

MAYORS YOUTH COUNCIL

Manhattan Beach Mayors Youth Council

www.citymb.info/MayorsYouthCouncil

Summary

This proposal is to create a Mayors' Youth Council in the City of Manhattan Beach ("MYC"). The annual program would commence with the September 2011 school year and carry through May 2012.

Youth Councils and Commissions are as varied as they are many. Last year we piloted a youth project called the *Costa-Council* Project. It was a great experience for the teens who participated, and both the school district and city are ready to offer this to more of our kids. (Background on the *Costa-Council* Project is below.)

The idea for the Manhattan Beach MYC is to provide a forum to engage our teens about issues that matter to them, and to educate our teens about how decisions are made in their government, community and private sector as well. These teens will have an opportunity to work with other stakeholders and to apply what they learn.

The MYC program will serve Manhattan Beach resident teens, and be a collaboration of efforts between the City, Mira Costa High School and participating high schools, and outside guests from the business, philanthropic and local community.

The value and appeal of the Mayors Youth Council to both teens and community are many. Purposes include the following:

- To expose young adults to leaders in the public, private and philanthropic arenas of our local community
- To raise their awareness of the importance of civic engagement and to encourage their community stewardship
- To provide a uniquely organized opportunity for them to make a difference beyond their school and home environment by collaborating and engaging with other community stakeholders
- To compliment their academic study of government and leadership with real-time, hands-on experience

Structure

We recommend the following structure (based on research of twenty-plus successful youth councils in California and outside):

- 15 teens (+/-)
- One year term, September – May
- Regular monthly evening meeting, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Chambers or PF Comm. Room

Staffing

- Chair: Mayor or designated city councilmember (1 as back-up) to run the show (9 meetings)
Advisor: One (1) School Advisor/Liaison: high school teacher or staff person to coordinate logistics and liaison, as needed
- One (1) City Staff Liaison: to coordinate logistics (agenda, guest speakers, off-sites, room & snacks)(City Clerk or Deputy Clerk suggested)

Communications

- Webpage (interactive) devoted to Mayors Youth Council. Photos of teens, advisors, agendas, projects, contact info., etc. Link to participating highschoools and MBUSD websites.

Budget

- **Staff time 5-10 hours per month**
- **Training materials; snacks**
- **Transportation to offsites if outside of city**

Timing

- Publicize early April 2011
- Applications submitted end of April 2011
- Selection beginning May 2011 (if open enrollment, all admitted. If limited, council/school vote)
- Initiation meeting end of May 2011
- Program commences September 2011

Becoming a Participant

- Manhattan Beach resident attending any high school
- Attend regular monthly meeting plus monthly offsite/event
- The term is for one year, September ~ May
- Motivated and committed to actively participate
- Submit application on line or hard copy by April X, 2011.

Application may be downloaded at www.citymb.info/Mayor'sYouthCouncil!. Hard copy applications are available with the City Clerk, City Hall, 1400 Highland Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Content and Agenda

Over the course of the year, the MYC program will consist of two things:

- First, the teens will meet and interact with leaders of the public, private and philanthropic arenas.
- Second, the teens will engage in leadership learning experiences, by teaming up with other local groups to participate in or initiate community events. These events will teach them how to make team decisions, plan, organize, delegate, perform, and own the project.

Leadership Guests and Off-site Events

Each month will feature an invited guest leader. Leaders will prepare their own exciting and interactive presentation. Included will be an invitation to "field trip" with the kids to their place of business or otherwise. The interaction with these leaders and the immersion into their arenas should serve to stimulate interests and passions and encourage exploration and action.

As part of the public/government leadership arm, MYC teens will attend a few council meetings, and commission meetings if there is interest (e.g. Sand Dune interested many Costa-Council kids last year!).
*See below for Guest Prospects and Topics

Leadership Learning in Action

The teens will be asked to explore what they care about, and to select an initiative. As part of this, they'll research and outreach to various community interests. They will discuss their findings and vote on which

endeavor to engage. They'll then parlay roles and responsibilities, and carry them out. They can plan their own event and also can contribute to planned events such as the centennial. Other youth councils have carried out fundraisers for school or community objectives, organized public debates and speak-easies on topics of concern for teens (such as drug and alcohol use), or community-wide issues (such as how a new county library can serve the needs of teens and also seniors). (For the first year, we will recommend that find an initiative already in the making by another local group.)

Lessons in Leadership: Prospective Guests and Topics*

Public Leadership

How to Run a AAA City - Meet your Government: Mayor XX, City Manager Dave Carmany, City Planner Rich Thompson, Public Works Jim Arndt, Budget & Finance, Bruce Moe and Parks & Recreation, Rich Gill, Police Chief Rod Uyeda, Fire Chief Ken Shuck. Offsite tour of City Gov.

No "Waiting for Superman" in Manhattan Beach -- Why We are a Top School ... with Less Money! Superintendent Mike Matthews, Principal Ben Dale, Trustee XX, Government Teacher Andy Caine

Public versus Private Leadership: How do they Compare?

Russ Lesser, *"From Mayor to Body Glove: What is so great about public service ... and private enterprise?"* Offsite trip to Body Glove and boat excursion ... all while regaling eight years of mayoral and city council politics and history!

Private Leadership

Michael Greenberg and brother, *"Sketchers: How a little Manhattan Beach sneaker company took on the World"* Offsite tour of Sketchers.

George Muhlsten, Esq., resident land-use attorney & *Property Development Power Broker & Deal Maker* (Staples Center, Universal Studios and major stuff) Offsite tbd.

Andy Cohen, FAIA, resident architect and CEO Gensler Architecture, largest international commercial architecture firm (Sony, Paramount, Warner Brother Studios, Creative Artist Agency, LA Live). Offsite to Creative Artist Agency.

Power of the Press

Paul Silva and Kevin Cody *"The Power of the Press "How the Press defines What Happened and What it Meant."* Offsite to publishing house(s).

Athletic Prowess

Resident Champion Volleyball Legend Mike Dodd owner of *Fonz* Restaurant; Resident Tennis Champ Maria Sharipova and Resident Laker Lamar Odom: *Where the Mind meets Matter On the Court*

Faith-Based Leadership

Rabbi Mintz and Monsignor Barry, *"How does Faith-based Leadership play a role in the issues of community?"* Offsite to congregations or charity efforts.

Art & Culture

Manhattan Art President and resident Homeira Goldstein; Mattel Toy Creator and Cultural Art Commissioner Susannah Rosenthal

Youth Leadership

John Marston and Paul Stromgren, *"TEDxYouth: Exploring the Connection of Teens throughout the World. What are youth issues that transcend geography and culture?"*

*These are examples – A full list can be developed for exploration.

Background History

Costa~Council Project - During 2009, the Mayor and City Council along with Mira Costa High School ran a pilot program called the *Costa~Council Project*. During these nine months, the teens complimented their academic study of government with exposure to real live local government. Students attended city council meetings, and then discussed issues with the Mayor and City Councilmembers. Each month, the Mayor and City Councilmembers attended Mira Costa teacher Andy Caine's government class. At the end of the project, students were asked to present their experience in public before the full body council. Presenting students were awarded Certificates of Recognition by the City Council. (Attached is the *Costa-Council Project* documentation.)

Leadership Manhattan Beach - For decades, Manhattan Beach, along with many other cities, has had community leadership programs (Leadership Manhattan Beach). These are nonprofit organizations partially funded by government, private donation and participation fees. The purpose of these programs is to introduce adults to local government and to develop leadership skills in the participants. The Leadership Manhattan Beach program includes five high school students per year for this program. The few teens who get to participate in LMB gain valuable knowledge about local government and community leadership, but the program is overwhelmingly geared toward and dominated by adults. There is a need for a program that places young people front and center where they are entrusted with formulating opinions and ideas and carrying them out.

And NowThe Mayor's Youth Council. The students of Costa-Council shared a lot of good feedback from this pilot program. Andy Caine and those who participated came away with valuable "lessons learned" and are ready to move ahead. Mira Costa is filled with bright minds – ready for exposure to the adult world. The City Council and School District are now eager to launch a permanent youth leadership program, and recommend forming the Manhattan Beach Mayor's Youth Council (MYC) to commence in 2011.

Agenda Samples

Agenda First Meeting

- I. Call Meeting to Order. Mayor, Councilmember, or Mira Costa Advisor
- II. Welcome. City and School
- III. Introduction of first class of Mayor's Youth Council. Teens
- IV. Mission and Goals. Group
- V. Schedule for Year. City
- VI. Next Meeting's Agenda and any homework. City and School
- VII. Kick-off Celebration (dinner!) All

Agenda Second Meeting

- I. Call Meeting to Order
- II. Review and Vote on Minutes from last month (summary minutes of decisions and action)
- III. Agenda for tonight
- IV. Nominate and Select Student Chair and Vice Chair (contenders make pitches)
- V. Group Discussion of Teen and Community Issues of interest for possible involvement
- VI. Next Meeting's Agenda and homework: research and outreach on issues of interest
- VII. Guest Speaker
- VIII. Adjourn

Agenda Third Meeting ... henceforth

...

- V. Group Discussion and Vote on issue(s) for involvement
- VI. Delegation of roles and responsibilities for issue action development
- VII. Next meetings Agenda and homework
- VIII. Guest Speaker
- IX. Adjourn

...

**City of Manhattan Beach
Mayor's Youth Council**

APPLICATION

PERSONAL

Name (Last, First, Middle)

Email

Home Address (Number & Street)

Cell Phone

(City, State, Zip Code)

Home Phone

School

Grade

ELIGIBILITY

- Manhattan Beach resident attending any high school
- Attend regular monthly meeting plus monthly offsite/event
- The term is for one year, September ~ May
- Motivated and committed to actively participate
- Submit application on line or hard copy by April X, 2011

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

- Having read about the mission and content of this program, please tell us why you are interested in participating in the Mayor's Youth Council. (up to 300 words as an attachment)

I respectfully submit my application to serve on the Mayor's Youth Council.

Student, Print Name and Signature

I give my permission for my son/daughter to participate on the Mayor's Youth Council.

Parent, Print Name Signature

Submit this application by April xx, 2011 to: www.citymb.info/city-clerk/MayorsYouthCouncil

Or, hard copy to:

Mayor's Youth Council
c/o City Clerk, City Hall
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Research (partial)

Building Effective Youth Councils

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - Quick View

by S Martin - 2007 - Related articles

California Research Bureau (CRB) for their assistance in connecting us to existing youth or even **city-wide youth councils**. **Youth council** staff ...

www.forumforyouthinvestment.org/.../Building%20Effective%20Youth%20Final.pdf

Youth Commissions and Councils Promote Leadership and ...

City and county **youth** commissions and **councils** provide opportunities for **youth** **youth** commission-related stories from throughout **California** and posting ...

www.ca-ilg.org/node/902 - Cached

Youth council - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The history of **youth councils** extends back to the early 20th century, ... Seattle, and San Jose, **California**, have active **youth councils** that inform **city** government ... Youth as **City** Leaders. A listing of **youth councils** across the US ...

