



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

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Staff Report
June 1, 2010

**Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council**

Title: Sacramento Youth Commission Annual Report

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Contact: Brit Irby, Youth Resource Coordinator

Presenters: Brit Irby, Youth Resource Coordinator (916) 808-8879, and members of the Sacramento Youth Commission

Department: City Manager's Office

Division: Office of Youth Development

Organization No: 02001041

Description/Analysis:

Issue: The Youth Commission is a youth-led commission/advocacy group whose mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of life for Sacramento youth by advising the Sacramento City Council, City Staff, and the public on issues relating to youth policies, programs and opportunities.

Members of the Sacramento Youth Commission participated in numerous community outreach projects and three strategic planning initiatives during the 2009/2010 school year. The Commissioners focused on these efforts through supportive roles in subcommittees and administrative functions.

The subcommittee's accomplishments are as follows:

- Adopted, the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights by the Sacramento City Council, in collaboration with the Department of Parks and Recreation,
- Supported the development of a Youth Action Team Program. and
- Conducted research and developed policy recommendations for a Social Host Ordinance.

The administrative function accomplishments are as follows:

- Supported the development of the Youth @ City Council Program,
- Collaborated with the Department of Parks and Recreation Department on planning, recruitment and execution of Global Youth Service Day
- Sustained the Youth of the Month Award Program by serving monthly as panelists and award presenters
- Surveyed over 400 Sacramento teens on topics related to strategic planning initiatives
- Developed leadership and communication skills through participation in the Toastmasters International Youth Leadership Program
- Provided Youth Commission updates at Neighborhood Services' Community Partnership meetings
- Assisted the United Way with research efforts on high school recidivism.

Policy Considerations: The Sacramento Youth Commission supports the City of Sacramento becoming the most youth-friendly city in the world.

Environmental Considerations: None.

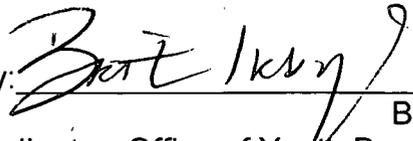
Commission/Committee Action: None.

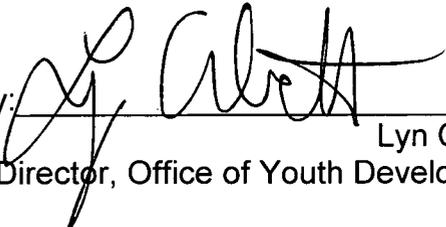
Sustainability Considerations: None.

Rationale for Recommendation: Not applicable.

Financial Considerations: None.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not applicable.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
British Irby
Youth Resource Coordinator, Office of Youth Development

Approved by: 
Lyn Corbett
Director, Office of Youth Development

Recommendation Approved:


for Gus Vina
Interim City Manager

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Background

The Sacramento Youth Commission, established in 1993, is a youth-led commission whose mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of life for Sacramento youth by advising the City Council, City staff, and the public on issues relating to youth policies, programs and opportunities.

This year, the Youth Commission has formed subcommittees and numerous administrative functions that serve to promote youth policies in the Sacramento region.

Subcommittees:

Three Youth Commission subcommittees were established to focus on the following initiatives:

In partnership with the Youth Development Network, the *Youth Action Team* subcommittee focused on supporting the development and implementation of a Youth Action Team Program in our region. The Youth Action Team Program was designed to create and sustain teams of disenfranchised youth, providing them with leadership skills and, in partnership with supporting adults, opportunities to address issues of youth violence prevention in their neighborhoods. Youth commissioners reviewed agency applications, conducted interviews, attended monthly youth trainings, and served as liaisons between the youth teams and local government. They continue to support the youth teams in their research of youth violence issues.

The *Social Host Ordinance* subcommittee focused on researching the establishment of a Social Host Ordinance in the City of Sacramento. A Social Host Ordinance would create an additional fee for adult “hosts,” specifically property owners and tenants of a property where youth are consuming alcoholic beverages. The ordinance, already adopted in several cities in the region, is intended to encourage parents and guardians to take greater precautionary measures to ensure that youth under their supervision do not consume alcoholic beverages. The Youth Commissioners created and conducted surveys to get feedback from other Sacramento youth. They also researched the issue of youth alcohol consumption and compared versions of the ordinance from various cities in the state and nation. They presented their research findings to the Sacramento Police Department and created a document outlining their recommendations.

The *Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights* subcommittee collaborated with Department of Parks and Recreation staff to support the City of Sacramento adoption of the California Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights. The Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights was created to encourage children to participate in outdoor recreation activities and discover their California heritage. The objective is that every California youth, by their fourteenth year, will have an opportunity to experience several key recreational learning activities including: exploring nature, playing in a safe place, exposure to California history and learning to swim. The Sacramento Youth Commission supported this resolution and prepared a presentation before City Council which, was adopted on March 9, 2010.

Committee members are passionate about the above policy objectives and are meeting with each other regularly to carry out their action plans and timelines. Office of Youth Development staff is supporting these objectives in an advisory capacity.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Youth Commission Chair, David Schenirer, led the Youth Commission meetings and helped to keep Commissioners on-task during and between meetings. Vice Chair, Julian Nagler, also served as Parliamentarian, keeping the commission in compliance with the Brown Act guidelines. Rian Nguy assumed the role of Secretary, maintaining accurate minutes of each meeting.

Historians Ade Jackson and Margarita Aguilar created, developed, and edited the 2009-2010 issue of Sacramento Youth Commission Newsletter, with assistance from several commissioners. This newsletter will be distributed to all department heads, councilmembers, council staff and Sacramento community members.

Each of the Youth Commissioners was instrumental in supporting subcommittee initiatives and contributed to the projects adopted by the Commission.

The 2009/2010 school year has been productive for the Youth Commission. The Commissioners hope members of City Council, City Managers Office, and City department staff will consider the input of the Youth Commission when pursuing or considering youth development policies, programs and practices. Commissioners are looking forward the 2010/2011 school year when they will participate in additional policy recommendations and strategic planning initiatives.