizational structure of initiatives is not only helpful for current and future commissioners but will impact agencies and children who can benefit from a more coordinated serving body of volunteers.



COMMISSION OVERVIEW

The eight commissioners of the CSCY attend monthly meetings, fulfil CSCY subcommittees activities, share information and/or volunteer at local events, and promote interprofessional communication among agencies that can directly impact children.



COMMISSIONERS

Leah Gilbertson
Katie Hopkins
Maryjane McNabb
Callie Rekas
Erin Reynolds-Nylund (Chair)
Fred Schick
Shelby VanDerMoere
Tatiana Peters (Secretary)
Vacant

TERM EXPIRES

January 2026
January 2026
January 2027
January 2027
January 2027
January 2026
January 2027
January 2027
January 2026

APPOINTED BY

Mayor
Mayor
Mayor
Mayor
Common Council
Common Council
Common Council
Common Council
Common Council

CITY STAFF

Andrew Shannon

CSCY Liaison

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

2025-26 Initiatives Calendar

The collective decision for a strategic plan came out of a need for effective event planning beyond commission meetings. Commission meetings consisted of large-scale ideas and projects that struggled to gain momentum. In the new year, commissioners discussed at length the significance of intentionality as it relates to both community engagement and continuity within the commission, and it was agreed that dedicated subcommittees would help align commissioner interests/expertise and allow efforts to be spread across the aggregation.

The Commissioners extracted the active verbs of the mission into categories wherein the CSCY typically operates. The CSCY created four categories that naturally aligned with related activities and goals: Communications, Youth Advocacy, Community Relations, and Signature Events. Existing and aspirational initiatives, including the rekindling of past partnerships, were assigned to the subcommittees with the intention of equally distributing projects across commissioners, the calendar, and stakeholder interests. It was imperative that our programming had a presence in all stages of childhood, as each age range carries nuanced challenges and strengths that affect their needs.

Each subcommittee is comprised of three to four commission members who utilize both their personal and commission specific time to maintain programs and communication. Subcommittee reports are included in each month's agenda, where commissioners both inform and learn about the advances each other are making to further the mission.

A goal of the CSCY was to have more engagement with community members and organizations, and to create more awareness of the commission itself. Thus was the genesis of tri-annual Listening Sessions and quarterly Guest Speakers. In 2025, the CSCY will hold three listening sessions. Listening sessions will consist of community members and stakeholders sharing with the Commission their stories on the specified subject matter. Once a quarter the CSCY will invite a representative of an agency within the community that represents an different age group. The CSCY intends to learn from the guest speakers about their distinctive requisites and how to support them in ways indicated as being important or most impactful.

The initiatives calendar, in tandem with the creation of subcommittees, will undoubtedly set the CSCY up to operate in a more informed, equitable, and organized manner for years to come.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

2025-26 Initiatives Calendar

Tr	Initiative	Subcommittee	Age	Commissioner Lead	Status	Event Date
Subcommittee: Budget Specific Initiatives						
	H.O.P.E Packs	Budget Specific Initiatives	All Ages	Erin Reynolds	In progress	12/31/2025
Subcommittee: Communications						
	IYI Reporting	Communications	All Ages	Katie	Not started	8/31/2025
	Annual Report	Communications	All Ages	Erin Reynolds	In progress	4/30/2025
	Social Media Event Posting	Communications	All Ages	Callie	In progress	m/d/yyyy
Subcommittee: Community Relations						
	MCCSC Open Houses	Community Relations	6-18	Shelby	Not started	9/30/2025
	Children's Expo	Community Relations	All Ages	Katie	In progress	m/d/yyyy
	Rotary-It Takes a Village	Community Relations	0-5	TBD	In progress	10/31/2025
	MC3 Summit	Community Relations	All Ages	Erin Reynolds	Not started	11/13/2025
	Summer Listening Session	Community Relations	6-12	Shelby	Not started	9/30/2025
	Fall Listening Session	Community Relations	0-5	Fred	Not started	6/30/2025
	Spring Listening Session	Community Relations	13-18	Tatiana	Not started	6/30/2025
	Guest Speakers Q1	Community Relations	0-5	Leah	In progress	4/15/2025
	Guest Speakers Q2	Community Relations	6-12	Tatiana	In progress	7/15/2025
	Guest Speakers Q3	Community Relations	13-18	Callie	Not started	9/16/2025
	Guest Speakers Q4	Community Relations	All Ages	Katie	Not started	11/18/2025
Subcommittee: Signature Events						
	SWAGGER	Signature Events	6-18	Erin Reynolds	In progress	5/31/2025
	Lemonade Day	Signature Events	6-18	Callie	In progress	6/7/2025
	Read for the Record	Signature Events	6-12	Fred	Not started	10/24/20265
	Partner with Tandem	Signature Events	0-5	TBD	In progress	5/18/2024
Subcommittee: Youth Advocacy						
	Next Gen Advocacy/ Teen Liasion	Youth Advocacy	13-18	Erin Reynolds	In progress	5/22/2025
	Event Responses	Youth Advocacy	All Ages	Leah	As Needed	Ongoing