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth_council - Cached - Similar

Youth Commission Roster - City of Antioch Youth Council

File Format: Microsoft Word - Quick View

City Youth Commissions -. **City of Antioch Youth Council**.

<http://www.ci.antioch.ca.us/CityGov/BoardsCommissions.htm>. Gina Lombardi-Gravert: Liaison, ...

www.webdialogues.net/...youth.../Youth%20Commissions%20Roster%20Print%20Format.doc?

Los Angeles - Youth Council

Disclaimer · Past Events · Upcoming Events · Announcements. Los Angeles **Youth Council** 2007-2008

Annual Report. Click here to view · Facebook. sitemap.

www.ccyf.org/YouthCouncil/index.cfm - Cached

Riverside Youth Council - Home

Riverside **Youth Council** 25 Most Remarkable Teens | Learn More. Status: The Teens have been recognized by the Riverside **City** Council and honored by FOX News, ...

www.riversideyouthcouncil.com/ - Cached - Similar

Creating a City Youth Council

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - Quick View

There is created a board to be known as the **city youth council**, which shall ... The **city youth council** shall elect a chairman to conduct meetings and a vice ...

www.floridaleagueofcities.com/Assets/Files/.../YouthCouncilGuide.pdf - Similar

City of Torrance - Youth Council

The Torrance **Youth Council** is an advisory body to the **City** Council on matters ... **California** Academy of Math and Science, and two members-at-large. ...

www.torranceca.gov/2451.htm - Cached

..

[Next Generation Youth Council - City of Palmdale, CA Official Web Site](#)

You asked for a resource to help the **City's youth** locate and connect with activities and services important to them. This **Youth Web Page** is one way we are ...
www.cityofpalmdale.org/pbp/youth/info.asp - Cached

History - Los Angeles - Youth Council

The board grappled with the issues confronting the **city's youth** and ... Angles **City Council** Members Ed Reyes, Wendy Greuel, and Tom LaBonge, and **California** ...
www.ccyf.org/YouthCouncil/history.cfm - Cached - Similar

Network Members - New Ways to Work

California Youth Council Institute **Youth Councils** Alameda County Youth Policy Council **City of Anaheim** Workforce Development Division ...
www.nww.org/networkmembers.html - Cached - Similar

WIB Youth Council Biographies

David is Chair of the L.A. **City WIB Youth Council**. MICHAEL DOLPHIN Michael has been with the Employment Development Department, State of **California** since ...
www.ci.la.ca.us/wib/memberyouth_bio.html - Cached - Similar

City of Simi Valley : Home

City Recruiting for Representative Who Has Experienced Homelessness to Serve on Simi Valley Task Force
 · See All News ». Events. **City Council** Special ...
www.ci.simi-valley.ca.us/ - Cached - Similar

Youth Council - Orange County California

Orange County Workforce Investment Board **Youth Council** ... For **cities** of Anaheim and Santa Ana, please contact the following centers: ...
www.ocgov.com/ocgov/.../Youth%20Services/Youth%20Council - Cached

City of Long Beach, CA - District 3

Attention **California** Pet Lovers – Help reduce pet overpopulation with the **CA** Spay ... Third District **Youth Council** If you are a Third District High School ...
www.longbeach.gov/district3/ - Cached - Similar [PDF]

Youth What's Happening - City of Palmdale, CA Official Web Site

City of Palmdale, California - A Place to Call Home ... Next Generation **Youth Council** Meets Monthly! The Council is open to Palmdale residents ages 12-24. ...
www.cityofpalmdale.org/pbp/youth/ - Cached

Youth Dialogues Inform and Develop Local Leaders - Western City ...

The **city** council members invited the **youth council** to work with them to write ... visit ILG's new youth resources page at www.ca-ilg.org/youthengagement. ...

www.westerncity.com/...City/.../Youth-DialoguesInform-and-Develop-Local-Leaders/ - Cached

City of Lafayette -- Youth Services Commission

CITY OF LAFAYETTE CALIFORNIA. **City of Lafayette** ... The **Youth** Commission advises the **City Council** on issues pertaining to teenagers in Lafayette. ...
www.ci.lafayette.ca.us › Home › Council & Commissions - Cached - Similar

City of Malibu

The official web site of the **City of Malibu**. ... **City Council** Meetings on Video · **Council** Subcommittees ... Harry Barovsky Memorial **Youth** Commission · Mobilehome Park Rent Stabilization ... Contact Us at: **City of Malibu**, 23815 Stuart Ranch Road, Malibu, **California** 90265; Tel: 310-456-2489 310-456-

2489 ; Fax: 310-456-3356 ...
www.ci.malibu.ca.us/ - Cached - Similar

City of San Marcos, CA : Youth Commission

Oct 5, 2009 ... The San Marcos **Youth Commission** meets on the first Monday of every month in the San Marcos **City Chambers** at 4:00 pm. ...

www.ci.san-marcos.ca.us/index.aspx?page=194 - Cached - Similar [PDF]

Youth Resource Web Site

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - Quick View

YCi is a project of New Ways to Work and the **California Workforce Association** ... Members serving on the **City of Los Angeles Youth Council** faced the crucial ...

www.newwaystowork.org/.../Ch2CoordinatingYouthServices/Effective%20Partnership%20Strategies%20to%20Maximize%20Resources...

City of South Pasadena Recreation and Youth Services South ...

5 posts - 3 authors

... Youth & Families: **City of Pasadena Youth Council** Application ... Garfield Youth House 625 Stratford Capacity ... **City of South Pasadena** 1414 Mission Street ... South Pasadena Youth Sports. Victory Park in Pasadena **Ca** - Pasadena Idol ...

www.livestrong.com/business-city-of-south-pasadena-recreation-and-youth-services_626-403-7397/ - Cached

Youth Commission

The **City of Encinitas Youth Commission** was established by, and reports to, ... Develop an annual work plan, and present the plan to the **City Council**; ... Ph. (760) 633-2600 (760) 633-2600 | 505 S. Vulcan Avenue, Encinitas, **CA** 92024-3633 | Email: ...

www.ci.encinitas.ca.us › Home › Government - Cached[PDF]

AGENDA CITY OF SARATOGA YOUTH COMMISSION INTERVIEWS AND CITY ...

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - Quick View

May 28, 2009 ... **CITY OF SARATOGA. YOUTH COMMISSION INTERVIEWS. AND. CITY COUNCIL** ... office of the **City Clerk** at 13777 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga, **CA** 95070. ...

www.saratoga.ca.us/civica/filebank/blobload.asp?BlobID=4088[PDF]

10/29/08 6859 M I N U T E S JOINT CITY COUNCIL/CITY COMMISSIONS ...

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - Quick View

Oct 29, 2008 ... Community Center, 1600 Huntington Drive, Duarte, **California**. ... each **City Commission**, and the Mayor's **Youth Council**. ...

www.accessduarte.com/.../City.../city.../city.../minutes-10-29-08-Jointmtg.pdf

City of La Mirada : Agendas and Minutes : Youth Council

Dec 16, 2009 ... The **Youth Council** consists of 13 primary members (4 at-large, ... 2009 **City of La Mirada** | 13700 La Mirada Blvd. | La Mirada, **CA** 90638 ...

www.cityoflamirada.org/index.aspx?recordid=525&page=180 - Cached

City of Santa Barbara - Government - City Departments - City ...

Santa Barbara Youth Council Mission: Provide financial guidance to **City Council** and departments and ... **City of San Luis Obispo, California**, U.S.A. ...

www.santabarbaraca.gov › Government - Cached - Similar

Redwood City Youth Advisory Council

Government, Redwood City, California ... The Redwood City Council authorized the development of a Youth Advisory Council (YAC) just after the opening of the ...
www.redwoodcity.org/government/bcc/youth/index.html - Cached [PDF]

Youth Resource Web Site

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - Quick View

Funded by the California Workforce Investment Board www.nww.org/yaci. 124. SNIPPET. Educating the Youth Council on WIA. Youth Council: City of Richmond Youth ...
www.nww.org/initiatives/yaci/.../Ch9Staff%20Development.pdf

City of Fremont Official Website - Youth Advisory Commission

The goal of the Youth Advisory Commission (YAC) is to be the voice of the Fremont teen community. They identify teen issues and address the City Council. ...

www.fremont.gov › ... › Parks & Recreation › Teens - Cached - Similar [PDF]

MINUTES OF THE PASO ROBLES YOUTH COMMISSION - City of Paso Robles ...

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - Quick View

He welcomed the Youth Commissioners to attend City Council meetings. ... League of California Cities Conference (Commissioners Jonathan Spencer, ...

www.prcity.com/.../citycouncil/.../2004%2011-02%20CC%20ITM%2004-5.pdf [PDF]

YOUTH COMMISSION AGENDA

File Format: PDF/Adobe Acrobat - Quick View

May 9, 2006 ... The Youth Commission is a formally established Advisory Commission to the City Council, and as such is bound by the Brown Act. If ...

www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/pdf/5-9-2006_YC_Agen.pdf

EXHIBIT A

Costa Council Project
January 2010

Project Goals and Plan

The goal of the Costa-Council Project is to complement our students' academic study of government and public policy by exposing students to real time local government process and public policy making.

Students will attend council, commission and task force meetings. Councilmembers will meet periodically/monthly with the students to discuss their experience and provide direction.

Students may choose to study the governing *process in general*, and/or may select a *specific issue* to follow. For those who want to study the process, it is recommended that students attend as many council meetings and commission meetings as feasible. For students who select a specific issue to follow (such as Sand Dune Park), they will want to find out the dates that council and commissions/task force plan to address the specific issue. Councilmembers and Commissioners will work with students on these issues and to determine hearing dates.

At the end of the project, students will share their experience with the full council body at a council meeting. In preparation for this "finale" event, we will all meet together to formulate our "**Report on Council**" to council. All students will elect two or so student representatives to speak on their behalf before council. All students will contribute to the report, and attend the council meeting the evening of their report. We'll celebrate somewhere thereafter, too.

There is no grading or evaluation of students. This is meant to be an eye-opening, fun, learning experience together.... I imagine that Councilmembers and Commissioners will be happy to provide letters of recommendation for college and jobs once we get to know each other and work together. ☺

Time Frame

Part I: January ~ June 2010

Part II: July ~ December 2010

Costa-Council Group Meetings

First – January 13, Lunch, Andy Caine's Classroom 221

Second – February - To Be Determined – We'll communicate via Email

Getting Started

Go to our city website at www.citymb.info

Peruse the site for issues that interest you, such as Going Green, etc. Go to the City Council as well as the Commission sections and read some agendas. Play around.

Review City Council's **Work Plan for 2010** on our website at <http://www.citymb.info/Index.aspx?page=723>. ***This is the list of issues that Council has selected to focus on this year.***

You may also contact our Interim City Manager, Richard Thompson, to ask about specific issues, process, etc. His telephone number is 310.802.5053. My number is 310.991.7366 (Portia). Richard Montgomery's is 310.780.3577. Wayne's is 310.896.1008.

