

**01-30-2019 Town Council Meeting**  
**Responses to Council Questions #1**

**ITEM #7: Youth Initiative Update**

**Council Question:** To our knowledge, will any youths be present at the meeting to give comment on this report?

**Staff Response:** *We are not aware of youth planning to attend this meeting.*

**Council Question:** What has engagement with the school system on this initiative been like?

**Staff Response:** *We coordinated focus groups with the Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools and spoke with various youth clubs and groups. A representative of the school system also participated in the Mayor's convening meeting in November, 2018.*

**Council Question:** What ideas did the teens come up with during the focus groups, for next steps or spaces?

**Staff Response:** *We used a design-thinking approach to these focus groups, which means that we aimed to understand the youth in our community before we start designing spaces, services, and programs for them and with them. As far as spaces are concerned, youth indicated that they enjoy places that are open to all ages, where they are not singled out as different, where they feel safe and welcome, and where they could enjoy time together with friends – Franklin Street, University Mall, Library, Parks, etc. Based on this, we are proposing two next steps regarding spaces. One is to create a “teen-friendly” training and designation program, modelled on other programs that designate spaces as safe and welcoming for specific groups – i.e. Dementia-Friendly, Breastfeeding Friendly, Living Wage Employer, etc. The other next step is to involve teens in helping us identify and make improvements to Town-owned facilities where teens currently gather – Teen Center, Teen Room at the Library, Community Center, etc.*

**Council Question:** How does the Dementia Friendly Business Campaign from the Orange County Department on Aging work and how long has it been in existence?

**Staff Response:** *Orange County's [Dementia Friendly Business program](https://dforangecounty.org/)<sup>1</sup>, in existence since 2015, offers a free education program for local businesses and organizations that provides them with the awareness and resources to better support clientele who are living with dementia. Organizations and businesses may request Dementia Friendly training through the Orange County Department of Aging and become certified as “Dementia Friendly”. Staff is trained to*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dforangecounty.org/>

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*recognize the signs of dementia and how to address the needs of patients and their caregivers experiencing dementia. Currently over 95 organizations are certified as Dementia Friendly Businesses in Orange County including the Town's Fire, Transit and Development Services Departments and the Chapel Hill Library.*