

# Agenda Report

August 5, 2013

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Human Services and Recreation

**SUBJECT: INCREASE MEMBERSHIP OF PASADENA YOUTH COUNCIL**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council approve the increase in membership of the Pasadena Youth Council from an advisory body of 20 youth to an advisory body of 30 youth from local middle and high schools.

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:**

On October 10, 2012, the Human Services Commission recommended that the City Council approve the recommendation to increase the membership of the Pasadena Youth Council from 20 members to 30.

**BACKGROUND:**

The original Pasadena Youth Council was established in 1989 as an advisory group to the Pasadena Commission on Children and Youth consisting of 15 high school and junior college students. Due to diminishing youth interest and problems with sustainability as members "aged out", the group was sunset in 2002. In an effort to try other options for youth participation and input to City government, in March 2004, a new "Student Interns on Commissions" program was approved by the City Council and after two years it was ended in 2006 due to limited youth participation and logistical challenges. In 2005, the City Council directed staff to investigate the need to reestablish a City youth advisory body. The investigation process included a six-month pilot study, review of data, survey and focus group activities with youth, interviews with adult providers of local youth services and related efforts.

At their meeting on September 12, 2007, the Human Services Commission reviewed the pilot study findings and recommended that the City Council approve the re-establishment of the Pasadena Youth Council. At its December 17, 2007 meeting, the City Council approved reestablishing the Pasadena Youth Council to serve as an advisory body to identify, discuss, prioritize and address local youth issues. Specifically, the Pasadena Youth Council was directed to:

- (a) be an advisory committee available to address youth issues citywide (working as a resource group with various City projects and commissions, as needed);
- (b) be a subcommittee of the Human Services Commission;
- (c) be structured to include a Core Advisory group of 20 youth from local middle and high schools who meet bi-monthly to develop and implement annual work plans, as well as a Youth Network open to all local youth to participate on a non-regular basis via special events, forums and youth-oriented internet opportunities; and
- (d) be designed to reflect the diversity of Pasadena middle and high school age youth.

Since its reestablishment, the Pasadena Youth Council has successfully grown. Currently the Pasadena Youth Council has an active membership of 23 Pasadena youth attending Pasadena public high schools, middle schools, private schools and charter schools. Meetings are held at City Hall the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

The proposed increase of membership will further enable the Pasadena Youth Council to build stronger youth civic engagement, create a wider range of networking activities, improve collaboration with other Pasadena youth-based organizations and agencies, assist with the implementation of the Pasadena Youth Council Work Plan, and become more actively involved with various City projects and commissions. The Youth Council has identified two key issue areas to focus on as identified in the 2012 Needs Assessment. These areas are bullying and teen obesity. The Youth Council has also recently become involved in the 2013-16 School/City Work Plan.

Recruitment for the 2013-14 calendar years is now underway. Flyers have been distributed at public and private school sites as well as the Teen Center. Youth Council members and a liaison from the Human Services Commission will assist with interviews. The goal is to ensure representation from all public high and middle schools, as well as various private schools. This will ensure a broad and diverse youth voice that reflects the interest and needs of teens through the City.

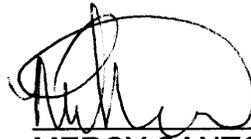
#### **COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:**

Approval of the increase in membership of the Pasadena Youth Council will help further Pasadena's goal of supporting and promoting the quality of life and the local economy. New membership recruitment will begin October 2013 and will go into effect in January 2014. Community agency partners and City staff assist with the selection to ensure diversity within the Pasadena Youth Council.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action and will not have any indirect or support cost requirements.

Respectfully submitted,



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