CITY OF PALO ALTO
MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 24, 2008
TO: Our Council Colleagues
FROM: Mayor Klein, Council Members Kishimoto and Barton
SUBJECT: Authorization to Host Youth and Business Tri-City Summit: Preparing the Next Generation

During the past two summers, the City of Palo Alto and a coalition of East Palo Alto and San Mateo County youth services organizations have partnered on a youth summer employment program called YES! (Youth Employed for the Summer). The purpose of YES! has been to encourage Palo Alto businesses to provide summer employment for under-resourced college students who reside in East Palo Alto and neighboring communities.

Last summer, we expanded YES! to include young people desirous of summer employment who reside, not only in East Palo Alto, but in Menlo Park and Palo Alto, as well. The placement of our under-resourced youth in summer jobs, especially those residing in East Palo Alto, continued to be a priority.

Our experiences over the last 2 years (Council Member Barton hired interns both summers) show that the participants are smart, capable young people who want to make positive contributions to their communities.

Desirous of maintaining momentum and building on past success, we believe that the time has come for our City Officials to once again provide a forum in which young people from East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, and Palo Alto may come together and interact with one another. And, we believe that it is time for us to take the lead in encouraging those in the business community to offer summer employment opportunities to them.

To this end, we ask our Council Colleagues to vote to approve our recommendation to host a Youth and Business Tri-City Summit in April, 2008. At this Summit, under the joint leadership of City Officials from Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, and Menlo Park, young people and members of
our business communities will come together to meet and talk with the hoped-for outcome of securing commitments from business owners in all three cities to provide summer employment opportunities to our youth.

The benefits of such a Summit are many: (1) stereotypes and barriers that divide can be eliminated, (2) young people will earn money and be engaged in productive activities during the summer, and (3) our business community will have a major role in preparing the next generation to participate in the business world, both as consumers and as future business leaders.