

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Services – Accept and File the 2008-09 Youth Council's Annual Report to City Council.

Expenditure: None

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Youth Council and the Community Services Director that City Council accept and file the 2008-09 Youth Council Annual Report.

Funding: Not applicable

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

The Torrance Youth Council is comprised of Torrance area high school students appointed by City Council. The Youth Council provides a venue for teens to identify and take action on problems and issues affecting Torrance youth. The Youth Council has traditionally provided an Annual Report to City Council around February each year. The time period encompassed by the report includes the previous Youth Council's September to June school-year accomplishments.

This 2008-09 Youth Council Annual Report (Attachment A) is for the period of time August 2008 through June 2009. The report was approved by the 2009-10 Youth Council at their March 3, 2010 meeting. With appointments to the Youth Council now taking place in the summer, staff hope to bring future Annual Reports before City Council in summer as well, closer to the completion of the reporting period.

Respectfully submitted,

TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL

Unavailable for Signature

Brad Moylan, Chairperson
2008-09 Youth Council

CONCUR:



JOHN JONES
Community Services Director

By: 

Richard Brunette
Recreation Services Manager

NOTED:



LeROY J. JACKSON
City Manager

Attachment: A) 2008-09 Annual Youth Council Report

**TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL
2008-09 ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

PURPOSE OF THE TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL

The Torrance Youth Council is composed of Torrance area high school students whose purpose is to identify and take action on problems affecting the youth of Torrance, as well as to advise and confer with City professional staff, various City Commissioners and City Council on such matters. Members are chosen each June by a selection committee and later appointed by the City Council. The Youth Council meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Room, City Hall. All meetings are open to the public and youth are encouraged to address the Youth Council on matters of concern to the Youth in the community.

MEMBERS OF THE TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL

During 2008-09, eighteen Youth Council members have continued the superb tradition of their predecessors, by representing the voice of the Youth of Torrance. New faces, different cultures, new ideas and an astonishing amount of energy of these talented members played a key role in turning ideas into successful realities for the Torrance Community.

Throughout the year, this diverse assembly of young people became a close knit group which began at their Annual Team Building Workshop in early September. Each got the opportunity to know each other through leadership games and activities. Elections were held in late November with Brad Moylan selected as Chairperson; Shreyasi Ghosh as Vice Chairperson; Chelsea Brewer as Secretary; as Sergeant-At-Arms Christina Kang, and Fatana Temory and Alexis Cabaero as Historians.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2008-09 PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The 2008-09 Youth Council began a very productive year with their Annual Workshop, held at the ATTIC, and events such as the Christmas and Spring Boutiques, ASB Bowl and Annual Youth Forum. The 2008-09 Torrance Youth Council Publicity Committee will focus on these topics.

At the annual "Beat the Odds Scholarship Program and Dinner, five scholarships were awarded to five very deserving high school seniors: Aashna Shah, Alexis Reyes, Stephen Yoshizawa, Joseph David Huniu and Michelle Kaito. Due the generosity of The Torrance Masons the Youth Council was able to provide one additional scholarship to Zakia Khalil. Families, members of the City Council, Community Services Staff and TUSD staff were in attendance to honor these young people. The Annual Youth Forum was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 and had representatives from each of the Torrance high schools; Bishop Montgomery, and CAMS in attendance to discuss and debate topics pertinent to them. Jeff Yalden of MTV fame captivated the attendees with a very inspirational speech that touched on "think before you speak."

The Annual ASB Bowl, represented by each of the Torrance High Schools, Bishop Montgomery and CAMS focuses on inter-school unity and they met for a get to know you evening. They played competitive games including physical, mental and team building contests, shared information, food and fun. Points are earned through the games and South High School was the winning school in 2009 and received the trophy which travels from school to school. All in attendance look forward to next year's competition.

The Youth Council continued to support the Community Services Department's Harry Sutter Memorial Turkey Trot Fun Run by pouring water and cutting and bagging oranges to be distributed among the participants after the race. Decorating the Torrance Rose Float was a highlight for some members this year.

The Youth Council was also involved in Government protocol and procedures by attending City Council and Commission meetings. Each member gained greater knowledge and learned how the City of Torrance operates as a government body. They also attended the Junior State of America Convention in the Spring and had the opportunity to participate in discussions and debates on current issues, and observed a model State Congress in action which was very helpful to them as they were able to implement their knowledge when planning their Annual Youth Forum.

Youth Council continues to support The ATTIC, its events and programs such as their annual Job Faire, Ski/Snowboarding Trip, Fashion Show, and the Annual Pancake Breakfast.

CONCLUSION

It has been a very busy year, the remaining 2008-09 Youth Council members look forward to an exciting new year by integrating innovative ideas and goals that the new 2009-10 Youth Council members will bring.

Respectfully submitted,

Unavailable for signature

Brad Moylan, Chairperson
2008-09 Youth Council