

October 4, 2018

Dear Members of the Chapel Hill Town Council:

The Justice-in-Action Committee for the Town of Chapel Hill requests that you work with the Chapel Hill Youth Council and impacted young people to seek a new location for the Teen Center of Chapel Hill that reflects our Town's commitment to its youth and to the mission of this committee in improving diversity and accessibility in town services.

In April, the Chapel Hill Youth Council delivered a presentation to our committee describing the current state of the Teen Center. As these young advocates demonstrated, the current Teen Center is in a state of disrepair. They documented exposed plumbing and wiring, unfinished paint, lack of privacy in restrooms, and generally unacceptable facilities. Indeed, this space has not received major renovation since its construction in 1985.

Furthermore, the location and limited space hamper our Town's efforts to foster diversity and equity in educational activities. The lack of access to free or designated parking nearby deters young people. Most significantly, the lack of space limits the number and diversity of student groups that can make use of the Teen Center at this time. The current location thus hinders the Town's commitment to racial and socioeconomic equity.

In light of these concerns, we respectfully request that the Town Council prioritizes finding a new space for the Teen Center in consultation with the Chapel Hill Youth Council and other young stakeholders to ensure a safe, accessible, and welcoming environment for young people—one that reflects our shared commitments to equity and opportunity.

Sincerely,

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Chair, Justice-in-Action Committee