I encourage students to attend council meetings and commission/task force meetings together, even if you are focused on different issues or processes. It is always good to discuss your impressions with each other.

Council Meetings (1st and 3rd Tuesday each month, 6:30 pm - ?, City Hall Chambers)

Jan 19	July 6
Feb 2	July 20
Feb 16	Aug. 3 (dark?)
Feb 23	Aug. 17 (dark?)
March 2	Sept. 7
March 16	Sept. 21
April 6	Oct. 5
April 20	Oct. 19
May 4	Nov. 2 (? – Election Day)
May 18	Nov. 26
June 1	Dec. 7
June 15	Dec. 21 (dark?)

Commission & Task Force Meetings (City Hall Chambers, except for Env. Task Force)

- Cultural Arts Commission (2nd Tuesday each month, 6 pm)
- Environmental Task Force (3rd Thursday each month, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM – Police/Fire Community Room)
- Library Commission (2nd Monday each month, 6:30 pm)
- Parking and Public Improvement Commission (4th Thursday each month, 6:30 pm)
- Parks & Rec Commission (4th Monday each month, 6:30 pm)
- Planning Commission (2nd and 4th Wednesday each month, 6:30 pm)

Costa-Council Project Roster

1. Zeena Bhakta	zeena.bhakta@gmail.com	937.9542
2. Amanda Blumenthal	a.blumenthalmchs@gmail.com	374.4578
3. Matt Buchanan	lbplatinum@aol.com	
4. Suzanne Caflisch	zaneyzanzan@verizon.net	941.1005
5. Braden Casady	Braden135792468@aim.com	374.7147
6. Carter Casady	cbcasady@aim.com	944.4975
7. Jackson Casady		944.4975
8. Connor Coit	connor.coit@gmail.com	251.8191
9. Braden Currey	bgcurrey@hotmail.com	525.9135
10. Tom Farrell	lindalfca@yahoo.com	318.3848
11. Selena Feliciano	selena.feliciano@yahoo.com	955.0525
12. Adam Gerard	amgmb@aol.com	955.7276
13. Megan Hong	hongmeg13@aol.com	462.6999
14. Hannah James	milionredfrecks@aim.com	546.1741
15. Zachary Kay	Zkay2009@hotmail.com	424.212.2504
16. Maggie Kells	mluvvbug94@aol.com	
17. Tristan Xavier Koester	TristanKoester@aol.com	415.3532
18. Kevin Kramer	kevinn227@aim.com	341.8161
19. Jackson Lipps	jmancan12@yahoo.com	418.7492
20. Bryan Linnell	bpl1241@hotmail.com	387.9454
21. Rachelle Murad	richardmurad@mac.com	
22. Joey Nichols	cancoon2@gmail.com , cathywithacn@verizon.net	469.8504
23. Yuxin Ouyang	brianouyang@yahoo.com	
24. Elliot Ozer	annenorrisozer@aol.com	
25. Aarman Deepak	soniapdeepak@hotmail.com	
26. Jeremy Seckinger	jtseck@aol.com	251.6426
27. Marissa Smith	missmarissx26@aim.com	954-224-4842
28. Trevor Tarte	trevortarte9@gmail.com	749.6731
29. Brian Tuley	birantuley@hotmail.com	309.1190
30. Abby Watkins	amkwatkins@gmail.com	613.5282
31. Chelsea West	westchelsea@ymail.com	469.2825
32. Benjamin Whistler	tahbahnboy@gmail.com , mawhistler@verizon.net	
33. Max Yollin	Maxwell.yollin@me.com	
34. Ian Zaun	quangster78@yahoo.com	922.2257

From: Portia Cohen [mailto:portia_cohen@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2009 9:46 AM
To: 'pcohen@citymb.info'
Cc: 'Andrew Caine'; 'Julie Ruisinger'; 'webmaster@mchsmun.org'; 'Margo Thole'; 'missmarissx26@aim.com'; 'selena.feliciano@yahoo.com'; 'lclaypoole@mbusd.org'; 'gkloes@mbusd.org'; 'wfauver@mbusd.org'; 'mmcavin@mbusd.org'; 'City Council'; 'Richard Thompson'; 'kevinn227@aim.com'; 'Sherry Kramer'; 'Ben Whistler'; Heidi Maerker (management@heraldpublications.com); Heidi Maerker (pressrelease@heraldpublications.com); evanortega@aim.com; 'andrea.woodhouse@dailybreeze.com'; 'Andrea Ruse'; 'Carley Dryden'; Paul Silva (psilva@tbrnews.com); kcody@easyreader.info; Carolyn Seaton (cseaton@mbusd.org); 'Amy Howorth'; Beverly Rohrer (brohrer@manhattan.k12.ca.us); Steven Romines (sromines@manhattan.k12.ca.us); Ida VanderPoorte (idavan@earthlink.net); Bill Fournell; Bill Fournell (william.fournell@jbai.com); 'Penny Bordokas'; 'Rosenberg Ellen'; 'trevortarte9@gmail.com'; 'Marcia Whistler'; 'jtseck@aol.com'; 'Abby Watkins'; 'amgmb@aol.com'
Subject: Costa-Council Project: First Meeting Wed. Jan 13 Lunchtime at Classroom 221

Hello, Costa-Council Students!

Happy Holidays!

We are excited to hold our first meeting with you to launch what we are calling the *Costa-Council Project*. Please plan to attend this meeting, on **Wednesday, January 13th**, during lunch period (12:21 PM), at **Andy Caine's classroom #221**. *Please share this email with your other students, clubs and teachers who may be interested in participating.

At this meeting we will discuss a structure for the program, time frame, mutual goals and responsibilities, and answer any questions you may have. (If you are not able to attend this meeting, please notify me via email, and we will make other arrangements with you to get you up to speed.)

The Costa-Council Project is an externship program to complement your academic study of government and public policy. By attending City Council meetings and commission meetings, you will pair your studies with actual, real-time exposure to local politics. This will present an opportunity for you to meet and discuss issues with the mayor, council members, commissioners and city staff. You will gain access to decision makers and learn the complexities of policy making and implementation.

The project will begin in January, 2010. The first City Council meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, January 19th. All council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month. Commission meetings are held during the week in the evenings. Specifics can be found at our city website: www.citymb.info

We are very excited to launch this project with you! Kindly reply to confirm your attendance at our January 13th meeting. Also, if you have any questions, just ask! Please share this email with other students, clubs and teachers who may be interested in participating.

Cheers and Happy Holidays!

Portia Cohen
Mayor
City of Manhattan Beach
pcohen@citymb.info

From: Portia Cohen [mailto:portia_cohen@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, January 11, 2010 2:45 PM

To: 'Abby Watkins'; 'amgmb@aol.com'; 'Ben Whistler'; 'Braden Currey'; 'Jeremy Seckinger'; 'kevin227@aim.com'; 'Selena Feliciano Feliciano'; 'Trevor Tarte'; 'Abby Watkins'; 'kevin227@aim.com'; 'quangster78@yahoo.com'; 'Marissa Smith'; 'hongmeg13@aol.com'; 'bryan linnell'; 'Maxwell Yollin'; 'Zeena Bhakta'; 'sonia deepak'; 'Anne Ozer'; 'Brian Ouyang'; 'cortcasady@aol.com'; 'Margo Thole'

Cc: 'lclaypoole@mbusd.org'; 'gkloes@mbusd.org'; 'wfauver@mbusd.org'; 'mmcavin@mbusd.org'; 'Andrew Caine'; 'Julie Ruisinger'; 'Carolyn Seaton'; 'Michael McAvin'; 'Leilani Emnace'; 'Richard Thompson'; 'List - City Council'; 'Amy Howorth'; 'Penny Bordokas'; Beverly Rohrer (brohrer@manhattan.k12.ca.us); 'Sherry Kramer'; 'Elizabeth Rosenberg'; Ida VanderPoorte (idavan@earthlink.net); 'Bill Fournell'; Steven Romines (sromines@manhattan.k12.ca.us); 'BTimberlake@manhattan.k12.ca.us'; 'Itamura@citymb.info'; 'Patricia Schilling'; 'akennedy@citymb.info'; 'taliabadi@citymb.info'; 'Lindy Coe-Juell'

Subject: Costa-Council Project - First Meeting - Wednesday, Jan 13,

Importance: High

Hello, *Costa-Council* Students ~

This is a reminder that we will hold our first meeting for our ***Costa-Council Project*** this **Wednesday, January 13th**, during lunch period (12:21 PM), at **Andy Caine's classroom #221**. *Please share this email with other students, clubs and teachers who may be interested in participating.

At this meeting we will discuss a structure for the program, time frame, mutual goals and responsibilities, and answer any questions you may have. (If you are not able to attend this meeting, please notify me via email, and we will make other arrangements with you to get you up to speed.)

The ***Costa-Council Project*** is an externship program to complement your academic study of government and public policy. By attending City Council meetings and commission meetings, you will pair your studies with actual, real-time exposure to local politics. This will present an opportunity for you to meet and discuss issues with the mayor, council members, commissioners and city staff. You will gain access to decision makers and learn the complexities of policy making and implementation.

The project will begin in January, 2010. The first City Council meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday, January 19th. All council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday evenings of each month. Commission meetings are held during the week in the evenings. Specifics can be found at our city website: www.citymb.info

We are very excited to launch this project with you! See you this Wednesday.

Cheers and Happy New Year!

Portia Cohen, Councilmember
City of Manhattan Beach
pcohen@citymb.info
Cell: 310.991.7366
City Website: www.citymb.info

1. Zeena Bhakta

From: Portia Cohen [mailto:portia_cohen@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 17, 2010 8:03 PM
To: zeena.bhakta@gmail.com; a.blumenthalmchs@gmail.com; lbplatinum@aol.com;
zaneyzanzan@verizon.net; Braden135792468@aim.com; cbcasady@aim.com;
connor.coit@gmail.com; bgcurrey@hotmail.com; lindalfca@yahoo.com;
selena.feliciano@yahoo.com; amgmb@aol.com; hongmeg13@aol.com;
milionredfreckls@aim.com; Zkay2009@hotmail.com; mluvvbug94@aol.com;
TristanKoester@aol.com; kevin227@aim.com; jmancan12@yahoo.com; bpl1241@hotmail.com;
richardmurad@mac.com; cancoon2@gmail.com; cathywithacn@verizon.net;
brianouyang@yahoo.com; annenorrisozer@aol.com; soniapdeepak@hotmail.com;
jtseck@aol.com; missmarissx26@aim.com; trevortarte9@gmail.com; birantuley@hotmail.com;
amkwatkins@gmail.com; westchelsea@ymail.com; tahbahnboy@gmail.com;
mawhistler@verizon.net; Maxwell.yollin@me.com; quangster78@yahoo.com
Cc: 'List - City Council'; 'Richard Thompson'; 'Andrew Caine'; 'Julie Ruisinger'; Beverly Rohrer;
'Amy Howorth'
Subject: Costa-Council Project - Attend Council Meeting Tues. Jan. 19 ~ 6:30 PM

<< File: Costa-Council Project.doc >> << File: Costa-Council Roster.doc >>

Hello Costa-Council Students,

Thanks to those of you who were able to attend our first meeting last Wednesday! For those of you who could not attend, I have attached a short memo which I handed out last week that summarizes the goals and plans for the project.

