

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:
December 12, 2007
Timed: 6:00 p.m.

To: Board of Supervisors
From: Sacramento County Youth Commission
Subject: Presentation By The Sacramento County Youth Commission
Contact: Jeff King, Senior Administrative Analyst (874-5894)

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 youths appointed by the County 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 meets the third Monday of every month at 6:15 pm. Commissioners also represent the Commission at important community events, forums and committees.

The Commission comes before the Board to report on activities performed by the Commission since our last report in August 2005.

Recommendations:

1. Receive and file.
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 Board of Supervisors authorized the formation of the Sacramento County Youth Commission on March 31, 1998. The Commission serves to advise the Board on issues of concern to youth and to advocate for youth programs and services. The Board appoints three

commissioners from each supervisorial district for a total of fifteen commissioners. 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 meets monthly on the third Monday at 6:15 PM. Commissioners also represent the Commission at important community events, forums and committees.

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 bring ideas to your Board for improving and solving problems facing today's youth. The Youth Commission's goal is to connect Sacramento youth with the Board of Supervisors to collaborate efforts to build a better community for Sacramento's youth.

DISCUSSION:

The Youth Commission has accomplished a number of tasks since August 2005. The tasks are divided into two main categories: community outreach and promoting the Sacramento County Youth Commission.

Community Outreach:

- Representing the Commission at the June 2006 Jump Start 21 Conference in Sacramento.
- Representing the Commission at the October 2006 Sacramento County Children's Coalition Children's Summit.
- Participating in News 10's Coats for Kids drive in 2005 and 2006.

Below are some of the highlights of these activities.

Jump Start 21 Conference:

The Jump Start 21 Conference, held June 3, 2006 at Sacramento High School, offered youth ages 12-18 and their families an opportunity to explore internships, community service and employment possibilities for summer 2006. The Youth Commission distributed flyers, brochures, wristbands and promotional pens to attendees who visited their table. The event was well-attended and many people picked up these materials.

Children's Summit:

The Sacramento County Children's Coalition invited members of the Youth Commission to participate on a Youth Issues Panel at its 4th Biennial Children's Summit in October 2006. The Summit featured the release of the 2006 Children's Report Card on the health and well-being of Sacramento County's children. Two commissioners participated on the panel, speaking about issues of importance to youth.

Coats for Kids:

News 10's Coats for Kids has collected and distributed over 360,000 coats for children and families over the past 16 years, with an annual goal of collecting 30,000 coats. In both 2005 and 2006, the Youth Commission participated in the drive, setting up collection centers at local schools, as well as the downtown and Mather county offices. In 2005, the Youth Commission collected almost 400 new and gently used coats, sweaters and jackets, as well as \$50 in cash donations. In 2006, approximately 450 were collected. The Youth Commission played an integral part in helping News 10 meet its collection goals in 2005 and 2006, and is continuing its participation in Coats for Kids this year.

Promoting the SCYC:

- Job Tips for Youth Brochure
- Volunteer Opportunities for Youth Brochure
- Meeting with their respective Board members to give the Board updates on Commission issues.

Below are some of the highlights of these activities.

Job Tips Brochure:

In April 2006, the Commission completed its brochure entitled, "Job Tips for Youth." The brochures provided information about work permits, job interview preparation and etiquette, resume-writing advice and suggestions for types of jobs for youth. Commissioners distribute these brochures through their schools and at community events.

Volunteer Opportunities Brochure:

In August 2006, the Commission completed its brochure entitled, "Volunteer Opportunities for Youth." The brochures suggest a variety of volunteer options by age. Some of the opportunities listed include the American Red Cross, American River Parkway Foundation, St. John's Shelter, Fairytale Town and Hands on Sacramento. Commissioners distribute these brochures through their schools and at community events.

Work in Progress:

- Joint Youth Commission-Crocker Art Museum Project
- Youth Issues Survey

Below are some of the highlights of these activities.

Crocker Art Museum Project:

The Commission is promoting youth art from the Sacramento region while helping the Crocker Art Museum raise funds for its expansion project. To do this, the Commission is partnering with the museum to host a youth art auction. Besides promoting youth art and helping the Crocker, the project goals are to give youth an opportunity to display their talents, encourage youth to create an expressive piece of art and to demonstrate youths' support of our local art museum. Currently, we have planned a silent auction among middle and high school students. The auction will be a one-day event on the Crocker Art Museum premises (planned tentatively for Summer 2008). All proceeds will be donated to the museum expansion project. At the auction, art work will be grouped by schools and whichever school raises the most money will receive a gift for its art program. Participants will be able to tour the museum for free and the whole community will be invited. This event will allow students to express their artistic side and help benefit local art work.

Youth Issues Survey:

One of the main goals of the Youth Commission is to voice the concerns of the youth in Sacramento County. In order to serve the youth, the Commission decided to create a Youth Issues Survey to determine which issues are the most prevalent and in need of attention. The Youth Issues Survey addresses a wide variety of issues including: School Environment and Education, Home Life, Community Involvement, Health, and Social and Emotional Well-Being. It will be distributed to public and private middle and high schools in Sacramento County and via the internet to accommodate the widest range of demographics. The survey is designed to provide an updated and accurate account of the issues that the youth face today. With the results of the survey, the Youth Commission will be able to focus on the more serious issues and design projects to improve conditions for those affected by the issues.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS:

Approval of the recommendations has no fiscal impact.

Respectfully submitted,

Harkirat Hansra, Chair
Sacramento County Youth Commission

CONCUR
TERRY SCHUTTEN
County Executive

By: _____
Penelope Clark, Administrator
Countywide Services Agency