

# Social Justice Town Hall Meeting Part 2:

## Discussing Government

By: Alanna Thornton and Ashley Robinson • Thursday, October 15

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“Miss Summers is a representative of Leadership LINKS. Like Accountable Youth, Leadership LINKS has an interest in the development of our [youth]” - Billy Williams

On Wednesday, October 10th President and Chairman of Accountable Youth Inc., Billy Williams, hosted the second part of the Social Justice Town Hall Meeting. The purpose of the second part of this meeting was to offer a further understanding of our local government and how it operates, as well as understanding officials’ positions on voting and renovating schools. Leadership LINKS participated in the second meeting as well. This time Miss Ramiyah Summers was chosen as a special guest moderator and representative for Leadership LINKS!

Miss Ramiyah Summers enjoyed participating in this Town hall. She especially loved speaking with Mayor of Greensboro, Nancy Vaughan! Ramiyah says that talking to the Mayor, she was able to see how hard the Mayor was working to ensure that everyone was able to vote. The Mayor expressed that she believes “this election will be a very interesting one as it will bring many opinions on what the future of our country will look like” - Mayor Nancy Vaughan. Miss Ramiyah also includes that she believes “...If we don’t take the initiative to make sure that all citizens are informed, educated, and involved in the importance of voting, we could possibly end up with the wrong person in office. The last thing I wouldn’t want for someone who does not understand the importance

of voting and doing their research to [blindly] select a candidate”

Miss Ramiyah a wonderful job moderating for and representing Leadership LINKS!

Some of the discussion questions asked were: “On the ballot is the S.M.A.R.T. initiative. This program will renovate schools across Guilford County. If passed the school system will receive \$300 million. Being that this affects me directly, I would like to know, what is your stance on this?” from Miss Ramiyah Summers and “Considering the BLM (Black Lives Matter) movement and other pressing issues surrounding the election. We have seen a lot of protest[s], both peaceful and violent. Have you considered putting something in place at polls

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to protect voter safety and mitigate voter suppression?” from Ms. Nishaka Proctor. During the meeting the topic of lobbying and lobbyists came up. Ms. Latoya Peterson, who is registered as a lobbyist in the state of Ohio, responded. “[Lobbyists] are individuals or a group of individuals who lawfully attempt to influence the actions, policies, and/or decisions of government officials. Most often those government officials are legislatures at the local, state, or congressional level” She clarifies that lobbying, to her, done correctly can set the moral compass of a region or country.

In light of this information of local government and officials we encourage everyone to vote not only for the people running the local government but for the

presidential election and congress as well!

We thank the Ohio Associate State Director of Advocacy, Latoya Peterson, Mayor of Greensboro, Nancy Vaughan, and Accountable Youth, Inc. for inviting Leadership LINKS, Inc. to participate.

“It was a pleasure to sit on a panel and have a conversation with a group of people who were very passionate about voting and racial equality... As a teenager it was great to talk about pressing issues, that not only affect me in my everyday life, but also [to gain an] understanding [for] the future choices I will need to make” - Miss Ramiyah Summers

Leadership LINKS, Inc. participates and partners for events like this because it

fosters our organization’s purpose to “educate and equip servant leaders who are committed to using their skills and resources for the greater good of humanity.” We look forward to continuing the conversations that enrich our communities, grow our character, and inspire our leadership.

Find the full Town Hall Meeting Pt. 2 here: <https://www.facebook.com/AccountableYouth/videos/371408154053368>

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