Your next move is to show up this Tuesday evening at our first Council Meeting of the year, Tuesday, January 19th, at 6:30 PM at City Hall Council Chambers. It's not mandatory to attend, but it really would be good for you since we are kicking off a new year with a new mayor. Also, this will be a highly controversial meeting because Council will determine the near term fate of Sand Dune Park. The meeting will run late, so leave when you've had enough! I am attaching a roster of students, if you'd like to contact some of them to attend together. Just find a seat in the audience and listen and observe. Of course, on any subject, you are free to come to the podium and comment when the Mayor opens the discussion up to the public.

I will email you in the next few weeks to schedule our second meeting. At that time, please make sure you've looked at our City Website, and the Work Plan (on the website), etc. Also, if you can attend a commission meeting or two, please do. Some commissions are more active than others during certain times, so check out their Agendas on the city website.

Hope to see you this Tuesday!

Cheers!

Portia Cohen, Councilmember
City of Manhattan Beach, CA
pcohen@citymb.info

Hi there, *Costa-Council* Students,

For those of you who attended the last Council Meeting, thank you, and congratulations on your perseverance as we took hours of public testimony and then deliberated on our direction for Sand Dune Park. Perhaps you left with some disillusionment that, after such an intense public meeting, plus previous commission and council meetings, council and city staff still have more work to do and decisions to make on the fate of the dune! Well, welcome to public policy making! It is frustrating. It is democracy at work. However, is argued by many wise and learned souls to be the best of all forms of government worldwide, to date. You will form your own educated opinion as you continue to expose yourself to world affairs, both here and abroad.

But enough of that for now! Your next step is to attend if you can our next **COUNCIL MEETING**, this **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd**, at **6:30 pm**. Here is the link to the council agenda:
<http://www.citymb.info/agenda/2010/Ag-Min20100202/Agenda.html>

Then, we will hold our second **COSTA-COUNCIL SCHOOL MEETING** on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10th**, during **LUNCH-12:21 PM**, at **Mr. Caine's Room 221**. When we meet, we'll discuss the last council meeting – your impressions, questions, etc. We'll also talk about specific issues coming before Council and the commissions. I'd like for you to browse the city website and local papers (The Beach Reporter, Easy Reader, The Manhattan Sun, The Daily Breeze, etc.) and perhaps city blogs for the purpose of deciding if there is a particular interest (or two, or three) that you may want to follow and focus on. You may decide to follow the general process instead. To help with your decision, log on to the City Website at www.citymb.info. Go to City Government, City Council, 2009-2010 Work Plan at <http://www.citymb.info/Index.aspx?page=723>. The "Work Plan" contains short descriptions of topics that Council has chosen to review this coming year. See if something intrigues you (or at least piques your interest!). We'll briefly talk about these when we meet.

Okay, so you have two meetings to attend and some research to do. In the meantime, you are always welcome to contact Council Members or Mr. Caine with any questions.

Cheers!

Portia Cohen, Councilmember
City of Manhattan Beach, CA
pcohen@citymb.info

Costa-Council Students,

Thank you to those who attended our meeting at Mr. Caine's classroom last week. Some of you were away with Model U.N., and we missed you.

Your next step is to attend tomorrow night's City Council meeting. You can view the "Agenda" by scrolling down below.

After tomorrow night's council meeting, I would like for each of you to email to me your thoughts and impressions of the process and/or content of the council meetings so far. Include comments about previous council meetings and/or commission meetings you attended or watched from home.

We are beginning our feedback phase from you, in preparation for your collective report to council in a few months. Each student is expected to provide feedback and to contribute to the report. We will discuss and begin to compile your collective comments during our next meeting at Mr. Caine's office, date to be determined. Remember, no comment or question is inappropriate. All are encouraged. Please email your comments and questions to me, and I will compile them and share them with the full council.

Hope to see you tomorrow night!

Portia Cohen
Councilmember
City of Manhattan Beach
www.citymb.info
pcohen@citymb.info
310.991.7366


City Council Meeting

Date: 2/16/2010 6:30 PM - 11:30 PM

Location: Council Chambers

1400 Highland Avenue

Manhattan Beach, California 90266

 [Add to my Outlook Calendar](#)

City Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM. Meetings are subject to change in the event of a National or State holiday. Check the [City Calendar](#) to note any changes in Council Meeting schedule.

Meetings are broadcast live through Manhattan Beach Local Community Cable, Channel 8 and [Live Webcast](#) via the City's website. Post meetings are rebroadcast at 12:00 PM and 8:00 PM Thursdays and Saturdays following the Tuesday meeting on Channel 8 (Time Warner) and Channel 35 (Verizon).

For more information on City Council meetings, check out the [City Council Meetings and Agenda's page](#).

Hi Costa-Council Students,

Tomorrow night Council meeting night (Tuesday, March 2, 2010). Please plan to attend. As an FYI, you can plan to have dinner and come at 7:00 p.m. which is when we tend to finish up our Ceremonial Calendar and get to the agendized issues. Here is the agenda link:
<http://www.citymb.info/agenda/2010/Ag-Min20100302/Agenda.html>

Secondly, I want to check in with those of you who have not yet emailed to me your observations and impressions of council meetings and/or commissions so far. To help you formulate your feedback, consider some of these questions:

Sand Dune Park: Did you think that the sand dune park users and resident neighbors were polarized in their respective views, or do you think that they can settle for a reasonable compromise solution? (Note that we plan to have a study session and a council meeting discussion on sand dune park in April. Dates tbd.)

Utility Undergrounding: Last October Council dissolved two utility undergrounding districts, 8 and 13. In February, Council moved forward Districts 12, 14 and 15. The details made the difference, so Council stated. Did they to you? How do you think this decision fared? How about the process?

Parking Meters: The down town business owners expressed opposition to raising the meter rates up from .75 cents per hour in this time of economic downturn and sales decline. At the same time, the city needs money to make up for the lost revenues from slumped sales taxes and property taxes. How do you think Council did in its decision to raise the meters to \$1.25 per hour and to extend the meter coverage 2 additional hours? Do you think it will hurt business down town?

First Amendment Freedom of Speech: Our Council Agenda allows people to speak on every issue agendized, as well as non-agendized issues under Community Announcements and Audience Participation. Recently, speakers have shown anger and have criticized council. How should the Mayor and Council handle such criticism?

These are only a few of the topics Council has discussed. Feel free to share any comments on content, style, process, procedure to date. It is important that each of you participate in providing feedback. Thank you!

Costa-Council Students,

Please attend tomorrow night's Council meeting (Tuesday, April 6, 2010). Come at 7:00 following the ceremonial items.

Two key issues are up tomorrow night: One, the fate of our largest contract – worth \$25 million. Second, our famous Six-Man Volleyball Tournament and our International Surf Festival. Come be a part of it. Here's what's at stake:

\$25,000,000 of YOUR (parent's) Money: Council and the public will debate the fate of the most expensive contract the city has (\$25 Million), the solid waste and recycling contract. At issue is whether or not we should deal only with our current contractor, Waste Management, and renegotiate with them, or, open the bidding to all qualifying companies. Come hear the pros and cons of "open competition" versus "proven service," and more. How do we know if we will get the "best bang for our buck" if we don't allow all to compete? But if we chose a lower price, do we expose our community to inferior service? Come be a part of this decision!

Six Man V-Ball & Surf Fest: On Saturday, July 31, 2010, SIXTY THOUSAND people will flock our beach and city streets for the annual Six Man and Surf Fest to cheer on 200 volleyball teams compete and surfers do their thing. The number of spectators has grown exponentially in a short few years (1998 -2,000; 2002 -12,000; 2004 -20,000). Along with the people comes the partying. And the noise. And the litter. And so on. At issue is safety, and residential peace. Our police and safety crew can no longer handle this capacity, and so the question for us tomorrow night is, how will we ensure public safety and neighborhood peace; and where will we take the funds from in order to do this? Come and be a part of this planning, and when you take part in the events on ..., judge for yourself if the City did its job. Then help us do it better.

Here is the agenda so you can plan your evening: <http://www.citymb.info/agenda/2010/Ag-Min20100406/Agenda.html>

Stay tuned for our next meeting at Mr. Caine's office. I will email you the date and time. As always, feel free to contact me, the Mayor, or other city Councilmembers either individually or collectively at CityCouncil@CityMB.info

Hope to see you tomorrow,

Portia Cohen, Councilmember

pcohen@citymb.info

City Website: www.citymb.info

Dear Costa-Council Students,

Tonight is another opportunity for you to attend or watch from home the City Council Meeting. On tonight's agenda are a Climate Action Plan for the City, prepared by our Environmental Task Force; a City Trolley system to take kids, elders, and all to and from city destinations; field fees for Little League; designation of five city buildings as Culturally Significant Landmarks; prohibiting parking on certain areas of Sepulveda; a new sculpture to be placed at Metlox; designation of city funds to assess utility undergrounding; our Youth Recognition Award, and more. **It would be great if one of our students would speak during the public participation period of an issue.**

Also, we need every one of you to attend our next **Student Meeting at Mr. Caine's Classroom: Monday, April 26th, Lunchtime.** Bring your lunch if you want to. **At this meeting, I will want to hear feedback from each of you – even if you've only watched council on TV or read about council action in the papers. Please be prepared to share your thoughts and observations.** Thank you ~

Hope to see you tonight, and on the 26th ~

portia cohen | council member
city of manhattan beach | www.citymb.info
pcohen@citymb.info

Costa-Council Students,

Please attend tomorrow night's Council meeting (Tuesday, April 6, 2010). Come at 7:00 following the ceremonial items.

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\$25,000,000 of YOUR (parent's) Money: Council and the public will debate the fate of the most expensive contract the city has (\$25 Million), the solid waste and recycling contract. At issue is whether or not we should deal only with our current contractor, Waste Management, and renegotiate with them, or, open the bidding to all qualifying companies. Come hear the pros and cons of "open competition" versus "proven service," and more. How do we know if we will get the "best bang for our buck" if we don't allow all to compete? But if we chose a lower price, do we expose our community to inferior service? Come be a part of this decision!

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take the funds from in order to do this? Come and be a part of this planning, and when you take part in the events on ..., judge for yourself if the City did its job. Then help us do it better.

