



Agenda Item #: _____

Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Powell and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: David N. Carmany, City Manager

FROM: Liza Tamura, City Clerk
Roxanne Diaz, City Attorney

DATE: June 5, 2012

SUBJECT: Mayor's Youth Council Program and Appointment of Council Member Howorth as MYC Liaison

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council approve the Mayor's Youth Council and incorporate it as one of the City's programs and appoint Councilmember Howorth as liaison to the program.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

The budget for the Mayor's Youth Council program will be incorporated as part of the yearly Management Services budget and the cost is expected to be minimal—food, supplies, meeting room space, some transportation and staff oversight. In addition, the leadership of Mayor's Youth Council will seek a contribution from successful applicants to assist in covering expenses for the program.

BACKGROUND:

In 2010, former Mayor Portia Cohen and Mira Costa High School government teacher Andy Caine initiated the Costa-Council Project. This program invited Mira Costa High School students to complement their academic study of government by attending and discussing City Council meetings and Commissions. Each month, former Mayor Cohen and Mr. Caine met with participating students at Mira Costa High School and discussed their observations on city issues, policy, and protocol. Other councilmembers also participated as invited guests to dialogue with the students. At the end of the school year, students presented their findings to the Mayor and City Council during a city council meeting, and were presented with Certificates of Costa-Council Recognition.

In 2011, the City Council approved support for the program for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. The program was headed by former Mayor Portia Cohen along with a team of volunteers including Councilmember Amy Howorth and City Clerk Liza Tamura. Leaders of the program solicited applicants from Mira Costa High School and an inaugural class was established. The program ran for the 2011-2012 school year and monthly events were held to expose students to leaders in our community from the private, public and philanthropic sectors. For example, workshops were held

in the fields of health, entrepreneurship and local government with leaders of Harbor UCLA Hospital in Torrance, Body Glove and City Department Heads participating. Councilmember Howorth has been extensively involved in the program and we ask that she be appointed as the City Council liaison to the Mayor's Youth Council. She has agreed to take this role.

DISCUSSION:

The City Manager, City Clerk, City Attorney and Human Resources Director met with the leaders of the Mayor's Youth Council to discuss the future of the program. Since the community, students and parents at large believe that this program was already a "City program", Staff believes it would be well served if the program was formalized and made part of the various programs led by Management Services. In doing so, City Staff would be able to plan up-front for the monthly meetings such as reserving rooms, food and providing transportation to events as needed. These items would be scheduled as part of staff's duties and can be planned for accordingly. More importantly, the City would ensure that certain processes are incorporated into the program such as ensuring that parents execute proper waiver and liability forms, that volunteers are properly fingerprinted and background checks are conducted similar to other park and recreation programs, reliable transportation to off-site events is provided, and supplies can be budgeted for as part of Management Services budget. Staff also believes that this coordination will reduce the need for extensive involvement by City Staff that sometimes occurred last year. Last, Staff believes that the fiscal impact will be minimal and will be slightly offset by any funds provided by the \$100 fee per student.

For the 2012-2013 school year, Nancy Hersman will be leading the programs efforts in scheduling events and programs. Management Services will provide support as noted above. The recruiting effort for a new class is well underway.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, Staff requests approval and adoption of the Mayor's Youth Council as a City Program and that the City Council appoint Councilmember Howorth as liaison.