

DATE ISSUED: February 22, 2002

REPORT NO. 02-042

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of February 27, 2002

SUBJECT: City of San Diego Youth Commission

SUMMARY

Issues –

1. Should the City Council establish and appoint members to the City of San Diego Youth Commission?
2. Should the City Council direct the City Manager to coordinate quarterly meetings with the appointed Youth Commissioners to set goals and identify areas of interest among the group?
3. Should the City Council direct the City Manager to submit periodic reports on the progress of the Commission?

Manager's Recommendations –

1. Establish and appoint members to the City of San Diego Youth Commission.
2. Direct the City Manager to coordinate quarterly meetings with the appointed Youth Commissioners to set goals and identify areas of interest among the group.
3. Direct the City Manager to submit periodic reports on the progress of the Commission.

Fiscal Impact - None with this action.

BACKGROUND

During the October 24, 2001 Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee meeting, public testimony led to a discussion on the need for input from the City's youth on issues being considered by the City Council. Comments from committee members indicated that there was considerable support for the establishment of a City of San Diego Youth Advisory Board. As a result, Councilmember Brian Maienschein issued a memo proposing the creation of a Youth Commission, in order to allow teenagers and young adults in San Diego to play a vital role and express their concerns in the City's government process.

On November 30, 2001, Councilmember Maienschein issued a request to all members of the City Council to appoint two to five youths, ages 14 to 22, to the Youth Commission. The stated goal was to hold quarterly meetings to listen to and address City-wide issues brought forth by teenagers and young adults. All City Councilmembers submitted their prospective appointees (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION

The City previously established and funded a Youth Advisory Council in 1988. Members met monthly and advised the Mayor and City Council monthly on issues that pertained to youth in San Diego. The program organized youth into three sub-committees, including Party Sober, Police/Community Relations, and Special Interests. It also focused heavily on developing employment opportunities for the youth members. Unfortunately, it was sunset due to budget cuts in 1994.

The establishment of a City Youth Commission would provide a forum for teenagers and young adults from each Council District to again voice their opinions on issues that concern them. Through quarterly meetings, coordinated by City staff, members of the commission could form recommendations on issues before the Council, or bring forth issues that they generate amongst themselves.

A critical first step in this process would be to formally appoint the members to the Youth Commission submitted by the Mayor and each Council office. Prospective Commissioners will be notified, advised of their anticipated appointment and asked to complete an area of interest survey. We anticipate the first meeting to be held the day of their appointment.

Staff would facilitate all meetings and assist with setting goals and objectives and establishing norms/ expectations for the group. During subsequent meetings, issues of interest could be identified and discussed. For example, the Youth Commission could provide input on the CDBG Social Service applications for youth services.

Young adults are impacted by the decisions made by city government officials, but seldom have the opportunity to directly participate in the process. The establishment of the City of San Diego Youth Commission would facilitate their participation in local government, as well as, provide elected officials an opportunity to hear and address their ideas and concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Fischle-Faulk
Community Services Deputy Director

Approved: Hank Cunningham, Director
Community and Economic
Development

DFF/sa

Attachments: [List of Prospective Appointees to the City of San Diego Youth Commission](#)