Here is the agenda so you can plan your evening: <http://www.citymb.info/agenda/2010/Ag-Min20100406/Agenda.html>

Stay tuned for our next meeting at Mr. Caine's office. I will email you the date and time. As always, feel free to contact me, the Mayor, or other city Councilmembers either individually or collectively at CityCouncil@CityMB.info

Hope to see you tomorrow,

Portia Cohen, Councilmember
pcohen@citymb.info
City Website: www.citymb.info

From: Portia Cohen [mailto:portia_cohen@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 4:19 PM
To: 'Andrew Caine'
Subject: Costa~Council MAY 21 Lunchtime in Mr. Caine's Classroom 221
Importance: High

Hello, Costa Council Students,

Our next meeting at Mr. Caine's class room will be **very important** to our program. It will be held **lunchtime on Friday May 21**. Please bring your lunch. We are going to devote this meeting to developing your collective presentation to Council (to be made in June). I will ask each of you to contribute to the report by simply sharing your observations, impressions, comments, criticisms, suggestions, ideas, etc. I would like for two students to volunteer to take notes and compile the comments. I would like for at two or so students to volunteer to present your collective thoughts, etc. to council in June.

So, please start thinking about and writing down your impressions and thoughts of the council meetings and issues we've addressed since we first met. The student report will cover two areas (a) issues council has addressed; and (b) council process and procedure. All students can and should contribute to the content of this presentation, and help select specific students to make the actual presentation before Council. The Council presentation place either Tuesday June 1 or Tuesday June 15. We would like all the students to attend this presentation in support of the students who will present on your behalf.

Between now and the end of school, Council will meet 6 more times: Tues May 4, Tues May 18, Wed May 19 budget, Tyes May 25 budget, Tues June 1 and Tues June 15. Remember also that the Commissions meet on weeknights at City Hall, as well.

To get you thinking about contributing to the presentation, here are some issues and questions:

- Sand Dune Park – Did the Council make the right decision to re-open the park this summer with a limited reservation system? In Was Council justified in deciding to allow limited walking on the dune after it had previously directed city staff in January to come up with a plan that did not include exercise? Read up on this at www.beachreporter.com, www.the.easyreader.com, www.patch.com.
- Utility Undergrounding – Did Council treat each district fairly by moving some forward but dissolving others? Was it right for Council to consider the poor economy when determining whether to allow districts to move forward? In your view, has council adhered to its own policies and procedures since it created the districting program?
- Down Town Parking Meter Rates – Last year Council lowered the meter rates when down (.75 cents/hour) town local businesses sought relief from the economic downturn. Recently, Council raised them back up again (\$1.25/hour), and added an additional meter time in the morning and in the evening. The businesses argue that the economy is still bad and raising meters will hurt business. But the city counters that it is losing money on the low meter rates and needs to pay expenses. Thoughts on the process of this decisionmaking, and the outcome?
- Solid Waste & Recycling Contract – Despite the community's high satisfaction with our current waste hauler, Waste Management, Council decided to open up bidding to other contractors when the current contract with WM expires. The value of this contract, \$28 million (+/-) is by far the largest use of taxpayer dollars for a single contract. WM still may bid for the new contract, but will do so with competitors. Was the decision to open the bid up best? Did council confuse the public and WM by trying to renegotiate with WM first, and then deciding to bid out?

- Centennial – Our city’s 100 year birthday is coming up in 2012. Council is creating a committee of citizens to lead in creating a program of celebration for this centennial event. Should anybody and everybody be able to contribute?; or should council select a limited number of “qualified” people to determine how the city will celebrate its birthday?
- School Funding – Should the City contribute money to the School District?
- City Elections – Should the City Council hold its elections at the same time as the School Board elections? National elections?
- Trolley – Would you hop on a trolley if it took you to school or downtown and to the beach? Do you think the city should pay for this? Do you think riders should contribute to the cost? How much would you be willing to pay?
- Future of Environmental Task Force – Do you think energy and environmental stewardship is important enough to the city that a special city commission should be created to address those issues?
- Emergency Planning - Do you feel you know enough about what could happen to our city in the event of a major earthquake or other physical disaster? Should the city do more to educate people and prepare them for these events?

Council Process and Procedure Questions (you are not limited to these):

- Should ceremonial items remain the first thing on Council’s agenda? Do they run too long? Should all ceremonial items be held in one night per month, leaving the alternative monthly council meeting just for substantive issues?
- Do you have any suggestions for council members or staff to limit length of council meetings?
- Do you think enough people attend council meetings? Speak?
- Do you think that council’s decisions are clearly understood by the public? How can council improve?
- Do the newspapers report accurately and thoroughly?

You are not confined to the above issues or questions; Any issue or topic that you observed is fair game. IF you have any questions about this, please let Mr. Caine or me know.

I really look forward to hearing your comments on Friday May 21st.

Portia

portia cohen | council member
 city of manhattan beach | www.citymb.info
pcohen@citymb.info

Dear Ben, Adam, Zach and Suzanne,

Thank you so, so much for your dedication to our program! *Your* enthusiasm has kept my enthusiasm alive during these past months!

I must apologize for missing our meeting today. I arrived after you had met with Mr. Caine. Was stuck in traffic coming back from Santa Monica. Thank you for staying and meeting with Mr. Caine, and for preparing for the June 15th presentation.

Let me know how I can help you. I am here for you to assist in content, style, answer questions – you name it. I can meet with you in person, or we can communicate via email or phone – whatever works best for each of you. As a general guideline, try to prepare a report that takes about 15 to deliver.

Please let me know what you need from me.

I am so pleased that you will have this opportunity to present before the full council and the public. It will be forever memorialized on video, just so you know.... 😊

Portia

portia cohen | council member
city of manhattan beach | www.citymb.info
pcohen@citymb.info

From: Portia Cohen [mailto:portia_cohen@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 7:47 AM
To: 'Portia Cohen'; 'Zkay2009@hotmail.com'; 'Adam Gerard'; 'tahbahnboy@gmail.com';
'zaneyzanzan@verizon.net'
Cc: 'Portia Cohen'; 'Andrew Caine'
Subject: RE: Costa-Council Presentation Team!

Dear Suzanne, Zach, Ben and Adam ~

Wow! You each rocked the house last night! You should be incredibly proud of yourselves. You had Council and the public audience on the edge of our seats with your insights and recommendations. I intend on memorializing your comments for the benefit of council and working with staff and my colleagues on implementing some of them (where there is agreement).

Best of luck on the completion of your school years. Have a fabulous summer!

Bravo. Congratulations. And thank you!

My best,
Portia

Post Script: As always, feel free to contact me for any reason (advise, letter of recommendation, etc.)

portia cohen | council member
city of manhattan beach | www.citymb.info
pcohen@citymb.info

From: Portia Cohen [mailto:portia_cohen@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 7:41 AM
To: 'Andrew Caine'
Subject: The kids were fantastic!

Andy – They were fabulous! Each student focused on a different element of the project, and shared insightful observations and recommendations! The council and crowd were very receptive to them. It encouraged me for next year! ... We definitely missed you last night, and I hope your ears were ringing (with the praise!) Thank you so much for what I assume was guiding them so effectively in the preparation of their collective presentation! Best, Portia

portia cohen | council member
city of manhattan beach | www.citymb.info
pcohen@citymb.info



EXHIBIT B



Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

Published on *Institute for Local Government* (<http://www.ca-ilg.org>)

[Home](#) > Youth Commissions and Councils Promote Leadership and Participation

Youth Commissions and Councils Promote Leadership and Participation

Find this item at: <http://www.ca-ilg.org/node/902>

City and county youth commissions and councils provide opportunities for youth service and development and offer young people a means for their voices to be heard in local government decision-making. According to information gathered by the Institute for Local Government's Public Engagement and Collaborative Governance program, more than 100 such commissions are at work throughout California.

Youth commissions' work spans a wide range, as the following examples illustrate.

In **La Cañada Flintridge**, the youth council makes recommendations to the city council on youth-related issues. Its members serve as liaisons to community groups and contribute to a monthly column in the local newspaper. The youth council established objectives for a citywide youth master plan intended to encourage additional avenues for youth participation, and in 2007 members surveyed local businesses regarding tobacco sales to minors.

In **Fremont**, the youth advisory commission advises the city council on policy issues affecting young people and has worked with the Police Department on a proposed curfew ordinance. Each year, the commission also organizes a one-day Junior High Leadership Conference that helps junior-high school students prepare for the transition to high school.

In **San Carlos**, youth advisory council members are participating in the city's general strategic planning process as well as health and wellness programming and are preparing for "Youth Vote" during the November 2008 election. They have raised funds for a number of charitable activities, including a new youth center, and organize volunteer events to involve other youth in the community. San Carlos businesses that welcome young people receive a "Young Consumer Champion" award from the council.

The **Pomona Youth Advisory Committee (PYAC)** is working with the city and agencies serving youth to advocate for the development of a youth and

family master plan to promote youth health and safety. In support of this work, PYAC hosts an annual mentor-protégé dinner to engage youth and adult leaders to partner on local issues. PYAC also partners with the City Clerk's Office and Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder Voter Education Division to expand the Student Poll Worker Training to six local high schools. Youth commissioners also organize an annual "Rock the Vote" voter education event and have developed the Pomona Youth Leadership Network, composed of major youth-serving leadership groups, to bring more youth voices into city decision-making.

In **El Dorado County**, the youth commission helped write a Green Resolution and supported its successful passage. The resolution sets forth goals to lessen the environmental footprint of county residents in areas including waste and energy usage reduction, planning, construction and air quality. Members are presently engaged in developing partners and offering input related to possibly reopening the local skate park. The commission and University of California Cooperative Extension have also received grant funding to create maps of youth skills and resources in El Dorado County using GPS systems and mapping software. The maps will be used to create a guide for young people seeking school activities, clubs, health care, counseling and other resources. The commission hosted its first annual Youth Fest in July 2008, an all-day event for middle- and high-school youth.

The **San Francisco Youth Commission** is collaborating with the city's school district, Department of Elections and others on YouthVOTE, an election and civic engagement project that gives high-school students an opportunity to voice their opinions about current youth issues, ballot measures and candidates.

Impacts on Communities

Effective youth commissions and councils empower young people to bring about change in their communities. These forums can help identify the issues that are most important to these often overlooked members of the community and facilitate bringing youth ideas and recommendations to the attention of local policy-makers on a regular basis.

Youth councils and commissions can:

- Initiate educational campaigns;
- Encourage other young people to participate in local civic and political activities; and
- Create new community resources for residents of all ages.

Successful commissions and councils also provide an arena where youth voices are nurtured and the skills and habits of civic engagement and citizenship are acquired. For many youth commissioners, this experience is their first exposure to local government's role and function.

Key Elements of Successful Commissions

Each youth commission or council responds to community needs and the issues that led to its creation. While many factors contribute to their success, a few are particularly important.

Staffing. Commissions need staff who have the time to work with them and understand youth leadership, development and empowerment. Young people brought into such leadership and service roles need appropriate support, skills, confidence, networks and access to decision-makers, all of which require the time, commitment and consistent attention of skilled staff.

Diversity of Membership. As appropriate to each city or county, youth members should vary by geographic region, ethnicity, socioeconomic background and gender. Inclusiveness encourages equality, gives credibility to the commission and provides opportunities for youth to work toward a common purpose with others of different backgrounds and experiences.

