



Memorandum

TO: NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AND
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FROM: JON CICIRELLI

**SUBJECT: YOUTH COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT**

DATE: March 25, 2019

Approved

Date

4/3/2019

COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services is pleased to present the Youth Commission Annual Report on the activities and collaborations with the affiliated Council District Youth Advisory Councils for FY 2018-19.

/s/

Jon Cicirelli
Acting Director of Parks, Recreation
and Neighborhood Services

For questions, please contact Neil Rufino, Deputy Director, at (408) 535-3576.



Memorandum

TO: NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AND
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FROM: Youth Commission

**SUBJECT: YOUTH COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT**

DATE: 03/25/19

Approved

Date

4/3/2019

COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the Youth Commission Annual Report on the activities and collaborations with the affiliated Council District Youth Advisory Councils.

OUTCOME

To provide an enhanced awareness of the Youth Commission's progress on its 2018-2019 Work Plan activities.

BACKGROUND

The City of San José's Youth Commission (Commission) serves as an advisory body to the City Council and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services on policy matters of importance to the youth of San José. The 2018-2019 Youth Commission, including its auxiliary Youth Advisory Councils, consists of individuals of ages ranging from 14 to 18 years old. These youths provide the City Council with young leaders' perspectives on policy issues, including those concerning safety, civic engagement, environment, education, and technology.

Actions taken by the Commission are guided by a work plan, which was approved by the Neighborhood Services and Education Council Committee on November 8, 2018. This report will provide an update on the Commission's activities regarding both the advancement of the work plan's strategic goals and the City staff-support level dedicated to this effort. The 2018-2019 Work Plan Status, supplemented with updates, is attached.

ANALYSIS

The Youth Commission commenced the year with an annual retreat held at the Almaden Winery on August 10 through August 12, 2018. Summer youth interns presented youth issues at the retreat to assist the Commission in identifying and establishing a set of key strategic goals to guide the Commission's greater vision and mission throughout the year. The following section provides a summary of various actions accomplished based on the Commission's strategic goals during 2018-2019.

Strategic Goal 1: Foster greater youth involvement in municipal government and civic affairs in the City of San José.

Accomplishments:

- Youth Advisory Councils (YACs) have been established in each City district.
- All district-specific YAC work plans have been approved by the Youth Commission.
- A majority of high schools are represented in YACs citywide.
- Ad hoc teams have been established to identify policy recommendations in education, environment, civic engagement, public safety, and technology.
- On November 5, 2018, the Youth Commission and their YAC members met with the City Manager to gather the ad hoc teams' recommendation feedback and learn the City Manager's perspective on City issues.
- On January 12, 2019, the Youth Commission held a six-hour long YAC Summit at the Camden Community Center to gather youth input on the ad hoc teams' recommendations and prioritize the City Budget.
- On March 6, 2019, ad hoc teams' policy recommendations have been submitted to the City Clerk's Office for distribution to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee.

Next Steps:

- Confirm a meeting with the Mayor to discuss the issues facing the City and the City budget by May 2019.

Strategic Goal 2: Identify and act upon youth concerns within the City through partnership and initiatives.

Accomplishments:

- On October 23, 2018, the Youth Commission received a commendation from County Supervisor Cindy Chavez for the Commission's partnership and involvement with the County's Youth Task Force at the Silicon Valley Youth and Housing Summit.

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- On November 2, 2018, the Commission Chair participated in the Bill Wilson's "Green Light March" for homelessness awareness and spoke about the issues of teen homelessness.
- On January 25, 2019, the District 8 Youth Commissioner attended the opening of the new Eastridge Teen Center in support of the Evergreen Community Center.
- On January 25, 2019, the Commission Vice Chair attended the Sex Trafficking Summit to learn more about the vulnerability of youth on this issue.
- On February 25, 2019, the Commission approved letters to the City Council on the City Council Priority Updates.
- On February 14, 2019, the Commission established a partnership with the Senior Citizens Commission to organize and facilitate a Youth Literacy contest.
- On March 6, 2019, the Commission's recommendation on the Environmental Sustainable Plan was submitted to the Clerk's Office for distribution to the Council districts for review.

Next Steps:

- Attend further meetings to ensure youth have a voice in the upcoming San Jose Light Tower project.
- Initiate the citywide Youth Literacy contest with the Senior Citizens Commission.
- Partner with Viva CallesSJ on a park activation and the Youth Commission's first ever "Find Your Why Fest" in June 2019.

Strategic Goal 3: Empower and engage youth through organized special events.

Accomplishments:

- On December 8, 2018, District 10 Youth Commissioner and the District 10 YAC held a creek cleanup at the Coyote Creek trail. Twelve trash bags were picked up and 16 youth attended.
- On January 12, 2019, the Commission organized and led the 2018-2019 Youth Advisory Summit at the Camden Community Center.
- On February 8, 2019, District 4 Council Office presented the Commission with a commendation for their work on the District 4 Advise Inspire and Motivate youth event.

Upcoming events:

- District 4 Youth Commissioner and the District 4 YAC will host "Boba with a Cop" to help strengthen youth and police relationships in District 4.
- District 5 Youth Commissioner and the District 5 YAC will be hosting an open mic event at the Mayfair Community Center.
- District 7 Youth Commissioner and the District 7 YAC will host an "Evening with a Cop" panel event to strengthen youth and police relationships.

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- District 9 Youth Commissioner and the District 9 YAC will host the first ever, “District 9 Moves” event at the Camden Community Center to reinforce the importance of physical activity in a young child.
- District 10 Youth Commissioner and the District 10 YAC will host a “Drug Awareness” rally at Gunderson High School to emphasize the harm of vaping to a youth’s mind and body.
- Commissioners YAC members will be participating in the Great American Litter Pickup on April 13, 2019.
- On May 17, 2019, District 3 Youth Commissioner and the District 3 YAC will be hosting a college and career fair at the City Hall rotunda.

Strategic Goal 4: Create and propose policy recommendations to the City Council that serve to benefit the youth and their interests.

Accomplishments:

- On March 5, 2019, letters of support to the Council’s priorities on gun violence and family-friendly city have been submitted to the Clerk’s Office for distribution to the Mayor and City Council.
- On March 6, 2019, the Commission’s ad hoc teams’ policy recommendations have been submitted to the Clerk’s Office for distribution to the City Council for review.

Next Steps:

- Complete and submit the Youth Commission’s City Budget recommendation on April 15, 2019.

The Youth Commission was nominated for the 2019 Community Values Youth Project Cornerstone Award and continues to provide a leadership platform for youth who are interested in actively participating in civic engagement.

The Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services department has 1.0 FTE Youth Outreach Specialist responsible for performing outreach, mentoring commissioners, managing and maintaining all Youth Commission functions including the YACs throughout the City, as well as conducting outreach to non-City youth agencies. Additionally, this position plays a key role in organizing the Youth Commissioners and helping the youth learn about the City’s administration.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Staff and the Youth Commission will return to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee in fall 2019 with the annual 2019-2020 Work Plan.

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PUBLIC OUTREACH

This memorandum will be posted on the City's website for the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee's April 11, 2019 meeting.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department and the City Attorney's office.

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION/INPUT

This memorandum has been submitted by the Youth Commission.

/s/

Maren Bick-Maurischat
Youth Commission Chair

Attachment: Youth Commission FY 2018-19 Work Plan Status