

DATE ISSUED: July 9, 2004

REPORT NO. 04-152

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee  
Agenda of July 14, 2004

SUBJECT: Youth Commission Update – Fiscal Year 2004 Activities

#### SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATIONAL ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE.

#### BACKGROUND

On October 25, 2001, Councilmember Brian Maienschein proposed the creation of a Youth Commission for the City of San Diego in order to allow teenagers and young adults in San Diego to play a vital role and express their concerns in the City's governmental process.

On April 15, 2002, twenty-five appointees, representing all eight council districts, were introduced, and the City Council voted to approve the establishment of the Youth Commission. An ordinance (O-19053) was formally adopted on April 29, and Councilmember Brian Maienschein swore in the Commissioners on June 20, 2002.

Since its formation, City of San Diego Youth Commission has conducted monthly meetings. During the first meetings of the commission, they decided their main focus was to create awareness of opportunities for youth to become involved in their communities and or government. The Commissioners have demonstrated their mission by participating in various activities and conducting outreach to other youth. They have participated in numerous youth panels, community organizing opportunities and community beautification events.

#### Fiscal Year 2004 Highlights

On October 20, 2003, the Commission participated in the Youth Environmental Symposium sponsored by the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department. The Commissioners

had the opportunity to speak to Mayor Dick Murphy and the Federal Government's Environmental Protection Agency's Region IX Administrator Wayne Nastri, regarding youth involvement in environmental issues. They also participated in workshops on environmental stewardship and discussion on air and water issues, plant biodiversity and endangered animal habitats in the San Diego region.

Commissioners volunteered their time after the Cedar Fires at the Scripps Ranch Assistance Center. They recruited youth to volunteer at the donation center and helped collect various donation items for victims of the fires.

One goal the Commission strongly supports is community beautification. In accomplishing that goal, the Commission collaborated with Neighborhood Code Compliance and developed a strategy to accomplish a community or graffiti cleanup event in every council district. On February 7, 2004 the Commission initiated their first graffiti cleanup in City Heights. Councilmember Toni Atkins was present to give the youth support as to the importance of building communities. Over forty youth volunteered to help paint out graffiti in various locations.

#### Looking Forward

In Fiscal Year 2005, The City of San Diego Youth Commission will continue to foster its adopted norms and values. It hopes to sustain and grow its strong community involvement and increase its governmental support. The Commission has grown to be a visible group in the community and hopes its existence continues for years to come, in accordance with the vision that was originally put forth by Councilmember Maienschein.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Community Services Deputy Director  
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Approved: Bruce Herring  
Deputy City Manager

LINARES/KSG

Cc: June Dudas, "6 to 6" Program Administrator  
Kelly San Martin-Ghannadian, Staff Liaison  
Angela Yager, Council District 5 Representative