



# CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

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October 15, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Subject: **Discussion Regarding a Youth Advisory Committee**

## OVERVIEW

**Recommendation** – That the City Council discuss a process to formulate community consensus on what form and purpose a Youth Advisory Committee (Committee) should take and direct staff accordingly.

**Fiscal Impact** – The fiscal impact would depend on the form the Committee takes and whether other agencies partner in cost sharing. Previously, the annual cost for Committee member stipends and activities was approximately \$20,000, which was paid from the City's General Fund.

**Previous Council Action** – On October 18, 2004, the City Council adopted Resolution 2004-198, "A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Pomona Establishing a Permanent Youth Advisory Committee to Advise the City Council on Issues Affecting Youth in Pomona."

On November 5, 2001, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 3937, which repealed Article X "Youth Commission" from Chapter 2 of the Pomona City Code.

On March 11, 1993, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 3684 establishing a Youth Commission.

On May 17, 1976, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2778 repealing Article IX "Youth Commission" from Chapter 2 of the Pomona City Code.

On July 30, 1973, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2652 establishing a Youth Commission.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This staff report has been prepared at the request of the Mayor to allow an opportunity for the Council to talk about the reformulation of some form of Youth Committee and direct staff accordingly.

## **BACKGROUND**

A Youth Commission was initially established by ordinance of the City Council in March of 1993. The Youth Commission was originally facilitated by the City Manager's office and then by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. As a City Commission, the Youth Commission was bound to requirements set forth in the City Charter, such as limiting participation to 7 members, serving four-year terms and disallowing any form of compensation. Following prolonged periods of low participation and inactivity, in 2001, the City Council repealed the ordinance that established the Youth Commission and opted to explore an informal Youth Advisory Committee with more flexibility in order to retain participation.

In 2003, in partnership with Pomona Unified School District and other community partners, an informal youth committee was formed, which consisted of 15 Pomona residents from the ages of 12 to 18. The youth were chosen through a nomination process by a panel of community leaders. They served one, two-year term and were given a \$100 monthly stipend for sixteen (16) hours of committee-related work. In order to fund the youth committee and formalize the existence of the Committee, the City Council adopted Resolution 2004-198 establishing a permanent Youth Advisory Committee, a formal committee of the City Council of the City of Pomona. The costs to the General Fund for the Youth Advisory Committee were approximately \$20,000 annually. This covered the stipends and miscellaneous expenses, which included meeting refreshments, books, and event-related expenses.

The Youth Advisory Committee functions were transferred to the Community Services Department under the Youth and Family Services Manager as the City staff liaison. Lack of participation continued to be an obstacle in holding regular meetings completing projects. Lack of youth participation and budget constraints resulted in the program being unfunded in 2010.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Youth Advisory Committee was comprised of 15 to 16 members and was a formal committee established to provide input to the City Council on issues related to youth and youth policies in the City of Pomona. When active, the Committee took on the responsibilities of advocating for youth policies, organizing youth to be more involved in community service and government, working as a liaison with youth and civic groups, and acting as the official spokespersons for the youth in Pomona. Under the direction of the Community Wellness Partnership, Pomona Unified School District and the City of Pomona, the Committee conducted meetings and various events. Reestablishing a Youth Advisory Committee will seek to re-engage Pomona's youth and allow them to contribute to their community through local government

Many cities throughout California have some form of a youth commission which advises and assists its local governing body. Cities like San Francisco, Montebello, Anaheim and Alhambra have anywhere from five (5) to twenty-one (21) members. The City of San Francisco provides the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor “comments and makes recommendations on pieces of proposed legislation that would affect San Francisco's young people; resolutions that formally articulate the Youth Commission's positions on various youth-related issues; and policy priorities to guide the City's annual budget process as it relates to young people.”<sup>1</sup> Examples of their recent work include passing a resolution to protect DACA youth from deportation, conducting a Youth Town Hall meeting on Civic Engagement and voter registration training.<sup>2</sup>

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council provide direction to staff on how it wishes proceed on reestablishing a Youth Advisory Committee so that young people can become engaged in their local government and contribute to their community.

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1 About Us, Youth Commission, The City and County of San Francisco, found at <https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/about-us>.

2 Tracking 2017-2018 Youth Commission Business, The City and County of San Francisco, found at <https://sfgov.org/youthcommission/tracking-2017-2018-youth-commission-business>.