

Boards and Commissions Application

Profile

Agam
First Name

Singh
Last Name

[REDACTED]
Email Address

Please note, applications are continuously accepted to the City of San Jose Boards and Commissions. The Board or Commission you select may or may not indicate there is a vacancy. Your application will remain on file for one year from the date of submission. During the year, your application may be considered for unanticipated vacancies.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Youth Commission: Submitted

Are you a resident of San Jose?

Yes No

Length of Residency

6 or more years

What district do you live in? To verify, please click here: <https://eservices.sccgov.org/rov/?tab=dt> *

District 9

[REDACTED]
Street Address

Suite or Apt

San Jose
City

CA
State

95124
Postal Code

[REDACTED]
Primary Phone

[REDACTED]
Alternate Phone

N/A
Employer

N/A
Job Title

Current Employer Address

N/A

Current Employer of Spouse

N/A

Address of Current Employer of Spouse

N/A

Spouse's Job Title

N/A

If you or your spouse is retired and receiving a pension, please state source of pension.

N/A

Question applies to Youth Commission

Birthdate

03/20/2007

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Interests & Experiences

High School, College, Professional, Vocational, or Other Schools Attended. Please include Major or Field of Study, Dates Attended, Degree and Date of Degree.

Completed middle school and entering high school.

List any position or office held in any governmental agency, civic, or charitable organization including the dates

N/A

Languages Spoken

English, Punjabi

Special Awards or Recognitions Received

Presidential Volunteer Service Award - Silver Level, Order of Distinguished Service (From Noddin Elementary School), Black Belt in Karate, 1st Place Winner of National Basketball Tournament in 2019, Member of California Junior Scholarship Fund (CJSF)

Please state why you want to become a member of this Board or Commission including specific objectives which you would work toward as a member. If you are applying for the Board of Fair Campaign and Political Practices, please indicate any familiarity or experience you may have with campaign laws.

I want to become the next District 9 Youth Commissioner because I have many ideas that I want to vocalize and solve in the city, with the city. My largest priority and biggest passion, if not evidenced by my application already, is to investigate and create solutions to the digital divide. This will be done through policy proposals, educational fairs, and collaborations with San Jose Digital Inclusion, Big Tech (using the groundwork laid by the previous commissioner, Avi Singh), and any other strong technological advocates. Though I have created many policy proposals to present in the next fiscal year already, I believe that a consistent push and strong effort is needed to create any sort of reform. I will make sure to bring this push and effort with my appointment as Commissioner. With so many problems both imminent and already present in the youth community of San Jose, fast action is a must. And as Commissioner, I will make sure to dedicate my time, passion, and willpower to prevent such issues from growing, and will try my best to dissipate any arising issues in the youth community.

Please state any other information which you feel would be useful in reviewing your application

I have been the Co-Chair of District 9 Youth Advisory Council (YAC) for 2 years, and got selected for Leigh High School's ASB Leadership for the year of 2021-2022. Wrote and passed a policy recommendation that was approved by the Youth Commission, and is on agenda to be reviewed by the City Council.

Do you own property in the City of San José?

Yes No

If yes, please list the addresses here.

Do you rent property in the City of San José?

Yes No

If yes, is it a month-to-month lease?

Yes No

State and local law require that you abstain from participation in decisions that may affect your financial interests, including sources of income, interest in real property, personal finances or investments. In addition, if appointed, you may be required to fill out a disclosure statement which identifies certain of your financial interest beginning with the immediate twelve-month period prior to your appointment. Please review the scope of your board/commission in Municipal Code Chapter 2.08. Based on your best judgment, does this Board or Commission make decisions that may affect sources of income, interests in real property, personal finances or investments of you or your spouse?

Yes No

If yes, please explain. Please identify any organizations, associations, corporations, or entities by which you are employed or associated that might be affected by decisions of this Board or Commission, and the positions you hold in these entities.

N/A

Reference 1 Name

Kirsten Utley

Reference 1 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 1 Phone

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Name

Mary Martin

Reference 2 Address

[REDACTED]

Reference 2 Phone

[REDACTED]

Supplemental Questions

Question applies to Youth Commission

Please list your community involvement, including jobs and volunteer work.

