

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO  
CALIFORNIA**FILED**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NOV 04 2014

BY Cyndi Lee  
CLERK OF THE BOARDFor the Agenda of:  
November 4, 2014

**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Sacramento County Youth Commission

**Subject:** Sacramento County Youth Commission Annual Report 2013-14

**Contact:** Alyson Murphy, Youth Commission Advisor, 874-9547

**Background:**

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors authorized the formation of the Youth Commission on March 31, 1998. The Sacramento County Youth Commission consists of fifteen local area youths appointed by the Board of Supervisors to be a voice for all youth in local government. Commissioners serve three-year terms and must attend a Sacramento County middle or high school to be eligible. Members may serve a maximum of two full consecutive terms or until a successor is appointed or the member turns twenty-one years of age. The Commission holds their public meetings on the third Monday of every month.

The Commission has gone through significant changes this past year with the addition of a new advisor in October 2013 and new direction from the Board of Supervisors regarding community presence expectations. There are currently four vacancies on the Commission due to the resignation of four Commissioners who graduated high school in 2014.

**Recommendations:**

1. Receive and file this report.
2. That the Board continue to recruit and interview to fill the vacancies on the Commission as they occur. Applications are available on the Youth Commission web site and are distributed to the public at our events.

**Measures/Evaluation**

Not applicable.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Approval of the recommendations has no fiscal impact.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors authorized the formation of the Youth Commission on March 31, 1998. The Sacramento County Youth Commission consists of fifteen local area youths appointed by the Board of Supervisors to be a voice for all youth in local government. Commissioners serve three-year terms and must attend a Sacramento County middle or high school to be eligible. Members may serve a maximum of two full consecutive terms or until a successor is appointed or the member turns twenty-one years of age. The Commission holds their public meetings on the third Monday of every month.

## **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Youth Commission is to collectively identify issues facing Sacramento youth, effectively voice the concerns of youth in Sacramento County, plan events that help youth in a positive way, and to bring ideas to the Board for improving and solving problems facing today's youth.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Youth Commission met with the Chiefs of Staff to each Board Member in November 2013 to discuss their direction and purpose. The meeting provided the Commissioners with an opportunity to give and obtain feedback on their past activities. The most significant outcome of this meeting was the Commission's decision to create a survey for their peers to uncover what issues were of importance to Sacramento County Youth. In January 2014, the Commission tabulated the results of their informal survey and found substance abuse, cyber safety and health related topics to be at the forefront of their peers concerns. After careful consideration they decided to focus their attention on cyber awareness, an umbrella category that includes cyber bullying, cyber security and technology addiction.

## **Cyber Awareness Fair**

To address the issues raised by their peers, the Commission spent most of 2014 planning a Cyber Awareness Fair which was held August 9, 2014 at the Carmichael Park Community Clubhouse. The Commission successfully coordinated the free community educational event which included an art show, speakers, informational booths, educational material, visual aids and interactive displays that expanded community exposure to the dangers of technology use. The event received media attention and praise for tackling such an important current issue facing both parents and the youth of Sacramento County. The speaker list included Sacramento County Sheriff's Deputy Emily Ball, Thomas Dodson, CEO of the local non-profit Above the Fray, Tony Vargas, President of the Sacramento Chapter of (ISC)<sup>2</sup> and Jonathan Pescheke, Master Instructor at Robinson's Taekwondo. The local organizations that staffed booths during the informational fair included the California Youth Crisis Line, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department Youth Services, New York Life offered free child identification cards, La Familia Counseling Center, Sacramento Chinese Community Center, Above The Fray and Run For Courage.

### **Mock Hearing at State Capitol**

The Commission has been active since they met with the Chiefs of Staff, organizing a mock legislative committee hearing at the State Capitol which was held on November 20, 2013, sponsored by Senator Jim Nielson's office. The Commissioners prepared oral arguments for and against two separate bills that had previously come before a Senate Committee. Senator Nielson led the discussion as the Committee Chair and the Commissioners voted on the bills based on the arguments presented by their colleagues. The educational experience included a tour of the Senate floor and history lesson by Senator Nielson, followed by a tour of his Capitol office where each Commissioner was formally presented with a certificate of participation.

### **Future Direction**

In an effort to have a greater presence in the community, the Commission has chosen to focus their activities in the coming months on organizing another community event, a youth basketball tournament focusing on raising awareness of healthy living lifestyle choices. Senator Nielson's office has asked the Commission to return this year for another mock hearing at the Capitol and United States District Judge Kimberly Mueller has invited the Commission to tour the Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse.

### **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS:**

Approval of the recommendations has no fiscal impact.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:  
BRADLEY J. HUDSON  
County Executive

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Alyson Murphy, Advisor  
Sacramento County Youth Commission