



DATE: May 5, 2020

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: City Clerk

SUBJECT: Informational Report on the Hayward Youth Commission Annual Recruitment and Appointment/Reappointment Process

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives this informational report on the Hayward Youth Commission and approach for extending terms of current members through June 30, 2021 and suspending the annual recruitment due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

It is the City of Hayward's practice to conduct the annual recruitment for the Hayward Youth Commission (HYC) from March to May of every year by partnering with schools and institutions in Hayward. Upon the application deadline, two elected officials from the City of Hayward, the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District (HARD), and the Hayward Unified School District (HUSD) interview applicants and provide recommendations to fill vacancies. Interviews generally occur in June and recommendations are ratified by a vote of the City Council at the end of June.

During the last couple of years, and particularly last year, Hayward has seen an increase in participation from various schools. In an effort to increase youth participation and ensure diversity, the three agencies unanimously approved an increase to the number of alternate members from nine (9) to eleven (11) positions. The current membership of the HYC consists of twenty-one (21) voting members and nine (9) alternates. Two alternates have resigned since their appointments last June. The terms of twenty (20) members will end on June 30, 2020; however, these members are eligible and in good standing to seek reappointment.

DISCUSSION

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and Shelter-in-Place orders, we were unable to launch the 2020 Hayward Youth Commission recruitment in March/April. While the Shelter-in-Place order continues, we are challenged to make a decision related to the annual Hayward Youth Commission recruitment and the appointment and reappointment process. Our decision is driven by the following facts:

- 1) Hayward schools are closed for the remainder of the school year and some have switched to distance learning. During the last few years, we have been intentional in our effort to be inclusive and recruit applicants who represent not only public and private Hayward schools but also socioeconomic status. If we were to conduct a recruitment during the Shelter-in-Place order, we would not be able to accomplish the level of inclusive outreach that we have done in recent years. Inequities in school access and internet reliability would place some students at a disadvantage.
- 2) For some students, family and community wellness come before school or engaging in extracurricular activities. Some might be facing distress as relatives are laid off and bills mount.
- 3) Current HYC members have not been able to complete their appointment terms and finish projects they have been working on prior to the pandemic.

For the reasons outlined above, we recommend extending the terms of current members through June 30, 2021 and suspending the recruitment. We have contacted all thirty (30) members, and twenty-three (23) have expressed interest in continuing to serve once there is statewide directive and county guidance to convene regular meetings. Seven (7) members have expressed they will be attending college in the Fall or will have other extracurricular activities; therefore, they will not be continuing to serve after June 30, 2020. The twenty-three (23) members who are willing to continue to serve represent the majority of Hayward schools. Seven (7) members are alternate members who could move up to become voting members. Council Member Zermeño who serves as the Hayward Youth Commission Council liaison is supportive of the proposal given the current pandemic. Elected officials from the three agencies who were willing to interview prospective applicants were contacted and have expressed no concerns with the recommendation.

While we do not foresee attendance issues because the quorum would be based on 23 seated members, the City Clerk's office would be amenable to conducting a special recruitment at the end of the year if warranted.

STRATEGIC ROADMAP

This agenda item is a routine operational item and does not relate to the six priorities outlined in the Council's Strategic Roadmap.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Should the City Council have no concerns, the City could issue a news release to keep the public informed.

NEXT STEPS

If the City Council does not have any concerns, staff would add a staff report to the agenda at the end of June which would serve to extend terms of current members through June 30, 2021, and promote alternates to voting member status.

Prepared and Recommended by:

Miriam Lens, City Clerk

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelly McAdoo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kelly McAdoo, City Manager