-Teacher at Sunday School at the Guru Nanak Khalsa School in the San Jose Gurdwara. Teaching how to fluently read, write, and speak Punjabi, and the history, traditions, and significance of Sikhism -Served as the Co-Chair of the District 9 Youth Advisory Council 2020-2021 -Served as the ASB Representative at Union Middle School for the 7th grade class (2019-2020) -Helped make and sell bracelets to raise money to donate to the Sankara Eye Foundation in India. Raised a grand total of 70 dollars -Co-founded Northern India Chapter of Lighting for Literacy, a Los Gatos Rotary sponsored program which installs solar-powered LED lights in impoverished areas of the world to help students receive an adequate light source during their academic endeavors -Sold popcorn as a fundraiser to help fund our school programs. We raised a total of 2000 dollars to be allocated towards funding programs throughout our whole school

Question applies to Youth Commission

In one paragraph, please explain your community interests.

Since there are many youth that are motivated and excited to be future leaders, it is important that those youth are taught how to be the most effective leader possible. Therefore, something I want to see in the community is more leadership events, such as seminars where city council members come and speak about their experiences with leadership. These seminars can also include keynote speeches by professional speakers, collaborations with leadership focused nonprofits/neighborhood associations, and brief presentations by the San Jose Youth Commission themselves on how to become more civically engaged in the community. Leadership is by far one of the greatest tools the youth can have, as the youth are the future of our city. By using the learned leadership skills and traits, these youth can create an even larger impact on the community around them.

Question applies to Youth Commission

What do you feel are some of the problems facing the youth of San Jose?

The largest problem I believe that the youth faces today is the digital divide. The digital divide refers to the gap between those able to benefit from the digital age by obtaining adequate access to technology, and those who are not. In other words, it means that the people that are able to afford more resources are able to learn and grow much more efficiently, while those with less are not so much. In this day and age, we are completely reliant on technology as our supplement for education. Because we are in the time-period of COVID-19, we have transitioned completely to technology with the extensive introduction of distance learning. And looking into the future, the majority of activities, both personal and professional, will gradually be shifted towards the online setting. Though this may sound appealing to most, this automatically creates a divide in all society. Because the financially sound are able to afford technological resources to aid the growth of their intellectual abilities through education, they are put at an advantage over those who cannot afford such devices. And these are the generations that are the future leaders, entrepreneurs, and change makers of tomorrow. If the youth of today are not sufficiently educated and provided the needed resources, the lives of the future will be impacted negatively severely.

What do you feel the priorities of the Youth Commission should be?

Building upon my response to the previous question, addressing the Digital Divide should be one of the top priorities of the commission. The last few years have seen exponential growth in the use of technology, both educationally and professionally. It is the medium through which students grow intellectually and financially. And in times of growing academic competition, people that have the ability to afford with the adequate technology and resources are able to excel, while those who are not, are not able to. And even after this high rise in the utilization of technology, about 95,000 individuals in the City of San Jose still don't have adequate access. Upon interviewing the previous D9 Youth Commissioner, Avi Singh, it came to my attention that he was also extremely passionate in alleviating the Digital Divide. He started a few programs, one of which works with Big Tech to anonymously donate devices to underprivileged youth. Though this program is in its initial stages, I certainly hope to carry it out further. Additionally, being in his YAC, he presented many ideas regarding the Digital Divide that can be converted into policy proposals. I hope to create policies on these ideas as well. In conclusion, education is the most important thing to youth, as it is what shapes their future ahead. And because of the large effect education has on youth, if adequate technological resources are not provided, their futures are at stake.

If applicable, have you ever attended a meeting of the Commission(s) to which you are applying?

Yes No

Would you be available to attend meetings at the scheduled time?

Yes No

Please describe your experience in serving on a Commission or Board.

N/A

Considering your experience and activities in business, labor, professional, social, or other organizations, indicate the experience, training, knowledge and/or skills which qualify you for appointment to the selected commission(s).

