



City of Palo Alto City Manager's Report

TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL
ATTN: POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE
FROM: CITY MANAGER DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY SERVICES
DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2003 **CMR:** 148:03
SUBJECT: YOUTH MASTER PLAN REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council accept the Youth Master Plan report (YMP), including a commitment to provide adequate staff support for planning and implementing the goals; opportunities for youth to meet with City Council members and Commissions regularly; youth development programs which are regularly evaluated for their effectiveness; and opportunities for addressing emerging and existing teen needs.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Youth Master Plan (YMP) is to guide youth and teen programs within the City of Palo Alto, address youth opportunities, improve communication and awareness of youth programs, and ensure ongoing collaborative partnerships that coordinate, support and monitor youth programs and services.

The impetus for creating a YMP for Palo Alto originated from a joint study session of the City of Palo Alto Youth Council (PAYC) and the City Council in March 2000, whereby the YMP was defined as a process to develop a focused and organized approach to the delivery of programs and services for youth and their families.

It was concluded that a Youth Master Plan would benefit the Palo Alto community in the following areas: determining existing services and overlaps; identifying service gaps; addressing the needs of all youth in the community; and evaluating developmental assets and skills needed by youth to grow into healthy adults.

The planning process for the development of the YMP began with a Steering Committee comprised of 40 members representing the Palo Alto City Council, the Parks and Recreation Commission, Community Services Department staff, Police Department staff,

Youth Council, Youth Advisory Board, Palo Alto Unified School District Board and Administration, Palo Alto schools, Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Stanford University, all major youth-serving agencies, youth sports agencies, the business community, the faith community, and health care agencies.

In October 2000, the YMP Steering Committee began its efforts by defining the basic components of the YMP (see YMP Report, Plan section, Attachment 1). The YMP Steering Committee approached the process by asking the question, "How well are Palo Alto's youth doing? Are the financial resources allocated to the appropriate areas for the positive development of youth and teens in our community?" The expectation was not to see instant growth in a youth's asset skills, but to enhance experiences.

DISCUSSION

Members of the YMP Steering Committee, Palo Alto Youth Council and other community members came together to unite on common goals in order to support the Palo Alto community's middle and high school youth and their families. The objectives initiated by the youth for the youth in the YMP include:

1. Encourage and continue to provide opportunities for youth participation in our community.
2. Improve communication and awareness of youth recreational and social programs.
3. Ensure an ongoing collaborative process that coordinates, supports and monitors youth programs and services.

Each of the objectives is clearly identified in the short-term and long-term approaches (see Attachment 1). To achieve these goals, Community Services staff recommends the City should continue to provide the following:

1. Adequate staff support for planning and implementing the goals;
2. Opportunities for youth to meet with City Council members and Commissions regularly;
3. Youth development programs which are regularly evaluated for their effectiveness; and
4. Opportunities for addressing emerging and existing teen needs.

The PAYC will revisit the YMP annually and implement collaborative projects using existing resources related to the goals in the plan. City of Palo Alto recreation staff will continue to collaborate with agencies serving youth and teens in the community. Bi-annually, the PAYC will evaluate the YMP to determine the overall effectiveness of the

action items identified in the plan to make adjustments based on the current trends and issues involving this age group.

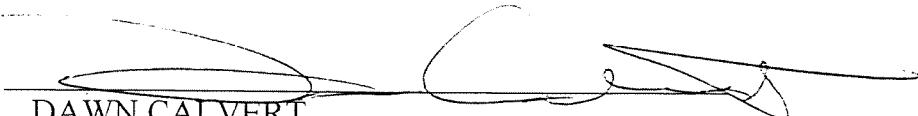
RESOURCE IMPACT

There is no impact to the City's resources.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Youth Master Plan Report

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