

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
OF THE  
YOUTH COMMISSION  
  
CITY OF POMONA  
TELECONFERENCE VIA “ZOOM”  
  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020  
4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Youth Commission Special Meeting was called to order at 4:02 by Mike Osoff, Community Service Manager.

**II. FLAG SALUTE**

Mr. Osoff led the flag salute.

**III. ROLL CALL**

City staff conducted roll call for Youth Commissioners.

**Present:**

Natalie Alvarado, Commissioner	Mayoral Appointee
Orlando Arias-Pulido, Commissioner	District 1
Victor Tessier, Commissioner	District 2
Javier Rodriguez-Rivera, Commissioner	District 3
Mario Portillo, Commissioner	District 4
Ryan Houston, Commissioner	District 5

**Vacancy:**

Youth Commissioner	District 6
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**Staff present:**

Mike Osoff, Community Services Manager  
Adrian Valdez, Recreation Supervisor  
Mary Sinclair, Recreation Coordinator  
Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Introductions and Icebreaker Activities**

As this was the first Youth Commission meeting and there being no Chair or Vice Chair, Mr. Osoff led the meeting. Mr. Osoff asked Youth Commissioners to introduce themselves by stating their name, high school, grade level, their favorite thing about school (pre-Covid-19) and their favorite thing to do outside of school. Mr. Osoff proceeded to lead an ice-breaker activity with Commissioners and staff. The activity, Two Truths and a Lie, where each person shared two things that were factual about themselves and one that was not (in no particular order), then the rest of the group had an opportunity to guess what was made up.

Following the ice-breaker activity, Mr. Osoff asked the Youth Commissioners to each share their response to the following questions:

- How did you hear about the Commission?
- Why did you want to be a Commissioner?

- What issues facing youth in Pomona are the most important to you?

Youth Commissioners provided responses about homelessness, mental health, and youth services.

Staff also provided introductions stating their name, years with the City of Pomona, title and oversight, education/professional background and their favorite thing about their job.

## **2. Overview of Youth Commission and Meeting Materials**

Mr. Osoff led a presentation providing background information and an overview of the City of Pomona, City Council, and City Commissions, including a brief history of how the Youth Commission was reestablished.

Mr. Osoff began by sharing the City of Pomona's mission and vision statements, including its core values and provided the City's demographics. Mr. Osoff then gave each of the Youth Commissioners the opportunity to share what their vision for Pomona is.

- Commissioner Rivera – Give information to the youth and their families, so that there is more involvement within the community.
- Commissioner Arias-Pulido – To empower Pomona youth to be better people and leaders in the community. More correction programs to take youth that were in gangs/incarcerated and make them leaders within the community.
- Commissioner Houston – For youth to have access to resources in arts, music and education so that they have the ability to go to college.
- Commissioner Alvarado – Many youth want to make a difference in Pomona but they just do not know the opportunity of volunteering in community service and events.
- Commissioner Tessier – To see after school programs and in school programs help with tutors and scholarships, to help enhance their education. Also, communication between everyone to connect as a community.
- Commissioner Portillo – To have youth feel safe in Pomona and have a sense of pride, and feel connected, to be a part of something and bring others up with them.

Mr. Osoff proceeded to provide an overview of the City Council and the various City Commissions, including each Commission roles, capacity, and staff liaisons.

Mr. Osoff spoke about the Youth Commission's original establishment in 1993 and it being dissolved in 2001 due to lack of quorum for 18 months. Though the City attempted to carry on with a Youth Committee in 2003, the Committee eventually discontinued in 2010. Mr. Osoff spoke about the recent, strong push to reestablish a Youth Commission, the purpose and goals.

Mr. Osoff went over the Youth Commission structure:

- Serves as an advisory group to City Council & other Commissions.
- The Department will draft Bylaws with the assistance of City Clerk and City Attorney.
- The Commission will consist of seven current Pomona residents of high-school age.
- Appointments should constitute a body of high school students that represent the interests and needs of Pomona's youth, attend various schools throughout the community, and that have a broad range of personal and academic interests.
- Monthly meetings
- Each elected official will appoint one member for a total of seven members.
- Two-year terms.

Mr. Osoff turned it over to Monica Belloso, Technical Specialist II to provide an overview of the meeting materials. Ms. Belloso spoke about Robert's Rules of Order, the various types of main motions and how to make them, definitions, and the contents of the Youth Commission meeting agenda.

Mr. Osoff concluded the presentation by advising the Youth Commission about the various ways to get more involved and how to stay informed as a Youth Commissioner.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Osoff adjourned the meeting at 5:53 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Youth Commission will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via teleconference.

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Michael Osoff  
Community Services Manager

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Youth Commission Chairperson