An Appropriate Budget. Youth commissions require adequate resources to become active and effective and fulfill the purposes for which they were established. In addition to support for staff, resources may also include the costs of stipends for youth; meeting expenses, transportation and other costs associated with membership, meetings and participation; training and skills development to build commission competence and confidence; support for communication, education and outreach to increase youth and other public awareness of the commission; and expenses related to the specific projects and activities of the commission or council.

Youth Should "Own" It. Unless the budget, project selection and the commission meeting agenda are appropriately "owned" by the youth members, participation will often be lax and less focused. This doesn't mean members should work without guidance from staff or that encouraging greater ownership always succeeds. However, the best results usually occur when youth have had their own "Ah ha!" moment, have decided what needs to be done, and are carrying the work forward with support -- not direction -- from staff.

Access to Public Agency Decision-Makers. Creating an environment where youth voices are heard and respected is fundamental. When youth commissions are asked to provide input into actions or decisions of their local government, they must have regular access to appropriate information and the officials with whom they must communicate. Local agency commissions, councils and boards should provide information to youth commissioners and invite their participation.

The staff of departments whose work may be of particular interest to youth commissions should attend and report to commission meetings on a regular basis, and they should invite youth commission participation in their own meetings and decision-making process.

When creating public engagement processes for new local plans, budgets or other initiatives, youth commissions should be asked to help design vehicles to ensure youth participation.

Enhancing Youth Commission Capacity. Each youth member will bring his or her own strengths and interests to a youth commission or council. However, not everyone has the skills or experience necessary for successful participation. Provide an orientation, information-sharing sessions or training for youth appropriate to the commission's focus. Topics may include understanding local government, media advocacy, meeting facilitation, public speaking, community mapping, community dynamics, youth-adult partnerships and youth-led evaluation and research.

Focus Beyond Youth Commission Members. Although a youth commission may be composed of a diverse group of young people who act as the community's "youth voice," the experiences and opinions of one group cannot speak for all its peers. In order to represent the needs and concerns of its peers, a youth commission can conduct communitywide surveys and evaluations to determine the initiatives it will undertake. Broad outreach is an important component of youth commission success. Holding open forums to invite additional youth participation and input is a great way to strengthen and increase the commission's effectiveness.

Resources

The Institute for Local Government (ILG) is collecting youth commission-related stories from throughout California and posting them on its website along with a number of youth engagement and development resources (www.ca-ilg.org/youthengagement ^[1]). An ILG guide to developing effective youth commissions is forthcoming, and ILG's Public Engagement and Collaborative Governance program has initiated a tri-annual e-newsletter ^[2] for youth commission staff, which contains helpful ideas and resources.

Links:

[1] <http://www.ca-ilg.org/youthengagement>

[2] <http://www.ca-ilg.org/node/1687>



City and County Youth Commissions and Councils in California

This list has been compiled by the Public Engagement and Collaborative Governance program, a program of the Institute for Local Government. Changes and additions to this roster are welcomed and can be emailed to Carmen Pereira at cpereira@ca-ilg.org. For more information about the Public Engagement and Collaborative Governance program, please visit our website at www.ca-ilg.org/engagement or contact Terry Amsler, Program Director, at (916) 658-8263 or tamsler@ca-ilg.org, or Greg Keidan, Program Coordinator, at gkeidan@ca-ilg.org.

- City Youth Commissions -

City of Antioch Youth Council

<http://www.ci.antioch.ca.us/CityGov/BoardsCommissions.htm>

Gina Lombardi-Gravert: Liaison, (925) 779-7072, Glombardi-gravert@ci.antioch.ca.us

City of Alameda Youth Committee / Alameda Teen Action Council

Andy Wong, (510) 747-7552, awong@ci.alameda.ca.us

Audrey Lord-Hausman, (510) 749-5816, alord@ci.alameda.ca.us

City of Berkeley Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/commissions/youth/default.htm>

Scott Ferris, (510) 981-6706, SFerris@ci.berkeley.ca.us

City of Brea Student Advisory Board

Tim Pagano: (714) 990-7179, timp@cityofbrea.net

City of Brentwood Youth Commission

http://www.ci.brentwood.ca.us/boards/youth_commission/youth_comm.cfm

Barbie Gary: Parks and Recreation, (925) 516-5366, bgary@ci.brentwood.ca.us

City of Brisbane Youth Advisory Committee

<http://www.ci.brisbane.ca.us/html/cityCouncil/ya.asp>

Steve Beaty, (415) 508-2144, sbeaty@ci.brisbane.ca.us

City of Burbank Youth Board

<http://www.ci.burbank.ca.us/cityclerk/appointments.htm>

Terry Stein: Deputy Director of Park, Recreation and Community Services Department
(818) 238-5300, tstein@ci.burbank.ca.us

City of Burlingame Youth Advisory Committee

Tim Barry: tbarry@burlingame.org

City of Chula Vista Youth Action Council

http://www.chulavistaca.gov/City_Services/Administrative_Services/City_Clerk/Boards/boards.asp

Jennifer Quijano: Staff Liaison, (619) 691-5044; jquijano@chulavistaca.gov

Joy Whatley, (619) 585-5786; jwhatley@chulavista.lib.ca.us

City of Claremont Teen Committee

Caroline Bustos: cbustos@chulavistaca.gov

City of Commerce Youth Advisory Commission

Tina Fierro: (323) 683-6533, tinafi@ci.commerce.ca.us

City of Corona Youth Council

Lana Yoshimura: Staff Liaison, (951) 817-5824; lane.yoshimura@ci.corona.ca.us

City of Costa Mesa Youth in Government Program

lmcperson@ci.costa-mesa.ca.us

City of Cupertino Teen Commission

<http://cupertinoteens.com/>

Lauren Phillips: Staff Liaison, (408) 777-3134

City of Dana Point Youth Board

Sea Shelton, sshelton@danapoint.org

City of Dublin Youth Advisory Committee

<http://www.DubTownTeens.com>

<http://www.ci.dublin.ca.us/DepartmentSubLevel2.cfm?PL=gov&SL=comm&dsplyID=403>

Frank Luna, (925) 556-4500, frank.luna@ci.dublin.ca.us

City of East Palo Alto Youth Advisory Committee

<http://www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us/citycouncil/bandc.html>

Pam Reliford: Recreation Services Supervisor, (650) 853-5907, preliford@cityofepa.org

City of El Cajon Teen Coalition

<http://www.ci.el-cajon.ca.us/comm/youth.html>

Marilee Gorham, (619) 441-1754, mgorham@ci.el-cajon.ca.us

City of Elk Grove Youth Commission

<http://www.elkgrovecity.org/youth-commission/index.asp>

Cody Tubbs: Youth Commission Liaison, (916) 478-3610, ctubbs@elkgrovecity.org

Angela Frost: Youth Commission Liaison, (916) 478-2203, afrost@elkgrovecity.org

City of Encinitas Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.encinitas.ca.us/Government/CommissionsAC/YouthC/>

Vicky Rubenstein, (760) 633-2758, vruben@ci.encinitas.ca.us

City of Escondido Youth Commission

Robin Bettin, 760-839-6269, Rbettin@ci.escondido.ca.us

Town of Fairfax Parks & Recreation Commission

Maria Baird: Community Resources Coordinator, (415) 456-5652, mbaird@townoffairfax.org

City of Fairfield Youth Commission

http://www.ci.fairfield.ca.us/cs_youth-comjssion.htm

Tawny Kanae-Huston, (707) 428-7613, TKanae@ci.fairfield.ca.us

City of Folsom Teen Council

Kelly Ford: Recreation Coordinator, (916) 351-3505, kford@folsom.ca.us

City of Foster City Youth Advisory Commission

http://www.fostercity.org/city_hall/committees/Youth-Advisory-Committee.cfm

Tiffany Hall: Youth Advisory Committee Staff Liaison, (650) 286-3395, thall@fostercity.org

City of Fremont Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.fremont.ca.us/Teens/YouthAdvisoryCommission/default.htm>

Rena Dein: YAC Advisor / Recreation Supervisor, (510) 494-4344, rdein@ci.fremont.ca.us

City of Gilroy Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.gilroy.ca.us/cityhall/citycommissions.html>

Gayle Glines, Recreation Supervisor, (408) 846-0460, gayle.glines@ci.gilroy.ca.us

City of Hayward Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.hayward.ca.us/citygov/meetings/bcc/hyc.shtm>

Shawna Sherman: (510) 881-7946, shawna.sherman@hayward-ca.gov

City of Huntington Beach Youth Board

http://www.surfcity-hb.org/Government/boards_commissions/

Gisela Campagne, (714) 374-5397, gcampagne@surfcity-hb.org

City of La Canada Flintridge Youth Council

<http://www.lacanaflintridge.com/city/commissions/youth.htm>

Mayor Portantino: gbrown@lcf.ca.gov

Carl Alameda: calameda@lacanaflintridge.ca.gov

City of Lafayette Youth Services Commission

John Katayanagi, (925) 595-4847, aceofrec@sbcglobal.net

City of La Habra Youth Commission

Steve Coumparoules, scoumparoules@lahabracity.com

City of La Mesa Youth Advisory Commission

<http://www.cityoflamesa.com/Government/BoardsandCommissions-11.htm>

Michele Greenberg-McClung: Recreation Supervisor, (619) 667-1333, mgreenberg-mcclung@ci.la-mesa.ca.us

City of La Mirada Youth Council

<http://www.cityoflamirada.org/commissions.htm>

MaryAnne Dudley, (562) 902-3159, mdudley@cityoflamirada.org

City of Lathrop Youth Advisory Commission

<http://www.lathropgov.org/council/commissions/yac/default.asp>

Gabe Goulart: Recreation Director, (209) 941-7370, ggoulart@ci.lathrop.ca.us

City of Livermore Youth Advisory Committee

http://www.ci.livermore.ca.us/boards/ya_info.html

Julie Lange, Staff Liaison(925) 373-5728, jlange@ci.livermore.ca.us

Greater Lodi Area Youth Commission

<http://hutchinsstreetsquare.com/BoardsCommissions/YouthComm.htm>

Brett Vanderham, (209) 333-6800, ext.2424

City of Lompoc Youth Commission

<http://www.cityoflompoc.com/government/committees/list.htm#youth>

Joanne Plummer, (805) 736-1261, j_plummer@ci.lompoc.ca.us

City of Long Beach Commission on Youth and Children

<http://www.longbeachyouth.org>

Sherri Nixon, City Wide Youth & Special Services, (562) 570-1607

sherri_nixon@longbeach.gov

City of Los Altos Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.los-altos.ca.us/boards-commissions/youth/>

Molly James: Teen Program Coordinator, (650) 947-2884, molly.james@ci.los-altos.ca.us

City of Los Angeles Youth Council

<http://www.ccyf.org/>

Elisa Lam, (213) 978 - 1860, elisa.lam@lacity.org

City of Los Gatos Youth Commission

<http://www.losgatosca.gov/index.asp?NID=287>

Irene Shrier, (408) 354-6840, ishrier@losgatosca.gov

youthcommission@losgatosca.gov

City of Lynwood Youth Commission

http://www.lynwood.ca.us/elected/elected_commboard_youth.htm

Autra C. Adams: Interim Director, (310) 603-0220 ext. 319, aadams@lynwood.ca.us

City of Malibu Harol Barovsky Memorial Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us/index.cfm/fuseaction/nav/navid/142/>

