

YOUTH COMMISSION

The Pomona Youth Commission was established by Ordinance No. 2652, adopted by the City Council on July 30, 1973. This ordinance enacted Article IX of Chapter 2 of the Pomona City Code. On May 17, 1976, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2779 repealing Article IX of Chapter 2, which established the Youth Commission. On March 1, 1993, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 3684, adding Article X to Chapter 2 of the City Code establishing a Youth Commission. Article X "Youth Commission" was repealed through the adoption of Ordinance No. 3937 on November 5, 2001.

In 2003, the Community Wellness Partnership, members of the Pomona City Council, Pomona Unified School District and the City of Pomona re-established an unofficial Youth Commission in the City charged with advocating youth policies and organizing youth to be more involved in community service and government. The informal commission consisted of fifteen (15) members between the ages of 12 and 18, who were residents of the City and students at a Pomona middle or high school. Youths represented all districts in the City, and were selected through a nomination process by a panel of community leaders. The youths served a two-year term, and in return for 16 hours of work each month, were given a \$100 stipend by the Community Wellness Partnership, which was funded by the City of Pomona.

In October 2004, staff proposed the City Council establish a permanent Youth Advisory Committee. By establishing this body as a committee, rather than a formal City Board or Commission, they would not be subject to the City Charter and Code restrictions and could continue to use their current structure and format, thereby maximizing youth participation. This included continuation of the \$100 monthly stipend for the Youth Advisory Committee members. Resolution No. 2004-198 establishing a permanent Youth Advisory Committee to advise the City Council on issues affecting youth in the City was adopted on October 18, 2004.

The Youth Advisory Committee was transferred to the Community Services Department and the Youth and Family Services Manager, Andrea Rico, served as the city staff assigned to the Committee until the program was defunded in 2010. Youth Commission/Advisory Committee expenses had exceeded \$20,000 in some years. Funding for the Commission was allocated from the City's General Fund. The Resolution establishing a permanent Youth Advisory Committee is still in place, thus making it possible to reactivate the Youth Advisory Committee.