Program Highlights

NextGen Advocacy

In March 2024, the Commission was approached by a Bloomington High School North student who pitched their program called NextGen Advocacy. NextGen as a concept was born out of the realization that students need more education about how government at all levels work. NextGen would be a group of eight board members who discuss legislation on various levels, how it affects youth, and how youth can get involved. The CSCY and NextGen Advocacy intended to establish a partnership where representatives from each group would act as a liaison, providing experience and insight into the meeting's content. While this partnership never came to fruition, the CSCY has a positive outlook on the blueprint of future prospects for a teen liaison position within the Commission.

H.O.P.E Packs

The CSCY was allotted \$2,000 in ARPA funding to support violence prevention and mental health forces in the Bloomington community. Commissioners assiduously discussed ways to use the money towards the community's highest needs while not reinventing the wheel. A strong, directed suggestion from a new commissioner at the time changed the CSCY's trajectory to supporting youth in crisis. Between emergency homeless shelters, police interactions, DCS, and health emergencies, children often bear witness or experience stressful, traumatic events with little or no support. The CSCY decided to allocate the funding towards comfort kits that first responders, social workers, and crisis response teams can use when they interact with children in emergencies. These kits, called H.O.P.E. (Helping Overcome Painful Experiences) Packs, contain age-appropriate items a child's can benefit from when in a traumatic state. Including fidget spinners, a stuffed animal, a coloring book/crayons, a snack, and a bookmark with mental health resources, these packs will be given to first responders to use at their discretion. Extra money will be distributed in the form of noise cancelling headphones among permanent agencies that interact with children in crisis, such as New Hope for Families or Middle Way House. The CSCY anticipates creating at least 200 H.O.P.E. Packs by the end of the summer. These packs cannot undo the impact trauma has on children, however after an expressed need from first responders, CSCY is confident that H.O.P.E Packs can make a difference if just for a moment.

Challenges and Resolutions

Commissioner turnover significantly impeded the CSCY's ability to plan events and conduct business. In 2024 the CSCY saw a change in eight seats, including commissioners either absent of multiple meetings or resigning. This opportunity inspired commissioners to create structures of continuity in onboarding and information sharing, as well as future strategic planning. The onboarding process of new commissioners now includes an initial meeting with the chair to discuss the history and goals of the commission and its programs, integrate new commissioner interests and strengths among the subcommittees, and most importantly bolster the already existing passion of the new volunteer and provide them with a clear method of how to make an impact.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2024 CSCY Budget	Revenue	Expense
2023 Sponsorship Funds Transfer (ARPA)	\$2,150.81	
Juneteenth 2024		\$24.66
Read for the Record		\$72.27
Total Expenses		\$96.93
Final Balance	\$1,930.98	

The Commission operates on an annual budget of \$2,000, exclusive of monetary and in-kind donations. The S.W.A.G.G.E.R. Award program is the Commission's largest expense, approximately \$500-\$600 excluding donations. Because the CSCY did not hold the S.W.A.G.G.E.R. Awards this year, it was able to support other community initiatives like Juneteenth.

Looking forward in 2025, the CSCY anticipates a \$500 donation from Cook Medical. The CSCY relies upon sponsors for monetary support, gifts, and donations in kind. These types of funding support, procured by commissioners and City staff, support future and newly organized events such as S.W.A.G.G.E.R. Awards.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To inform the H.O.P.E. Packs project, commissioners engaged with various community stakeholders to learn about their agency's involvement with children in crisis. The following agencies and organizations helped contribute their time and experience in helping the CSCY choose a stakeholder: Bloomington Police Department, Stride, Bloomington Fire Department's Mobile Integrated Health team, CASA, New Hope for Families, DCS, Mental Health America of Monroe County, Community Kitchen, Boys and Girls Clubs of Bloomington, Middle Way House.

On October 24, 2024 thousands of classrooms, libraries and communities came together to celebrate early literacy by participating in Read For The Record Day.

In Bloomington and Monroe County, the City of Bloomington Community and Family Resources (CFRD) and Commission On The Status of Children and Youth (CSCY) partnered with the Monroe County Community School Corporation School administration, faculty, staff, students, teachers, parents and community members with 120 shared reading experiences, celebrating early literacy and supporting children's early language development.

