

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Jesse Melgar, Chair

SUBMITTAL DATE: June 15, 2005

SUBJECT: Riverside County Youth Commission Annual Report

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Riverside County Board of Supervisors receive and file the Riverside County Youth Commission Annual Report for the 2002-2003 Term, as required by Resolution 98-032 and the Youth Commission By-Laws (Article XIII).

JUSTIFICATION: The Youth Commission serves as a forum for young people in Riverside County to come together in order to take greater control and responsibility of the well being of all youth in the county. In order to provide true representation of youth in Riverside County, each of the five Supervisorial districts have formed specific Youth Advisory Councils (YAC), which report to the countywide Commission.

One of the Board of Supervisor's directives was the requirement to submit an Annual Report. This Report is designed to be a compilation of the activities and accomplishments of the Commission and the Youth Advisory Councils.

The Commission and Youth Advisory Councils wish to thank the Board of Supervisors for their continued support, concern, insight, and commitment in appointing the Commission to advise the Board on issues relating to youth in Riverside County. We are confident that the Youth Commission will continue to be a voice for the youth of Riverside County.

Jesse Melgar, Chair
Riverside County Youth Commission

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COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

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Riverside County Youth Commission

Annual Report

For The 2004-2005 Term

The Riverside County Youth Commission is comprised of a representative body for each of the Youth Advisory Councils (YAC). Commissioners from all five supervisorial districts comprise the Youth Commission.

The mission of the Riverside County Youth Commission is to empower young people to focus on their vision and goals for the future and to plan and implement strategies that will allow them to reach those goals. The Commission provides advice, assistance, and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and all County Department heads on issues related to youth. In addition, the Youth Commission focuses on anticipating the educational, recreational, and cultural needs of youth. The Commission works to ensure the coordination of community resources in order to improve the quality of life for all young people in Riverside County. Monthly meetings allow Youth Commissioners to discuss their district's community service projects, and listen to presentations by various agencies.

By giving the youth a voice, a chance to make a difference, and an opportunity to positively influence our surroundings, the Youth Commission, as well as the Youth Advisory Councils has become growing organizations that will continue to flourish.

During the 2004-2005 Youth Commission term, many projects and events were achieved. These include:

- **Seventh Annual Youth Commission Retreat**

The Annual Youth Commission Retreat was held in the Fourth District at Miracle Springs Resort. All five Youth Advisory Councils joined together to interact on a personal level, the all day event included activities designed to help the councils meet their goals, improve their public speaking skills, learn the process of the Brown Act and Parliamentary Procedures. The councils also participated in team building, and group leadership skills through workshops under the guidance of motivational speaker, John Vandenburg from the Murrieta Unified School District. John Vandenburg developed the Peer Leaders Uniting Students (PLUS) program at Murrieta Valley High School, which seeks to utilize the knowledge and experience of kids to help kids by using the team philosophy. During the retreat councils were able to elect their executive board: Commissioner, Co-Commissioner, Secretary, and Parliamentarian.

- **Commissioner Training**

The Commissioner training brought together the Commissioners from the five districts of the Youth Advisory Councils to introduce them to their position. Bonding activities allowed the Youth Commissioners to familiarize themselves with their colleagues. The Youth Commissioners were showed how to operate and conduct a meeting in the Board of Supervisors Chamber room.

- **Installation of Commission Officers**

During the first Youth Commission meeting, Youth Commissioners vote to determine the Chair, Co-Chair, and Secretary of the Youth Commission. Jesse Melgar was selected as Chair; Martha Arciniega was selected as Co-Chair; and Amy Batson was selected as Secretary. Youth Commissioners had the privilege and honor of being sworn into office by Judge Dallas Holmes.

▪ **Smoking Ordinance –Department of Health**

Bob Peterson from the Department of Health presented a smoking ordinance to the Youth Commission at their first meeting on September 23, 2004. The Health Department is currently working on countywide smoking ordinance that would require those who sell tobacco to obtain a license to sell tobacco. With the license, if the merchant is caught selling tobacco to minors, the County Health Department can suspend or revoke the merchant's license. Licensing curtails illegal sales, which has been rampant in Riverside County. Bob Peterson also attended each district's youth council meeting to give students more information about the ordinance.

