



Governmental Affairs Committee Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

**TO: GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE**

DATE: AUGUST 5, 2015

**FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY
SERVICES DEPARTMENT** **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN CITY OF RIVERSIDE GOVERNMENT

ISSUE:

The issue for Governmental Affairs Committee consideration is an update on the various ways City of Riverside Departments engage youth to solicit their input and ideas in City government.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Governmental Affairs Committee receive and file the update on this report summarizing the various ways City of Riverside Departments engage youth to solicit their input and ideas.

BACKGROUND:

The City Council approved formation of the **Riverside Youth Council (RYC)** in 1994. The program operates with support from the Office of the Mayor, and most recently with additional support and management from the Riverside Police Department. The RYC is one of the main ways the City of Riverside engages with youth, and involves them in city government. Members of the RYC must live in the City of Riverside; be enrolled in a Riverside middle or high school; and make a commitment of serving at least 16 hours per month.

The RYC is made up of many subcommittees to accomplish all efforts throughout the year; for example:

1. Martin Luther King Walk-a-Thon / Rock-a-Thon Committee – Assists in the organization of the Walk-a-Thon, and fully organizes the Rock-a-Thon at the end of the walk;
2. Youth Leadership Summit Committee – Organizes a leadership summit for youth from surrounding middle and high schools to enhance leadership skills, increase community involvement, and encourage higher-level education;
3. 25 Most Remarkable Teens Committee – Organizes the nomination and selection process for the 25 Most Remarkable Teens Award;
4. Break-Out Committees – Committees address 3-5 main issues faced by youth each year. Committees change annually, based on relevant problems presented by members of the Council; and

5. Additional Functions of RYC – Includes Youth Liaisons to City Boards and Commissions representing Cultural Heritage Board, Human Relations Commission, Board of Library Trustees, Metropolitan Museum Board, and the Park and Recreation Commission. Plus quarterly selection of the Inspiring Youth Group Award to recognize Youth Groups making a difference in their communities.

Other City Departments have mechanisms in place for engaging youth, and getting their input to influence the programs and services offered by the City, for example:

Office of the Mayor: In addition to partnering with the Riverside Police Department in leading the RYC, the Office of the Mayor engages youth in job shadowing, provides informational interviews and regular visits to local schools and community groups, promotes youth collaboration through the Seizing Our Destiny program, sponsors the College Forum, supports civic mentorships, and administers an extensive internship program.

Library Department: In addition to the Youth Liaison from the RYC attending and participating in the Board of Library Trustees' meetings, the Library Department also supports a Teen Advisory Board (TAB), involving teens in library operations by seeking their ideas and input on programs, services, and materials specifically for teens.

Museum Department: In addition to the Youth Liaison from the RYC attending and participating in the Metropolitan Museum Board's meetings, the Museum Department involves youth through its' school programs (K-12) and internships with University of California Riverside and Riverside Community College.

Fire and Police Department Explorer Programs: The Boy Scouts of America sponsor Explorer Programs in a wide variety of professions. Both the Fire and Police Departments support Explorer Programs designed to provide education, training, and a strong positive work ethic to prepare participating youth for careers in Fire, Police, and Law Enforcement Services.

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department (PRCSD): In addition to the Youth Liaison from the RYC attending and participating in the Park and Recreation Commission's regular monthly meetings, PRCSD also engages youth through informal advisory groups. For example, the Healthy Eating/Active Living (HEAL) initiative, in which PRCSD participates, supports a youth component promoting the message of healthy eating and active living. Youth attend workshops, present ideas to youth in other cities, and work collaboratively to develop marketing materials for the HEAL Program. The Teen Advisory group at Orange Terrace Community Center organizes various youth activities hosted at the center. Furthermore, the PRCSD utilizes college interns, volunteers, and youth appointees, 16 and older, to work as part-time recreation leaders, lifeguards, instructors, and general service workers; Youth are instrumental in delivering quality programs and services offered through the Department.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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Certified as to availability of funds: Brent A. Mason, Finance Director/Treasurer
Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager

Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Minutes and Council Memo for January 25, 1994 meeting and agenda item regarding Youth Council formation.