

**City of Alexandria, Virginia
 FY 2025 Proposed Operating Budget & CIP
 Budget Questions & Answers**

March 27, 2024

Question:

Can the City provide a stipend to young Alexandrians who participate on our Boards and Commissions, as they are often facing travel costs or not participating in work or other out of school programs in order to serve the City? If so, what does staff feel would be appropriate in this regard?

Response:

The City currently has 54 active Boards and Commissions groups. There are 9 active Boards and Commissions groups with a total of 14 youth under 18 and young adult members that are within the 18-30 age range. The table below reflects the current active Boards and Commissions groups with the number of youth positions associated.

City Boards & Commissions	Number of Youth Positions
Alexandria Gang Prevention Community Task Force	2
Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission	*5
Commission for the Arts	1
Commission for Women	1
Commission on Employment	1
Commission on HIV/AIDS	1
Commission on Information Technology	1
George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee	1
Park and Recreation Commission	1
Total	14

*Includes 3 youth members (under 18) and 2 young adult members (18-30 age group)

The total annual cost of a \$25 stipend for 14 youth members would be \$3,500 (14 youth members x \$25 rate x 10 annual average Boards and Commissions meetings). This rate would be based on verified attendance at the body’s scheduled meetings.

There are currently 695 filled seats for City boards and commissions. If the \$25 rate was provided to all members that would be at a cost of \$173,750 (to include youth members). This dollar amount is based on \$25 per meeting with most commissions holding at least 10 meetings per year. Payment would be granted based on verified attendance at the scheduled meetings.

Research of neighboring jurisdictions shows that there is precedent for both nonpayment and payment to those who participate on boards and commissions. Below is information highlighting a few:

Jurisdiction	
College Park, Maryland	Payment to two bodies: Noise Control Board and Cable Television Commission (\$60.00). All others receive no compensation
Hyattsville, Maryland	The City Council started a Committee Member Stipend Program to provide payment of a flat fee of \$40 per meeting attended. Payments are made every six months (6) based on attendance records and may not exceed \$600 per year.
Rockville, Maryland	No compensation is offered to board/commission members. They may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in performance of duties (parking, travel, food).
Fairfax County, Virginia	No compensation is offered to board/commission members.