▪ **Registrar of Voters Student Pollworker Program**

The Board of Supervisors passed resolution 310 on June 24, 2003 to support the establishment of a Student Pollworker program, which allows eligible students to participate in the polling process countywide. Council members in partnership with the Riverside County Registrar of Voters, helped promote the program at their schools to raise public awareness of the election process. Eligible council members were at the election polls on November 2, 2004 and would received a stipend of \$65 and a certificate for their participation.

▪ **West Nile Virus – Environmental Health**

The Department of Environmental Health gave a presentation to the Youth Commission regarding the infamous West Nile Virus. The objective was to educate the commission on important information and dismiss any misconceptions about the virus that they may have. The commissioners received pamphlets and other information that they passed out in their communities and local schools.

▪ **Council for Youth Development Recommendation**

The Council for Youth Development was established to improve educational attainment, help prepare young people for success in the labor market, support young people, and to develop youth as positive citizens and leaders. Membership consists of representation from youth service agencies, Juvenile Justice/Law Enforcement, Public Housing Authority, parents of eligible youth, organizations experienced in youth issues/activities, youth, and members of the Workforce Development Board. They are requesting a Youth Commissioner Representative or a Co-Commissioner Representative.

▪ **Youth in Government Day**

On January 13, 2005, the commencement of the Sixth Annual Youth in Government (YIG) Day was hosted at the Workforce Development Center. This program allows Youth Advisory Council members to job shadow a county employee, in order to inform them of the proceedings and opportunities in County government positions. Council

members had the opportunity to be mentored by Riverside County personnel such as Superior Court Justices, Public Defenders, Flood Control, Transportation and Land Management, Waste Management, and the Board of Supervisors.

On December 2, 2004, the Fourth District hosted Youth in Government Day in the Coachella Valley in order to expose council members in the Fourth District to local county occupations.

- **Riverside County Community Action Planning- Fifth Annual Youth Partnership Summit**

The Fifth Annual Youth Partnership Summit was hosted March 24, 2005 at the Riverside County Fairgrounds in Indio. Approximately 650 students were in attendance of the daylong event, which allowed students to listen to keynote speaker Dr. Terrence Roberts and watch a theatrical presentation given by Planned Parenthood IMAGES. After listening to the keynote speaker and presentation, students had the opportunity to participate in breakout sessions that dealt with tolerance of social diversity and gang violence/drugs. The atmosphere was comfortable for students to contribute personal experiences, concerns, and opinions regarding their personal lives and communities. From the information gathered at the Youth Summit a report was created which was sent to policy makers and legislators that have the ability to implement change for young people. This event was made possible thanks to the support of the Board of Supervisors and staff, community sponsors, and hard work of the five Youth Advisory Councils.

- **Community Action Planning Youth Summit Video**

With the support of the Riverside County Office of Education, the Second District Youth Advisory Council leads the efforts of creating a video that demonstrates the various aspects of the Youth Summit such as the speakers, breakout sessions, lunchtime activities, breakfast and lunch, and vendors. This video was sent to policy makers and legislators, and sponsors.

- **Off Road Vehicle Usage Recommendation**

At the Youth Commission meeting held April 22, 2004, Lou Pizatella, from the Riverside County Code Enforcement Department made a presentation to the Youth Commissioners regarding Code Enforcement and the Board of Supervisors efforts to compose a County Ordinance to require land use permits for off-road vehicle usage. Due to the significant impact of this potential ordinance on youth off-road vehicle users and county residents, the Board of Supervisors requested that the Youth Commission provide input from their Councils and conduct an informational survey. This will be an ongoing effort during the next council term.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRST DISTRICT YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005

The Youth Advisory Council is a representative student body from the high schools in the 1st District of Riverside County. High Schools that are located in the district include: Arlington, Elsinore, Martin Luther King, Ortega, Sherman Indian, Temescal Canyon, and Woodcrest Christian High School. Due to the redistricting caused by the new census, beginning in the 2004-2005 academic year, we will no longer have students from the Temecula and Murrieta school districts.

Listed are the key projects the Youth Advisory Council of 2004-2005 accomplished throughout the year. We thank you for your continued support and dedication to the youth in our county.

