



**MEMORANDUM**

Community Services Department

**DATE:** May 20, 2014

**TO:** Council Youth Services Committee

**FROM:** Kristine Crosby, Recreation Supervisor  
Diane Atienza, Recreation Supervisor  
John 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 ten current members and appoint five new members and nine new members-at-large to the Youth Advisory Committee for the 2014-15 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 May 28, 2013, the City Council appointed 15 members to the YAC for the 2013-14 school year. Of the 15 members, 10 are eligible for reappointment and 5 members will be graduating from high school therefore making them no longer eligible.

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

- Zachary Dembner – Junior at Mountain View High School.
- Avni Singhal – Sophomore at Mountain View High School.

- Cerys Holstege – Junior at Mountain View High School.
- Vlad Terson – Junior at Mountain View High School.
- Sarah Katsev – Sophomore at Los Altos High School.
- Varun Paranjpe – Seventh-grader at Blach Intermediate School.
- Annabel Rustum – Eighth-grader at Graham Middle School.
- Madeleine Gerson – Junior at Mountain View High School.
- Matthew Maciag – Sophomore at Mountain View High School.
- Abhiraj Giritharan – Seventh-grader at Graham Middle School.

Earlier this spring, Recreation Division staff recruited students to apply for the YAC 2014-15 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 House 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 Facebook Profile, and sending applications directly to school staff. A total of 28 applications were received for the five available spots; however, only 25 applicants were interviewed. Three (3) applicants did not meet the residency requirement. Staff conducted candidate interviews in mid-April and requests the CYSC to consider the following five new candidates recommended for appointment:

- Sofia Biros – Junior at Mountain View High School.
- Elise Xu – Sophomore at Saint Francis High School.
- Amanda Bauer – Sophomore at Los Altos High School.
- Molly Harrigan – Freshman at Mountain View High School.
- Jeremy Bonte – Sophomore at Los Altos High School.

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 2014-15 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-sponsored special events.

- Michelle Adema – Freshman at Mountain View High School.
- Kevin Chan – Sophomore at Mountain View High School.
- Ruby Ochoa Castaneda – Sophomore at Mountain View High School.
- Anushi Singhal – Freshman at Mountain View High School.
- Eugene Choi – Freshman at Mountain View High School.
- Supreethi Penmetcha – Freshman at Mountain View High School.
- Sasha Heye – Eighth-grader at Blach Intermediate School.
- Krishna Ammini – Sophomore at Los Altos High School.
- Jesley Castillo – Freshman at Los Altos High School.

Based upon the interview process and the limited number of positions available, of the 22 qualified applicants, 11 are not forwarded for appointment at this time. Of the remaining 11 applicants, three applications were received from middle school students (one from Ocean Grove and two from Graham Middle School) and eight were from high school students (three from Los Altos High School and five from Mountain View 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.

KC-DA-JRM-JPDLM/3/CSD

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