Firstly, responsibility. I am the co-chair of the D9 YAC, which is an organization that makes programs and policies for the youth of San Jose. As the co-chair, I manage almost half a dozen events, many meetings, and some policy recommendations. Another trait I see in myself is public speaking. Being the co-chair of the YAC, I am in charge of running meetings, and creating new ideas/events and policies. I have also finalized and presented these ideas in front of city officials such as district councilmen and women. I have also been an ASB Representative for my class in Union Middle School. As an ASB Representative, I have presented several ideas for our school to the Union School District board. Additionally, I see listening and decision making in myself. I play on a travel basketball team, and have played on the UMS school basketball team as well. In this sport, I have to listen to and react upon callouts that the coach gives us, and make a series of quick decisions. Lastly, I see discipline. As a black belt in martial arts, obtaining such a rank was not easy. Taking over 6 years of my life, this was easily one of the most strenuous accomplishments I have had. And because of this, in the bigger picture, I have learned the real value of discipline, and the various positives it can amount to in life overall. These traits have become my personality. Without them, my confidence to pursue leadership would never have been found. And because of this confidence, I got involved in organizations such as the YAC, which focus on using such leadership to develop new ideas for the betterment of all youth. My willingness to apply this confidence does not stop there. I want to take it to greater levels, so a wider variety, and a larger number of youth are positively impacted.

What is your understanding of the purpose of the Commission?

In simple words, the Youth Commission works on a few motives: increasing civic engagement, motivating youth to use their voice in city government, and having a hand in creating a better, safe, and more sustainable San Jose. In a more elaborate description, the Youth Commission is the connection between the growing youth in San Jose and the San Jose City Board. This connection proves to be vital because the youth of today are the change-makers of tomorrow. And in a society where exceptional leadership is essential, it is more important than ever that all youth are provided with the appropriate resources and support for proper growth. Here is where the Youth Commission comes into play. Firstly, the Youth Commission spearheads the efforts of developing, presenting, and instituting policy recommendations. Policy recommendations are extremely important because they are a medium through which the youth of San Jose contribute to changing their atmosphere. Policies bring the direct change that they want to bring to the city. The Youth Commission also hosts events and fundraisers, and also brainstorm ideas that benefit the youth in our city. Some events that have been hosted before include, Viva Calles, and the Sharks event at the Camden Community Center. These events are what connects the city to the youth and inspire the youth to be more civically engaged, one of the main motives of the Commission.

Please list three issues facing the City that you feel the Commission should address.

Three of the largest issues facing the youth of the city are the digital divide, environmental pollution, and youth homelessness. The digital divide refers to the disparity between those able to afford adequate access to technology as compared to those who cannot. As I stated before, the last few years have seen exponential growth in the use of technology, both educationally and professionally, especially due to COVID-19. As everything in the future is shifting towards the digital ecosystem, technology is becoming more and more an inborn right, and it is our duty to fulfil that right. Next, pollution. Iqair.com states: “ In 2018, San Jose AQI was 52 (“moderate”) exceeding both US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards and the WHO annual target for PM2.5 by 2.4 µg/m3” The effect the particulate PM2.5 has on the bodies of youth is comparable to second-hand smoking. If youth are exposed to such high-levels of carcinogens this early on in their lifetime, they are bound to develop a lung disease in the near future. And considering that the majority of youth are very active (take part in various sports), the negative effects of this particulate are only magnified. It is important for the commission to take immediate action in addressing climate change, as in a research detailed by researchers, after 7 years, climate change will be irreversible. Lastly, there is youth homelessness. Though there were a considerable amount of homeless youth pre-pandemic, COVID-19 has created, and will create, an even larger youth homeless population due to the vast negative financial implications that will follow post-pandemic. Even though many memorandums were passed by the City to delay rent to avoid evictions, the downfall of the economy after these memorandums lose validity is imminent. Unfortunately, this means that many more youth will be homeless. As repeated many times before, youth are required to have their basic needs, such as housing and technology, to be adequately met so they can prosper in the future. And since the Youth Commission focuses on creating a better environment for all youth in San Jose, I feel that youth homelessness should be a top 3 priority.

I would like to say . . .

(Optional) Please upload a resume.

Retirement Board Questions Only

Verification

By checking the box below, you agree with the following statement.

I agree that all of the information contained in my responses to the questions on this application are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I further agree that, by checking the box below and submitting this application, online or otherwise, I am affixing my digital signature to this form as of the date submitted.

I Agree *