- **Summer Retreat – August 2004**

This year's Youth Commission Annual Retreat was held in Desert Hot Springs, with John Vandenburg present to execute his PLUS Program. The PLUS Program focused upon the development of leadership and teamwork skills, with close attention paid to the analysis of community issues and the brainstorming of viable resolutions to resolve these matters. Youth Advisory Council members of each district also elected a Commissioner and Co-Commissioner to preside over their respective Councils and to serve upon the Youth Commission with a Secretary and Parliamentarian also chosen to further ensure proper facilitation and efficiency of council operations and meetings.

- **Santa Margarita Watershed Clean-Up – September 2004**

The first project of the year implemented by the 1st District Council was the Santa Margarita beautification project. The Council worked alongside the Wildomar Municipal Advisory Council to successfully execute this annually held event that is sponsored by the state of California and is pursued in an effort to clean and maintain the Santa Ana Rivers. At the local level the Riverside County Water Conservation District effectively organized volunteers with duties of trash pick up and painting over graffiti being conducted by the 1st District Council.

- **Student Pollworker Program-October 2004**

The Board of Supervisors passed Resolution No. 2003-310 in June 2004, which permitted the implementation of the Student Pollworker Program in Riverside County. In Partnership with Riverside County Registrar of Voters, the Youth Advisory Council actively engaged in the recruitment of over 400 students ages 16 and above to participate in this program. The Student Pollworker Program enables the youth, at their early stages of development to be introduced to the importance of exercising the right to vote in this hands-on capacity program. Youth Advisory Council members publicized the program through means of a press release and by way of informing students within their respective

schools in Riverside County. YAC members that met the qualifications necessary to serve as a Student Pollworker actively fulfilled this duty for the November 2004 election day.

- **Habitat for Humanity– October 2004**

Habitat for Humanity is a United Way affiliated agency that builds decent affordable homes for families in need globally. Funds are acquired through grants or donations and prospective residents have to fall within the low economic bracket in order to be a recipient of a Habitat for Humanity home. The 1st District Council acted as volunteers in the construction of a Habitat for Humanity home created in Riverside. Council members not only received an opportunity to help provide for the livelihood of the disadvantaged, but they also were introduced to a new trade of home building in their capacity as roof builders.

- **Canned Food, Sweater, and Blanket Drive-November 2004**

The Council orchestrated a food and clothing drive for the holiday season in order to ensure that the less fortunate were provided for during this time of year. Donation boxes were placed at various businesses in the City of Riverside and at various Riverside County departments in an effort to maximize our donation capacity. The drive lasted for only the month of November, however the Council was able to capture over 500 donations in canned goods, sweaters and blankets. The majority of the proceeds were given to the Helping Our People of Lake Elsinore (H.O.P.E.) organization for distribution to the homeless in Lake Elsinore and the Lakeland Village area, with the remaining of the donations being distributed to the various churches throughout the City of Riverside.

- **Wildomar Fair- November 2004**

The Council participated in the annual Wildomar Community Fair in efforts to further recruit members to sit upon the 1st District Youth Advisory Council for the upcoming term. Council members passed out brochures and presented a YAC presentation board to the youth that frequented the YAC booth.

- **Operation Safehouse – December 2004**

The 1st District Council provided service to youth in need of positive guidance and mentorship by servicing the Operation Safehouse for the Christmas season. The Council presented personally made motivational Christmas cards to the Safehouse residents and provided them with entertainment, in the form of outdoor activities, board games, and a movie, followed by a pizza party and root beer floats. Safehouse residents found comfort in the YAC visit and both parties shared various experiences and perspectives upon life, which allowed a kinship amongst the differing groups to form. Safehouse residents encouraged the YAC to return.

- **Christmas Adopt-a-Family – December 2004**

The 1st District Council donated new wrapped toys to the adopt-a-family project and created a holiday food basket, consisting of a turkey, vegetables, dinner rolls, and a pumpkin pie and delivered the goods to the Manzo family in Lakeland Village, so that they could experience a warm and joyous Christmas. The Manzo family was very appreciative of the Council's contributions and expressed how they were really in need of a Christmas miracle this holiday season.

▪ **Feed Homeless Project- January 2005**

The 1st District Council attended the Calvary Presbyterian Church in Riverside on a Sunday to participate in their hot meal program. The Council distributed left over sweaters and blankets from the November drive and aided in the serving of hot dinners and drinks to the less fortunate that were in attendance.

