



**City of Santa Barbara**  
Parks and Recreation Department

**Memorandum**

**DATE:** July 17, 2008  
**TO:** Park and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Santa Barbara Youth Council  
**SUBJECT:** **ANNUAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008**

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**Committee Members**

Garrett Brown	Mandy Longstreth
Greta Conried	Carli Lochner
Jessica Cottriel	Megan Lorenzen
Chelsey Gonzales	Cole Lupoli
Christina Gonzalez	Chris McDermut
Alex Huang	Maggie McDermut
Michael Kim	Jimmy Sexton
Eduardo Lino	Rafael Zarate-Ardon

**Appointment Process and Meeting Schedule**

Youth Council members are appointed through an application and interview process. Applications are accepted and reviewed by Youth Council members and staff. Recommendations are received from school counselors and other youth service agencies. Youth Council members conduct brief interviews and appointments are made by a majority vote. The Youth Council continues to reevaluate its appointment process to achieve the best results possible.

The Youth Council meets on the first and third Mondays of every month at 5:15 pm in City Hall Council Chambers. During summer, meetings are held on an as needed basis.

**Member Representation**

The Youth Council has a board of seventeen members. Currently there are sixteen youth council members representing five high schools including: Dos Pueblos, Bishop Diego, San Marcos, Santa Barbara and Laguna Blanca. The youth council members range in age from 14 to 18 years old. Ethnically, there is one African American, four Latinos, two Asians, one Armenian, and eight Caucasians.

## **Committee Projects/Activities**

This year, one of the Youth Council's main concentrations was on the coordinating of activities of new Twelve35 Teen Center. Teen Center Planning Committee re-formed into the Teen Center Advisory Subcommittee. This new subcommittee consisted of Teen Center Planning Committee members plus several Teen Center members. The Committee has been working with staff to develop activities and events at the center. The Committee was also responsible for the week-long anniversary celebration at the Teen Center held in March 2008.

In addition to the Teen Center project, the Youth Council did collaborate on a few other activities. These included working with the ADAP (Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Teen Coalition) on the presentation to the City Council for a proposed Social Host Ordinance. The Youth Council and ADAP members held workshops as well as two speak outs this year on underage drinking.

The Youth Council also made presentations to other teens in the Southern California area, leading workshops on Teens and Media. The Youth Council has been well received by other youth agencies.

As a close out project for the year, the Youth Council is heading a donation drive, collecting toiletries for Katrina Victims. Four members of the Youth Council attended the National League of Cities conference in New Orleans in the month of November. The location of the conference provided an opportunity to see the devastation in New Orleans and as a result of the knowledge, they voted to do a donation drive to provide toiletry items to New Orleans.

## **Recommendations/Concerns**

Concern: Increase number and diversity of youth working with Youth Council.

Recommendation: That the Youth Council is able to be more visible on school campuses. We are having some success in that area in that the Youth Council representatives have been invited to speak before Leadership Classes and Senate meetings, but we would like to continue to be more visible on the campuses. Additionally, we would like to get more youth agencies involved with the Youth Council. We are hoping to work with PAL and their youth leadership group, to perhaps do mutual training as well as have a representative from the PAL leadership group, as well as other youth agencies, to become a member of the Youth Council.

Concern: Youth Council interns or youth representative have a vote on other Boards and Commissions.

Recommendation: Youth Council is working with the Committee on Youth and Children to improve the intern application process to involve more youth as interns.