



**MEMORANDUM**

Community Services Department

**DATE:** June 7, 2016

**TO:** Council Youth Services Committee

**FROM:** Ashleigh Branham, Recreation Coordinator  
Greg Milano, Recreation Supervisor  
John R. Marchant, Recreation Manager  
J.P. de la Montaigne, Community Services Director

**SUBJECT:** Youth Advisory Committee Applicant Selection and Recommendation

**RECOMMENDATION**

Review the staff recommendation to reappoint six current members and appoint nine new members and six new members-at-large to the Youth Advisory Committee for the 2016-17 term and forward a recommendation to the City Council for approval.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

On September 11, 2007, the City Council approved Resolution No. 17235 establishing the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC). The resolution states that the YAC consists of a combined maximum of 15 middle school and high school students that are Mountain View residents. The YAC members are selected through an application and interview process facilitated by the Community Services Department – Recreation Division and appointed by the City Council.

On April 29, 2015, the City Council appointed 15 members to the YAC for the 2015-2016 school year. Of the 15 members, 8 are eligible for reappointment and 7 members will be graduating from high school, therefore making them no longer eligible.

Staff requests the Council Youth Services Committee (CYSC) consider the following six returning YAC members as candidates for reappointment:

- Abhiraj Giritharan – Freshman at Mountain View High School.
- Molly Harrigan – Junior at Mountain View High School.

- Aashia Mehta – Junior at Los Altos High School.
- Annabel Rustum – Sophomore at Mountain View High School.
- Neda Shahiar – Sophomore at Mountain View High School.
- Anushi Singhal – Junior at Mountain View High School.

Earlier this spring, Recreation Division staff recruited students to apply for the YAC 2016-17 term. Recruitment efforts included making school announcements, delivering flyers to City facilities and local schools, speaking to students during recreation programs (at lunchtime, after school, and at The View Teen Center), highlighting YAC at the Teen Job Fairs at both high schools, distributing information to local organizations that work with youth, posting applications on the YAC web page, posting to the Mountain View Recreation and The View Teen Center Facebook Profiles, and sending applications directly to school staff. A total of 29 applications were received for the 15 available spots. Staff conducted candidate interviews in mid-April and requests the CYSC to consider the following nine new candidates recommended for appointment:

- Michelle Adema\* – Junior at Mountain View High School.
- Lisa Deng – Sophomore at Los Altos High School.
- Jonathan Galindo – Seventh-Grader at Crittenden Middle School.
- Amy Le – Sixth-Grader at Graham Middle School.
- Shaan Patel – Freshman at Mountain View High School.
- Supreethi Penmetcha\* – Junior at Mountain View High School.
- Mallika Reddy – Seventh-Grader at Stratford School.
- Meghana Reddy\* – Sophomore at St. Francis High School.
- Amelia Rowe – Freshman at Pinewood.

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\*Current member-at-large.

Each of these applicants was able to effectively articulate his/her desire to be a member of the YAC and clearly communicate his/her contributions to the overall goals of the Committee.

In addition to the staff recommendation of 15 candidates for appointment, staff suggests that the CYSC recommend the following candidates to be named as “members-at-large” should one or more vacancies occur during the 2016-17 YAC term. The purpose would be to establish a list of prequalified youth to fill future vacancies and to provide additional civic engagement opportunities that would increase their qualifications to become a YAC member. Members-at-large would receive ongoing YAC communication, an invitation to attend meetings as a nonvoting public participant, and opportunities to volunteer at YAC and City-sponsored special events.

- Justin Duan – Junior at St. Francis School.
- Trisha Mukherjee – Sophomore at Mountain View High School.
- William Tinajero – Freshman at Los Altos High School.
- Isabel Van Campen – Sixth-Grader at Blach Junior High.
- Richard Vera – Sixth-Grader at Graham Middle School.
- Jamie Wang – Eighth-Grader at Egan Junior High.

Based upon the interview process and the limited number of positions available, of the 29 applicants, 8 are not forwarded for appointment at this time. Of the remaining 8 applicants, three applications were received from middle school students (three from Graham) and five are high school students (one from Los Altos High School, three from Mountain View High School, and one from St. Francis High School).

### **NEXT STEPS**

Following CYSC consideration, the CYSC list of recommended YAC candidates will be forwarded to the City Council for formal appointment in June.