▪ **Youth in Government Day- January 2005**

The Youth Advisory Council engaged in their annually held Youth in Government Day. Where Council members received the opportunity to job shadow County employees, and thus gaining insight upon the various local government positions and duties. 1st District YAC members were offered various internship opportunities and would like to extend this experience to students outside of the Council in the future.

▪ **Operation Safe House- February 2005**

The 1st District Council visited the Safe House once again, however with intention of delivering Valentine's cards and candy to the residents of the Safe House. Council members devised a Valentine's Day potluck lunch and provided movies, games, and outdoor activities as entertainment. Safe House residents expressed delight with the company of the 1st District YAC and encouraged their return.

▪ **Feed Homeless Project- February 2005**

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▪ **Temescal Valley Elementary Book Drive- February 2005 to May 2005**

The 1st District Council initiated a Book Drive for Temescal Valley Elementary since the Council felt that their library could use more books. This Drive was initiated as a means to help ensure positive development amongst the youth in Riverside County. Council members actively engaged their schools and businesses in this endeavor. Donations were encouraged through the emphasis of students obtaining community service hours, thus due to this mechanism coupled with the cause of the drive, the Council was able to obtain over 600 new and used books in donations. Walmart was an active participant in the

Book Drive by allowing the Council to serve a carwash at their store site to raise funds and by granting the Council \$100 worth of new books. Supervisor Bob Buster and the Council will visit Temescal Valley Elementary to deliver the books in June.

▪ **Youth Summit- March 2005**

The Youth Summit is an annually held event that encourages the expression and interaction amongst teenage youth involving sensitive issues and concerns that they found relevant. The topics discussed this year were racial intolerance and gang violence. Dr. Terrence Roberts of the Little Rock 9 spoke of his first hand experience of racism and of how he chose to attack this social dilemma head-on during his teenage years; he served as a mode of inspiration for many of the youth in attendance. The issue of gang violence was addressed by a Planned Parenthood Program, and was relayed in a manner that the youth were very receptive to and enjoyed. After every topic presentation, all high school students participated in break out workshops where they discussed their feelings and attitudes towards the topics addressed and explored means or methods most suitable to combat these issues within their communities.

▪ **Temescal Valley Faire- May 14, 2005**

The Council participated in the annual Temescal Valley Community Faire in efforts to further recruit members to sit upon the 1st District Youth Advisory Council for the upcoming term. Council members passed out brochures and presented a YAC presentation board to the youth that frequented the YAC booth. Supervisor Bob Buster provided a speech at the event.

▪ **Be the Change- Youth Resource Fair- May 21, 2005**

The Council enacted this project in efforts to bring resources to the hands of at-risk youth in the City and County of Riverside. The Council applied for and received a grant from the Dollars for Change Board of Riverside County in the amount of \$2,500. Council members established a co-sponsorship with the City of Riverside Parks and Recreation Department in order to further departmental and community participation in the planning and execution of the event. Exhibitors of the City and County of Riverside Departments were present and provided opportunities of youth employment, volunteer services, and health education to the youth present at the event. The Riverside County Fire Department actively served BBQ to all that attended. In order to encourage a resourceful day, however intertwined with fun activities, the Council provided a raffling of prizes, a basketball game, a jumper, and a piñata activity for all that attended. The Council also utilized this day as an opportunity to recruit for the following YAC term. City and County departments and the community expressed appreciation for the event and thus the Council could prospectively initiate this event again for the upcoming years to follow.

▪ **5th Annual Juneteenth Celebration- June 2005**

The Council participated in the annual Juneteenth Celebration in efforts to further recruit members to sit upon the 1st District Youth Advisory Council for the upcoming term. Council members passed out brochures and presented a YAC presentation board to the youth that frequented the YAC booth.

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY SECOND DISTRICT YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL
REPORT 2004-2005**

The Youth Advisory Council is a representative student body from the high schools in the Second District of Riverside County. High Schools in the district include: *Buena Vista, Centennial, Centennial Vista, Corona, Corona-Norco, Corona Vista, Pheonix High School, Norco, Santiago, Jurupa Valley, Rubidoux, Nueva Vista, Rio Vista, Abraham, and Ramona High School.*

Listed are the key projects the Youth Advisory Council of 2004-2005 accomplished throughout the year. We thank you for your continued support and dedication to the youth in our county.