STRATEGIC GOALS AND INITIATIVES for 2025

In 2025, the CSCY will prioritize intentional engagement within the community. The CSCY anticipates partnering and/or volunteering with multiple organizations in the community. Including the three listening sessions and four guest speaker that are scheduled, the CSCY looks forward to supporting Lemonade Day of Monroe County as lemonade stand judges, The Monroe County Childhood Conditions Summit (MC3) as volunteers and supporters, Bloomington Parks Department's annual Children's Expo as volunteers, and MCCSC's yearly open houses as a tabling community resource.

The CSCY is eager to continue utilizing the IYI (Indiana Youth Institute) Kids Count Data Book to direct awareness of Monroe County childhood statistics. The Kids Count Data book serves as a snapshot into child well-being statewide. IYI offers actionable steps for both individuals and child-serving agencies to address the needs of children at national, state, and local levels, and the CSCY looks forward to including those in our agendas.

Through the learning and increased engagement, the CSCY will compile new learning, resources, and data to make at least three recommendations to governing bodies, agencies, or people of authority in 2025. Not does the enabling legislation expect the CSCY to do this, it is a necessary piece of advocacy that has the potential to improve many facets of child/parenthood in Bloomington.

The CSCY aspire to continue supporting youth advocacy and empowerment by adding a teen liaison to the Commission in 2025. Not only will this invaluable representative be an asset to our mission, they will have an opportunity to experience a special level of advocacy and magnify the voice of their generation.

The CSCY are in the process of planning 2025's S.W.A.G.G.E.R. Awards, which took a moratorium for restructuring purposes. Utilizing learning moments from years past, the Signature Events Subcommittee is creating a nomination and judging process that is more equitable, in addition to changing how the awards ceremony is conducted. CSCY is excited to recognize and celebrate the growth and generosity of at least seven underrepresented youth in the coming year. The Signature Events Subcommittee will also be piloting an events rubric that will help commissioners achieve set goals and benchmarks.

In our pursuit of more intentional engagement, the CSCY expects to build relationships with at least two other city and/or county commissions with the intention of strengthening networks and sharing knowledge and support. Each commission is comprised of resolute and ardent volunteers with unique experiences and proficiencies. We believe building a stronger network of commissioners can boost the community's voice and access to their elected representatives.

Lastly, CSCY continues to explore ways in which we can support gaps in communication involving youth-related events, news, and resources in the community. Whether it be through social media, outward communication, or compiling a newsletter of child-centered resources, the CSCY expects to learn more about a path forward through its increased involvement in the community.

CALL TO ACTION

It's easy to support the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth! Here's how:

Help celebrate youth in our community by donating to S.W.A.G.G.E.R., or share/fill out the [nomination form](#)! S.W.A.G.G.E.R. is an acronym for Students Who Act Generously, Grow, and Earn Respect. This awards is intended to celebrate hard working yet underserved students in our community. Any contributions towards, decorations, prizes, snacks, or sponsorship is welcomed.

The CSCY is accepting monetary contributions or donations of kit supplies for our H.O.P.E Packs.

Spread the word about the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth being a helpful resource for all. Aside from being linked to the Community and Family Resources Department for the City, the CSCY is made up of active and enthusiastic volunteers with vast personal and professional networks. We can surely connect you to whatever you may need.

Help us recruit a Teen Liaison! A Teen Liaison acts as a representative and has opportunities to advocate and voice their opinions about issues and others affecting teens in our community.

Get involved in youth advocacy! Attend our Indiana Youth Institute presentation on overall child well-being in Monroe County. Also, attend the Monroe County Childhood Conditions Summit (MC3).

CONTACT US

Commission meetings are held on the third Tuesdays of the month and are open to the public. Please join us! Meetings take place in the Hooker Room (City Hall, 401 N. Morton St.) at 5:30 p.m. Virtual attendance via Zoom is available via the CSCY's website.

In 2025, the CSCY is scheduled to meet on:

Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Hooker Room (City Hall).
Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Hooker Room (City Hall).
Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Hooker Room (City Hall).
Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Hooker Room (City Hall).
Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Hooker Room (City Hall).
Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Hooker Room (City Hall).
Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Hooker Room (City Hall).
Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Hooker Room (City Hall).
Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Hooker Room (City Hall).
Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Hooker Room (City Hall).
Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Hooker Room (City Hall).
Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., in the Hooker Room (City Hall).

For more information and to keep up with the CSCY, visit or contact us at:

Website: <https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/status-of-children>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/COBCSCY/>

Email: cscy@bloomington.in.gov

Phone: 812-349-3483