Kristin Riesgo, kriesgo@ci.malibu.ca.us

City of Manteca Youth Advisory Commission

<http://www.mantecagov.com/parks>

Brandy Kendrick: Recreation Coordinator, (209) 825-2352, bkendrick@ci.manteca.ca.us

City of Marin City Youth Commission

<http://www.yli.org>

Kate Chilton: (415) 455-1676 ext. 249

kdchilton@yli.org

City of Millbrae Youth Advisory Committee

<http://www.ci.millbrae.ca.us/youthadvisory-committee.html>

Amy Griffin: Recreation Services Manager, (650) 259-2367, agriffin@ci.millbrae.ca.us

City of Milpitas Youth Advisory Commission

<http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/citygov/commissions/youthadvisory/>

Debbie Giordano: City Council, (408) 586-3032, dgiordano@ci.milpitas.ca.gov

City of Modesto Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.modesto.ca.us/council/cag/cag.asp?id=19>

Ruth Helen-King, (209) 577-5286, rhking@modestogov.com

City of Monrovia Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.monrovia.ca.us> (click on City Hall/City Departments/Boards and Committees)

Kerri Zessau, KZessau@ci.monrovia.ca.us

City of Monte Sereno Youth Commission

Andrea Chelemengos, andrea@montesereno.org

City of Moorpark Teen Council

<http://ci.moorpark.ca.us/> (Search Teen Council)

Martha Duenas: Staff Liaison, (805) 517-6303, mduenas@ci.moorpark.ca.us

City of Moraga Youth Involvement Committee

http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us/moraga_youth_involvement_committee.php

Kimberly Nelson: Recreation Coordinator, (925) 888-7045, knelson@moraga.ca.us

City of Morgan Hill Youth Council

Chique Mejia, (408) 782-2128 x830, cmejia@morganhill.ca.gov

City of Mountain View Youth Advisory Committee

http://www.mountainview.gov/city_council/bcc/youth_advisory_committee.asp

John Marchant: Recreation Supervisor, (650-903-6618), john.marchant@mountainview.gov

City of Oakland Youth Commission

<http://www.oaklandhumanservices.org/department/commissions/oaklandyouth.htm>

Chantal Reynolds : Youth Commission Liaison, CReynolds@oaklandnet.com

City of Oakley Youth Advisory Council

Denis Nishihara, Recreation Program Coordinator, (925) 625-7042, nishihara@ci.oakley.ca.us

Lindsey Bruno, bruno@ci.oakley.ca.us

City of Oceanside Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/AdvisoryGroups.asp?AdvisoryGroupID=25>

Jesse Montanez: (760) 435-5551, jmontanez@ci.oceanside.ca.us

Carl McCullough: (760) 435-5238, cmccullough@ci.oceanside.ca.us

City of Palm Desert Youth Committee

http://www.cityofpalmdesert.org/Resources_CommitteesCommissions.asp

Frankie Riddle, friddle@cityofpalmdesert.org

City of Palo Alto Youth Council

Adam Howard: Recreation Supervisor, (650) 329-2192, Adam.Howard@cityofpaloalto.org

City of Paso Robles Youth Commission

<http://www.prcity.com/government/advisorybodies/youth.asp>

Vicky Jeffcoach: Recreation Coordinator – Teens and Youth, (805) 237-3893,
vjeffcoach@prcity.com

City of Petaluma Youth Commission

<http://cityofpetaluma.net/cclerk/members/youthcom.html>

Donnie Frank: City Management Liaison, (707) 778-4432, dfrank@ci.petaluma.ca.us

City of Pinole Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.pinole.ca.us/youth/index.html>

Joanna Altman: Staff Liaison, (510) 724-9004, jaltman@ci.pinole.ca.us

City of Pittsburg Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.pittsburg.ca.us/Pittsburg/Government/Commission/YAC/youth-adv-comm.htm>

Marilyn Lewis, (925) 439-4156, malewis@ci.pittsburg.ca.us

City of Pleasanton Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/government/representatives/city-commissions.html#yc>

Becky Hopkins, bhopkins@ci.pleasanton.ca.us

City of Pomona Youth Commission

Bernardo Rosa, (909) 399-1115 x2, nardorosa@aol.com

City of Redondo Beach Youth Commission

http://www.redondo.org/depts/boards_n_commissions/youth/default.asp

Dan Smith: Staff Liaison, dan.smith@redondo.org

City of Redwood City Teens

<http://www.rwcteens.com>

Mark Yasuda, (650) 780-7316, myasuda@redwoodcity.org

City of Redwood City Youth Advisory Board

<http://www.redwoodcity.org/parks/kidstuff/advisoryboard.html>

Jodi Fernandez: Recreation Supervisor Parks and Recreation, (650) 780-7329

City of Richmond Youth Commission

<http://ca-richmond.civicplus.com/index.asp?NID=1074>

Parin Shah, (510) 620-6503, parin@officeofthemayor.net

City of Riverside Youth Council

Lizette Navarette: Youth Coordinator, (951) 826-2436, lnavarette@riversideca.gov

City of Sacramento Youth Commission

<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/parksandrecreation/recreation/youthcomm.htm>

Christina DeMoss-Giffin, (916) 808-6111, cdemoss@cityofsacramento.org

City of Salinas Youth Advisory Commission

<http://www.ci.salinas.ca.us/BoardCom/youcomm/BCyoua01.html>

Sheila Molinari: Recreation Services, (831) 758-7476, sheilam@ci.salinas.ca.us

City of San Carlos Youth Advisory Council

<http://www.cityofsancarlos.org/scyc/council/default.asp>

Anna Kertel: Youth Development Recreation Supervisor, akertel@cityofsancarlos.org

City of San Diego Youth Commission

Roosevelt Williams III: Staff Liaison, (619) 236-7010; williamsr@sandiego.gov

San Francisco Youth Commission

www.sfgov.org/youth_commission

Kevin Liao: Director, 415 554-6446, kevin.liao@sfgov.org

City of San Jose Youth Commission

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/CommissionBoard/Youth.asp>

Betty Montoya: Youth Outreach Specialist, (408) 277-2744, betty.montoya@sanjoseca.gov

City of San Juan Capistrano Youth Advisory Board

http://www.sanjuancapistrano.org/city_govt_internal.asp?ID=239

Maricella Moreno: Staff Advisor and Recreation Coordinator, (949) 443-6392

mmoreno@sanjuancapistrano.org

City of San Leandro Youth Advisory Commission

<http://www.ci.san-leandro.ca.us/slboardsandcomms.html#youth>

Veronica Gibron: Recreation Supervisor, (510) 577-3477, VGibron@ci.san-leandro.ca.us

City of San Mateo Youth Activities Council

http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/government/board_ya.html

Amy Fisher, (650) 522-7430, teens@cityofsanmateo.org

City of San Marcos Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.san-marcos.ca.us/departments.asp?id=4432>

Holly Malan, Assistant Director, 760-744-9000 x 3503, hmalan@san-marcos.net

City of San Ramon Teen Council

<http://www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us/bcc/teen.htm>

Adam Chow: Youth and Teen Coordinator, (925) 973-3362, achow@ci.san-ramon.ca.us

City of Sanger Youth Council

<http://www.ci.sanger.ca.us/innerpage.asp?sectionid=21&forlevel=71&levelno=0&objectid=21&disobjid=476>

Heather Jordan: Recreation Specialist II, (559) 8876-6300 ext. 1410, jord0326@ci.sanger.ca.us

City of Santa Barbara Youth Council

Susan Young: Teen Programs Supervisor, (805) 897-2650, syoung@santabarbaraCA.gov

City of Santa Clara Youth Commission

http://www.ci.santa-clara.ca.us/city_gov/city_gov_youth_comm.html

Jennifer Herb: Recreation Supervisor/ Staff Liaison, (408) 615-3741, jherb@santaclaraca.gov

City of Saratoga Youth Commission

<http://www.saratoga.ca.us/boards-commissions/youth/index.html>

Adam Henig: Youth Commission Staff Advisor, (408) 868-1272, ahenig@saratoga.ca.us

City of Simi Valley Youth Council

http://www.simivalley.org/html/youth_council.html

Samantha Argabrite, Youth Council Coordinator, (805) 522-4473, sargabri@simivalley.org

City of South Pasadena Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.south-pasadena.ca.us/government/youth.html>

Alexis Braun: Youth Services Supervisor, (626) 403-7382, abraun@ci.south-pasadena.ca.us

City of Stockton Youth Advisory Commission

<http://www.stocktongov.com/parks/teens/teens.cfm>

Peni DeBlackwell: Advisor, (209) 937-5067, Peni.Basalusalu@ci.stockton.ca.us

City of Sunnyvale Teen Advisory Committee

Angela Chan, angelachan@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us

City of Thousand Oaks Youth Commission

Francine Sprigler: Staff Coordinator, 805-449-2743, fsprigler@toaks.org,
youthcommission@toaks.org

City of Torrance Youth Council

<http://www.tornet.com/2451.htm>

Deborah Reed: Staff Liaison, (310) 618-2949, dreed@tornet.com

City of Tracy Youth Advisory Commission

http://www.ci.tracy.ca.us/committees/youth_advisory_commission/

Natasha Bryant, (209) 831-6200, natasha.bryant@ci.tracy.ca.us

City of Turlock Teen Advisory Council

Karen Packwood: Recreation Services Supervisor, (209) 668-5594 ext.4605,
kpackwood@turlock.ca.us

City of Union City Youth Committee

<http://www.ci.union-city.ca.us/gov/committees.htm>

Ariel Leary, (510) 675-5600, aleary@ci.union-city.ca.us

Valley Youth Council (Danville, San Ramon, & Alamo) Youth Advisory Council

<http://www.ci.danville.ca.us/default.asp?serviceID1=701&Frame=L1>

Chris Waage: Program Coordinator, (925) 314-3481, cwaage@ci.danville.ca.us

Christine Mabry: Program Supervisor, (925) 314-3475, cmabry@ci.danville.ca.us

City of Vista Youth Advisory Commission

<http://www.cityofvista.com/departments/clerk/yac.cfm>

Kathy Hollywood: Assistant City Clerk, (760) 726-1340 ext. 1061, khollywood@cityofvista.com

Robert Rhoades: Staff Liaison, (760) 726-1340 ext. 1501, rrhoades@ci.vista.ca.us

City of Walnut Youth Advisory Committee

<http://www.ci.walnut.ca.us/general.asp?id=122>

City Hall, (909) 595-7543

City of West Covina Youth Council

<http://www.westcovina.org/kids/council>

Sheri Yuasa: Community Services Dept., (626) 939-8430, sheri.yuasa@westcovina.org

