

BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK

“JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON PROGRAM”

As an impetus for getting our community’s “youth” involved in local government, the Borough of Franklin Park instituted a Junior Councilperson program.

Franklin Park Borough Council seeks to obtain input from all residents. A vital sector of our community we seldom hear from are our young people. The Junior Councilperson program seeks to eliminate this “gap”. Through this program, a Junior Councilperson will be able to better understand local government and how it works by actually participating in the decision-making process. The Junior Councilperson will be able to explain to his/her peers what municipal government is about. The selected individual will also be able provide the Borough with a perspective seldom seen in local government--the ideas and thoughts of our youth.

In order for this program to succeed, cooperation of North Allegheny and other school districts will be required. Junior Councilperson candidates will be selected in cooperation with any eligible school district. Annually, North Allegheny or any other eligible school district may provide a list of interested candidates to Borough Council. Borough Council will then review each candidate’s qualifications, conduct interviews and make selections based on the candidate’s qualification.

The following are the preferred requirements for the Junior Councilperson position:

1. Franklin Park resident
2. High School Junior or Senior
3. Candidates must take the oath of office.
4. Serve a one (1) year term, coinciding with the school year (September through June).
5. Attend Borough Council meetings, budget sessions and any other “special” meetings.
6. The Junior Councilperson **will not** be allowed to vote.
7. The Junior Councilperson **will not** be allowed to attend “executive” sessions.
8. The Junior Councilperson will be eligible to attend Allegheny League of Municipalities or other conferences and training.

The Junior Councilperson will participate in all forms of Borough Council business. He/she will be encouraged to participate in discussions, ask questions and give opinions. He/she must observe all Borough Council meeting rules. He/she will be on the monthly agenda and will be expected to provide a brief report. He/she will be encouraged to write an article for the Borough Newsletter. We anticipate the Junior Councilperson will become an asset not only to Borough Council but also to our entire community. Lastly, the Jr. Councilperson program should help make a positive impact on the selected candidate’s life experiences.