

Date: July 3, 2024

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



From: Brent Dennis, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine



For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Commission on Youth and Families Annual Report**

In accordance with Long Beach Municipal Code 2.18.090, the Commission on Youth and Families annual written report of its activities for the past year to the Mayor and City Council is attached.

If you have any questions, please contact Brent Dennis, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine at (562) 570-3170 or Brent.Dennis@longbeach.gov.

ATTACHMENT

CC: DAWN MCINTOSH, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
APRIL WALKER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
MEREDITH REYNOLDS, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
GRACE YOON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
TYLER BONANNO-CURLEY, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
KEVIN LEE, CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT HEADS
GLADYS KAISER, COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICES, BUREAU MANAGER
JOY WARREN, RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT

2023

Commission on Youth and Families Annual Report



**Commission on Youth and Families
2023
Annual Report**

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PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

Statement of Possibility and Goals

Statement of Possibility

We make our parks and beaches safe, welcoming spaces for all residents and visitors, putting people at the center of all that we do – including our marina users, partners, and team members – to create inclusive, enriching, healthy communities for all to thrive.

Goals

- Provide safe, accessible public spaces.
- Offer meaningful recreational programming and events.
- Prioritize health equity across the City.
- Ensure a diverse and dynamic workforce.
- Build innovative and lasting partnerships.
- Establish an environmentally sustainable marina ecosystem.
- Connect clearly and transparently internally, and with the community.
- Create a financially secure and resilient operation.

COMMISSION ON YOUTH AND FAMILIES

ESTABLISHMENT

In accordance with Ordinance 18-0019 amending the Municipal Code by adding Chapter 2.56 establishing a Commission on Youth and Families. The City Council ordains that the Commission on Youth and Families shall be to advise the Mayor and the City Council of the needs, concerns, and problems of youth and families.

DUTIES

- A. Recommend to the City Manager and City Council on matters pertaining to youth and families, to make policy recommendations regarding the City's efforts to serve youth and families.
- B. To promote coordination among youth and family serving agencies with a special focus on the coordination between the City and the Long Beach Unified School District.
- C. To serve as an advisory body to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine on matters pertaining to youth and family programs.
- D. To hold an annual youth forum led by the youth members, with mentorship from the adult members that would engage the youth from throughout the community in a conversation about issues and concerns facing youth as well as solutions. The outcome will be reported to the Commission and the City Council.
- E. To support efforts to promote current City initiatives that benefit youth and families, including, but not limited to: My Brother's Keeper, The Youth Strategic plans, All Children Thrive. The Commission shall receive and file reports from committees working with these initiatives as well as review new initiatives focused on youth and families.
- F. To perform such other duties related to youth and families as may be requested from time to time by the City Council.

COMMISSION ON YOUTH AND FAMILIES ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

- ❖ Commission members serving in calendar year January – December 2023:

Sara Zaidi	Ennette Morton
Gillian Dopelmore	Jonathan Schnack
Charles D. Smith	Andrea Sulsona

- ❖ Commission member serving in calendar year from January - September 2023:

Seema Paul

- ❖ Commission members serving in calendar year from May - December 2023:

Laila Payne

SUMMARIES OF THE COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023

January 18, 2023

- New Chair and Vice Chair elected by unanimous vote; the Commission heard a presentation from Child Celebration, Incorporated, an organization facilitating gift giving for children in need; former Chair Vivian Malauulu thanked for her service to the Commission.

March 15, 2023

- The Commission heard a report from the new Office of Youth Development Youth Advisory Council by Terina Faleono, marking an ongoing Office of Youth Development report out at subsequent Commission meetings to develop the partnership.

May 17, 2023

- The Commission made new committee appointments and heard comments from the Office of Youth Development.

July 19, 2023

- Cancelled, lack of quorum.

September 20, 2023

- Teen Academy graduates were acknowledged and presented with a diploma; the Long Beach teen volunteers were recognized; the City Attorney's office provided the Commission with a presentation on the Brown Act. The Office of Youth Development provided a report on the annual Youth Festival in September; and Commissioners Morton and Doplemore reported on the Youth Forum. The Commission hosted its annual Youth Forum at the Long Beach Youth Festival at the Long Beach City College Pacific Coast Campus. Commissioners Gillian Doplemore, Andrea Sulsona and Dr. Ennette Morton led a Q&A with regional youth participants about the state of youth interests and needs in Long Beach (data attached).

November 15, 2023

- Cancelled, lack of quorum

December 12, 2023

- Cancelled, lack of quorum

The Commission on Youth and Families did not conduct any public hearings in 2023 or present to City Council.

Commission on Youth & Families Attendance 2023



	Jan		Mar		May		Jul		Sept		Nov		Dec (Special)	
	1/18/2023		3/15/2023		5/17/2023		7/19/2023		9/20/2023		11/15/2023		12/12/2023	
Commissioner	Present	A/E	Present	A/E	Present	A/E	<i>Cancelled</i>		Present	A/E	<i>Cancelled</i>		<i>Cancelled</i>	
Sara Zaidi	x		x		x				x					
Ennette Morton	x		x		x				x					
Gillian Dopelmore	x			E	x					A				
Jonathan Schnack	x		x		x				x					
Seema Paul		E		A		E			Resigned					
Charles D. Smith	x		x			E			x					
Andrea Sulsona	x		x			E			x					
Karla Gonzalez		E	x			E			x					
Laila Payne	N/A		N/A		x					E				Resigned

*A = Absent
*E = Excused

**CITY PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE COMMISSION ON YOUTH
AND FAMILIES:**

Brent Dennis, Director, Parks, Recreation & Marine Department

Joy Warren, Superintendent, Community Recreation Services Bureau

Britt Howe, Clerk Typist III, Community Recreation Services Bureau

Anita Lakhani, Deputy City Attorney, COLB

Alyssa Campos, Office of the City Clerk

COMMISSION COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

The Committee met in January, March, May and September prior to the Commission on Youth and Families meetings. The Committee reviewed agenda items and discussed issues relating to youth and families in the city.

Youth Forum Planning Committee

The Youth Forum Planning Committee met on August 30, 2023 to discuss the Commission participation strategy for the annual Youth Festival of 2023.

EXPENDITURES

Over the course of the meeting year, the commission purchased supplies and promotional items totaling \$722.80. To facilitate its evening meetings, refreshments in the amount of \$538.85 were purchased.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In accordance with the Strategic Plan for Youth and Emerging Adults (YSP), Goal 1; Objective 3, it is the recommendation of Parks, Recreation and Marine Staff that the Commission on Youth and Families be restructured and aligned under the Office of Youth Development within the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Office of Youth Development (OYD) was established to lead and coordinate youth development efforts across the city. The office has also led the coordination and implementation of the YSP. OYD also actively engages with multiple community-based youth and family serving agencies throughout the City. Many of the objectives for the CYF overlap with the goals of the OYD. Re-establishing the CYF to work under the Office of Youth Development would streamline their efforts. Additionally, the OYD leads a team of Youth Ambassadors whose roles are to ensure that youth voices and perspectives are at the forefront of the YSP. While the CYF reflects an amazing depth of expertise, education and leadership from the adult commissioners, there are only two youth member positions. Combining the experience of the adult commissioners with the leadership of the Youth Commissioners and OYD's Youth Ambassadors would strengthen coordination efforts city-wide and amplify the youth perspective. The Parks, Recreation and Marine Department would remain engaged and support youth programs and services as committed partners.