City West Sacramento Youth Commission

<http://www.ci.west-sacramento.ca.us/cityhall/Commissions/youth.cfm>

Brandi Dionne, brandid@cityofwestsacramento.org

City of Woodland Youth Commission

Dallas Tringali: Recreation Coordinator, (530) 661-5880, Dallas.Tringali@cityofwoodland.org

City of Yuba City Youth Commission

Ann Gillen: Recreation Supervisor, (530) 822-4649, agillen@yubacity.net

City of Yucca Valley Youth Commission

http://www.yucca-valley.org/townhall/comm_youth.html

Frank Sheckler, fsheckler@yucca-valley.org

Candy Drake, (760) 369-7211, cdrake@yucca-valley.org

- County Youth Commissions -

Contra Costa County Youth Commission

<http://www.cyc.typepad.com/>

Joan Tomasini: Program Director, 925-472-5773, jtomasini@helpnow.org

El Dorado County Youth Commission

<http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/youthcommission/index.asp>

Carol Martin, University of California Cooperative Extension, (530)621-5507,
mcmartin@ucdavis.edu

Marin County Youth Commission

<http://www.yli.org>

Mike Graham-Squire: Director of Civic Engagement and Philanthropy, (415) 455-1676 ext. 232
mgsquire@yli.org

Riverside County Youth Commission

<http://www.rcip.org/youth.htm>

First 5 Sacramento Commission Advisory Committee

Jennifer Auld: (916) 876-5873, AuldJ@saccounty.net

Sacramento County Youth Commission

<http://www.youthcommission.saccounty.net/default.htm>

Shirleen Ferrier: (916) 874-9547, ferriers@saccounty.net

San Bernardino County, Children's Network

www.sbcounty.gov/childnet

Amy Cousineau, (909) 387-8966, acousineau@hsf.sbcounty.gov

San Diego County, Community and Teen Centers

Ryan Flickinger, ryan.flickinger@sdcounty.ca.gov

San Mateo County Youth Development Initiative

Heather Storer, 650-401-8617 x 19, heather.storer@yfes.org

Santa Barbara County KIDS Network

k.zulliger@sbcsocialserv.org

South Bay Family YMCA - Youth and Government

Maria Masis: (619) 405-3625, mmasis@ymca.org

Tuolumne County Youth Employment Council/

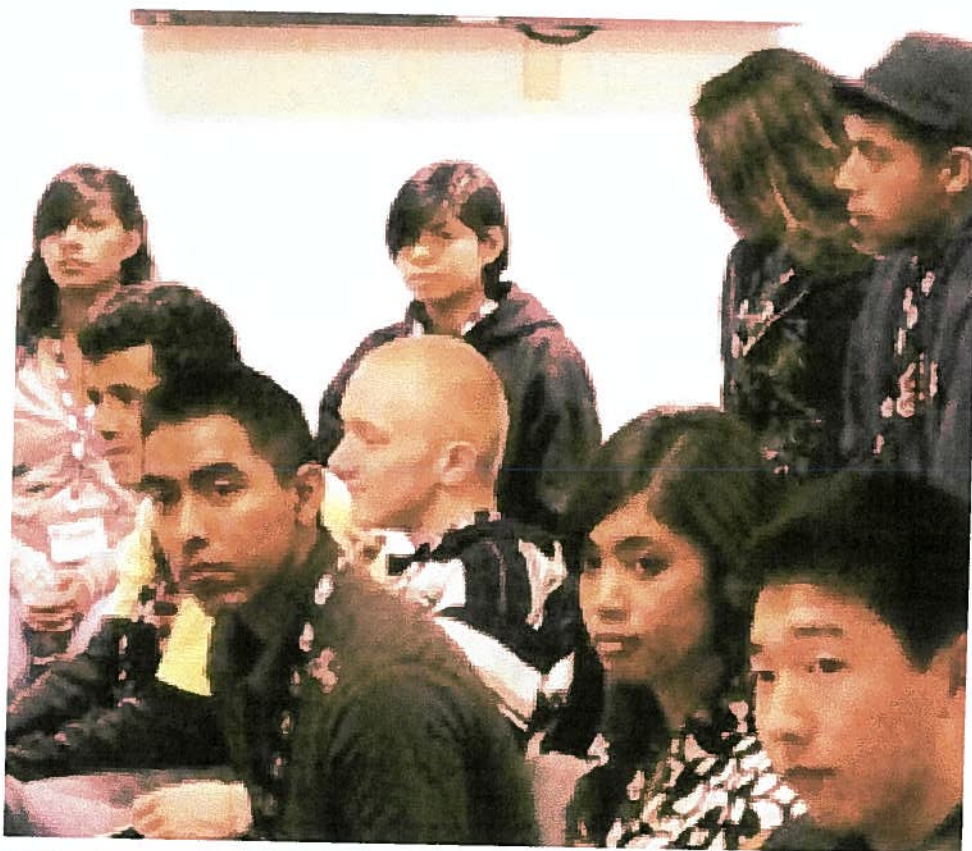
Mother Lode Workforce Investment Youth Council

Mike Russell, Recreation Director, 209-533-5663, mrussell@co.tuolumne.ca.us

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Youth Dialogues Inform and Develop Local Leaders

BY GREG KEIDAN



Greg Keidan is program coordinator of the Institute for Local Government's Collaborative Governance Initiative and can be reached at gkeidan@ca-ilg.org.

Youth dialogues give teens an opportunity to hear varied perspectives, find common ground and gain the confidence to voice their opinions. Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and the Sacramento region offer examples of how youth-led dialogues can create positive change in communities and involve more young people in public decision-making.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa conducted a roundtable discussion with local youth in January 2009 to explore the issues facing young residents. Held at a school in South Los Angeles, the event involved about 55 teens from the neighborhood and local youth council.

Villaraigosa asked the youth council to plan more roundtables for young people in other areas of the large city. In response, youth council members facilitated a May 2009 event that engaged 20 youths from the San Fernando Valley. At this meeting, participants suggested a citywide dialogue to help young people from all of L.A.'s neighborhoods learn about the opportunities available to them through city and local nonprofit programs.

Discussions such as these enable youth commissions and councils to hear more numerous and diverse young voices and provide city leaders with a complete, balanced youth perspective. Teens also gain practical skills when they play an active role in organizing, facilitating and publicizing these efforts.

The Los Angeles Youth Council conducted its first citywide youth meeting on June 20, 2009. The mayor's office supported the youth council in planning and promoting the event, which drew 110 teens representing a range of neighborhoods and backgrounds to city hall on a Saturday morning.

Michele Segura, an eloquent youth commissioner, welcomed the participants and explained that the meeting's purpose was to share what was going on in their neighborhoods and learn how they could make a contribution that would impact and improve their community.

Los Angeles City Council Member Tom LaBonge shared his experiences as a former L.A. youth commissioner. He encouraged the teens to find their passion and take advantage of the opportunity to be heard. The teens then separated into four groups, by region, to take part in roundtable dialogues facilitated by Segura and other youth council members. As individuals in each group introduced themselves, the diversity of the gathering became apparent. Some participants came from suburban magnet schools, and others were living in drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities. The teens discussed the neighborhood issues of greatest concern to them and what they would like to do to improve their communities.

Segura sees the roundtables as a way to introduce young people to involvement in local government. She says, "The real opportunity lies in following up with the youth who attended to make them feel they are a part of something meaningful, to connect them with networks of support and keep them coming back to have a voice in local government decisions." With the city facing difficult budget cuts that threaten youth recreation and education programs, youth council members have plenty of issues to raise.

In Santa Barbara, a youth council composed of 16 high-school and four junior-high students organizes "Youth Speak-Outs" twice a year. These forums give young people a chance to express their views on important local issues affecting both youth and adults. The youth council members collaborate with other area youth organizations and schools to draw hundreds of young people, who represent a broad cross section of the community, to these events. Topics addressed include teen violence, suicide, the media's influence on young people, graffiti, and teen drug and alcohol abuse. After each Youth Speak-Out event, youth council members present a summary of youth input on local issues to the mayor, city council and other relevant decision-makers.

According to Teen Programs Supervisor Susan Young, the Santa Barbara youth council has been very effective at creating positive change in the community. Youth council members have worked with local leaders to establish a teen center and skate park for their city. After a Youth Speak-Out last year on teen drug and alcohol abuse, the youth council made a presentation to the city council, asking it to consider passing a social host ordinance that would hold adults who host parties with underage drinking legally responsible. The city council members invited the youth council to work with them to write the ordinance, and two youth council members joined a city council committee that considered the issue. When the ordinance came before the city council for final approval, youth council members made a presentation in support of the ordinance. The city council voted unanimously to approve the social host ordinance in July 2008.

"The main advantage of Youth Speak-Outs is that they encourage young people to speak up in public about something they care about and to develop an ability and comfort with speaking out when they are given the opportunity to do so," says Young. This message is having an impact on the youth council members, who recently attended a city council budget review meeting and successfully petitioned the council to reconsider funding cutbacks that would have affected teen programs.

Young says that the most important strategy is involving youth throughout the planning and outreach process. The teens select topics that interest them and reach out to their peers by posting related information on their Facebook pages, making announcements at school and inviting their friends. They also advise adult staff on promotional materials that will appeal to teens.

Both Los Angeles and Santa Barbara are engaging a growing number of young people in city decisions and developing future leaders through youth-led dialogues with adequate support from city staff and the attention of elected officials. Through such dialogues, youth councils can include a broader youth perspective in their recommendations to city leaders. These events are also an opportunity to recruit new members, connect

area teens to city and community services, build the capacity of area youth to lead and participate in public meetings and expose young people to new ideas and perspectives.

Does your city have an innovative way of including a youth perspective in decision-making? Share your story by contacting Carmen Pereira, program assistant, Institute for Local Government; phone: (916) 658-8208; e-mail: cpereira@ca-ilg.org.

Teens Connect Regionally



More than 100 teens from cities throughout the Sacramento Valley region participated in a half-day Youth Leadership Retreat on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at the Wackford Community Center in Elk Grove. This event was the first of its kind organized by the Northern California Teen Resources Committee, a support network of parks and recreation staff and other adults working with youth groups in the Sacramento region. The group meets monthly to share best strategies and plan collaborative efforts.

To keep the teens engaged, the four-hour meeting alternated short presentations with team-building exercises led by Summer Thellman of the nonprofit Youth Development Network. Teens from Fair Oaks, Sacramento, Folsom, Elk Grove and El Dorado Hills

made group presentations to share their efforts and activities with other youth in the region. The participants expressed excitement about seeing what other youth groups were working on in the region, and it was clearly a leadership-building experience for them to create a presentation (some included videos or slide shows) and speak in front of a large audience.

The Institute for Local Government (ILG) staff gave a brief presentation on the importance of inclusive public engagement and then facilitated a dialogue with the teens whose topics ranged from underrepresented groups to the essential things that youth commissions and councils need to succeed. The ILG presentation included a brainstorming session and prioritizing possible topics for future ILG Youth Commission Briefing Papers.

For more details on the results of this dialogue and other youth-related ILG efforts, visit ILG's new youth resources page at www.ca-ilg.org/youthengagement.