



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL AND**  
**YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT**

**AGENDA REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** February 13, 2019

**TO:** Neighborhood Advisory Council  
Youth Council

**FROM:** Santa Barbara Youth Council

**SUBJECT:** Santa Barbara Youth Council 2019 Activities And Special Projects

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Neighborhood Advisory Council and Youth Council receive a report on the Santa Barbara Youth Council's activities and special projects for 2019, and take action, as appropriate, on opportunities for collaboration between the Youth Council and the Neighborhood Advisory Council.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City Council established the United Youth Empowered in 1994 which was renamed Santa Barbara Youth Council in 1997. In 2013, the City Council adopted a resolution to formally establish the Santa Barbara Youth Council (Youth Council) as an official city advisory board.

Both the United Youth Empowered and the Youth Council were created to function as a voice for teens by facilitating youth forums, youth publications and planning teen activities. For many years, the Youth Council functioned as an advisory board for Teen Programs, the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council. The Youth Council ensures that their issues, concerns, needs and viewpoints are represented in order to make recommendations to the City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission and Parks and Recreation staff. The Youth Council promotes and encourages participation in community events, and collaborates with other community agencies, youth groups, and advisory bodies in areas of mutual concern and benefit. The Youth Council also creates and/or support opportunities for public discussion through forums, meetings, workshops, conferences and Youth Speak Outs.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Youth Council has seven subcommittees, including Special Events, Policies and Procedures, Marketing and Publicity, Health and Mentoring, Fundraising, Junior High School, and Sunshine, and two ad hoc committees: Project ALMA (Adolescent Leaders Modeling Acceptance), and Gun Safety. Additionally, there is an Executive Committee that includes all nominated officers, who provide general recommendations to the body as a whole.

The Youth Council conducts official Brown Act meetings twice per-month and subcommittees meet as necessary. Members include students from Santa Barbara Unified School District High Schools, Junior High Schools, private and alternative schools, As such each representative tries to connect with peers to gauge what issues are effecting youth. The Youth Council also collaborates with other youth service provider's teen leaders such as PAL, Future Leaders of America (FLA), and COYA (Coalition of Youth Advocates).

Annually, the Youth Council hold a leadership training where members are trained in public speaking, how to conduct meetings, including parliamentary orders, City ordinances, communication and teamwork. Additionally, the Youth Council participates in the annual Youth Speak Out and/or teen conference and Day of Caring, collaborates with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, and holds a dinner for the end of the school year. Lastly, the Youth Council partners with the Downtown Organization by assisting with the Harriet Miller Youth Leader Award.

Currently, the Youth Council are collaborating with What's Love and the Mental Wellness Connection for February's Teen Dating Violence Month. The Youth Council are responsible for reviewing recommendations, developing the resolution, and preparing for the upcoming recruitment as there are 12 outgoing seniors. Other major projects include: Project ALMA, Gun Safety, Tobacco Education, and our Teen Leadership Conference.

### Gun Safety Ad Hoc Committee

The Gun Safety Ad Hoc subcommittee was established following several national incidents involving gun violence in high schools and some local threats. The Youth Council received education from the Coalition Against Gun Violence (CAGV), talked with teens in their schools and joined Future Leaders of America and PAL Youth Leadership Council to host a workshop on gun safety with a special guest from Parkland, Florida. Recently, working with the Santa Barbara Youth Council, CAGV formed a Gun Safety Task Force with over 40 organizations, including representatives from Senator Hanna Beth Jackson's and Congressman Salud Carbajal's offices to work together on this problem, and to educate the community and policy makers on ways to keep this community free from gun-related violence. Gun Safety committee members have met with the City Attorney's office, Mayor Murillo and gun safety advocates to address proposed ordinances that can be adopted in Santa Barbara. Next, Youth Council

members will receive free training at TVSB's Media Camp to learn how to produce PSA's, including script writing, editing, filming, and starring in a campaign to educate the community on this issue and other public health issues.

#### Tobacco Prevention Program Grant

The Youth Council has partnered with the County of Santa Barbara Public Health Department, Tobacco Prevention Program and the CEASE Coalition for several years with a focus on projects that address underage access to smoking and vaping products, community outreach and merchant education. Youth Council members receive training every year on the goals and objectives of the project, environmental prevention strategies, media advocacy, marketing and advertising, coalition building and public policy from trainers from the Coalition of Youth Advocates and Adult Allies (COYAA). Last year's project included work on the City's Second-Hand Smoke Ordinance. Youth Council members conducted surveys along State Street and visited local merchants to educate them about the Second-Hand Smoke ordinance, and distribute decals in English and Spanish to post in their stores. Members also worked with City TV staff to produce a PSA in both English and Spanish to educate the public about the ordinance that highlighted Santa Barbara's beautiful parks, beaches and businesses that are protected by the ordinance. In 2007, the Youth Council partnered with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Teen Coalition, which was funded by the County of Santa Barbara Public Health, to get the Social Host Ordinance adopted, which targets reducing underage access to alcohol by holding hosts responsible for allowing teens access to alcohol in their homes. Beginning in April 2019, the Youth Council will work with Future Leaders of America on a special education campaign to educate the community on a new drinking ordinance.

#### Teen Leadership Conference (TLC)

In 2014, the Youth Council held its first Teen Leadership Conference. The conference was developed to connect youth with adult leaders and participate in two or three workshops on issues currently facing youth. The conference included leaders from various youth organizations as well as associated student body leaders from each of the high schools. The event has been hosted in partnership with other youth leadership groups. The event began as a four-hour evening event and now is generally held as a full day Saturday event. Last year, as a result of a generous donor, members had a special guest to fly from Florida to share their experience regarding gun violence. This year, proposed workshops include, Teen Mental Wellness in partnership with the Youth Mental Wellness Connection Clubs from school campuses with a focus on suicide prevention; Know Your Rights by Project ALMA Ad Hoc Committee and Cal SOAP that will cover the DREAM Act application process and FAFSA/Financial Aid information to aid in college readiness; vaping with a focus on JUULS and e-cigarettes; teen dating violence and a junior high school component.

Neighborhood Advisory Council and Youth Council Report  
Santa Barbara Youth Council 2019 Activities And Special Projects  
February 13, 2019  
Page 4

**PREPARED BY:** Roberta Payan, Recreation Leader, Santa Barbara Youth Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Susan C. Young, Supervisor, Neighborhood and Outreach Services

**APPROVED BY:** Rich Hanna, Parks and Assistant Recreation Director