

Youth Office Opened in City Hall

By **ALAN ABBEY**

Free Press Staff Writer

Five years after the proposal was first made, a youth office has officially opened in City Hall, Howard Goodrich, co-chairman of the Mayor's Youth Council, said.

"We're finally getting around to it in 1981," Goodrich said. "We would like people to see the work they did in 1975 was not done in vain."

A panel established by then-Mayor Gordon Paquette produced a report in 1976 calling for more youth programs.

The youth office will provide

information, be an advocate in city government for young people, be a place for young people to lodge complaints, take suggestions on youth problems, advise the mayor on youth issues and publish a periodic newsletter, among other tasks.

"The office will help the young peoples' voices be heard in the community," said a statement issued this week by Goodrich and Jane Driscoll.

Ms. Driscoll will staff the office as a volunteer at least 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. The telephone number is 658-5960.

Aldermen have approved formation of the office, which has access to city clerical supplies and photocopying. Alderman Robert Sweeney, D-Ward 4, is the board's liaison to the council.

The office has helped put on the People's Circus, Saturday morning Walt Disney films in City Hall and drama workshops.

The council plans to attack "long-standing problems," according to the statement, including coordination of social services, increased recreation and "helping kids stay out of trouble."

The Police Department's strengthened Juvenile Division will work with the council.

A newsletter will be published by youths in September.

"We want to make something happen for kids in Burlington," Goodrich said. "People haven't recognized the council is going on."

Mayor Bernard Sanders made

improving the situation of Burlington's youths a major campaign plank last winter. It was one of the first panels he established upon taking office in April.

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