▪ **Summer Retreat – August 2004**

The Youth Commission Annual Retreat in Desert Hot Springs focused on motivation, teambuilding, and community service. This year, the council members had the opportunity to listen to an extraordinary speaker, John Vandenburg, from Murrieta Unified School District. The Commissioners and Co-Commissioners for each council were also elected to represent each youth council on the 5-member Youth Commission. Council officers were also elected to serve on each of the councils in their own representative districts. This annual retreat gave the opportunity for our youth council to interact with one another as well as with the other council members from the other district. Council members really enjoyed the annual retreat and thank the Board of Supervisors for their continued dedication and support.

▪ **Lions Club Breakfast – September 2004**

Supervisor Tavaglione purchased tickets from the Lions Club for the youth advisory council members. The Council members from the Youth Advisory Council assisted the Lions Club in serving a pancake breakfast to the community at the Corona Public Library. Council members were also given the opportunity to speak with various organizations from the city of Corona and Riverside.

▪ **American Cancer Society – September 2004**

The Youth Advisory Council wanted to continue their efforts to support the American Cancer Society for the 2004-2005 term. As a result, the Council decided to set up a committee to address this organization and their activities throughout the year. The committee and council members participated in Relay for Life events, other American Cancer Society events, as well as gathered informational packets to hand out in the district's local high schools.

▪ **AIDS/STD Awareness – September 2004**

The Youth Advisory Council felt that it was important to educate their peers about the causes and effects of AIDS and STDs, and decided to form a committee whose efforts would be to promote awareness within their community and schools. The committee participated in the AIDS walk and other walks. In addition, the committee developed an informational brochure that was passed out at the Youth Summit in March and other events. The committee also supported and participated in other council events.

- **The Others – September 2004**

Because the Youth Advisory Council wanted to participate in a wide array of projects, they decided to form a committee directed at gathering information about general community events in which the council could participate. Throughout the year, the committee members supported their fellow committees as well as put on fundraisers to aid the victims of the Tsunami Disaster in December 2004 and local charities/organizations.

- **Supervisor Tavaglione's Columbus Day Event – October 2004**

Council members participated in helping to register and escort guests to Supervisor Tavaglione's annual Columbus Day Event. The council enjoyed greeting members of the community and helping make the Supervisor's event a big success. This was also an opportunity for our council members to network with elected officials and promote our council within our community.

- **Inland Empire Heart Walk – October 2004**

The council participated in the Inland Empire Heart walk in Fontana in order to support heart disease. Volunteers donated their time by walking around the Fontana Speedway in order to raise money for heart disease patients. This event was a very successful and breathtaking event that our council would like to participate in again. Informational brochures were given about what a person can do in order to prevent heart disease as well as recognizing the symptoms of heart disease.

- **Smoking Ordinance – October 2004**

The council wanted more information regarding the smoking ordinance and invited Bob Peterson to speak to them regarding the ordinance. At the meeting, Bob Peterson voice his concerns regarding merchants who sell to minors and asked for the council's support. The smoking ordinance will require business owners to have a license in order to sell cigarettes. The council was very enthused about promoting this project and volunteered their efforts for Mr. Peterson's disposal. This project will continue into the 2005-2006 term.

- **Christmas Toy Drive – December 2004**

One of the council members wanted to have a toy drive in order to help out the less fortunate. As a result, the council participated in a toy drive by collecting toys from their schools and local businesses. The toys were collected and donated to the American Red Cross.

- **December Service Project – December 2004**

This project is an annual project that the council participates in every year. The council participated in wrapping gifts for the less fortunate children and sorted out food for the Settlement House in Corona. Council members also helped pass out gifts and entertain children at a Christmas party that was hosted by Rubidoux High School. At the Christmas party, council members were given the opportunity to interact with students, play games, eat, and just be a support staff for the children. Council members had a wonderful time helping make the children smile during the Christmas season.

- **Carolyn Wiley Retirement Party – January 2005**

The council helped escort and register guests for Carolyn Wiley's retirement party at the Victoria Club. Carolyn Wiley was the First Five Director. The volunteers helped guests feel comfortable upon their entrance.

- **Youth in Government Day – January 2005**

The seventh Youth in Government Day was a day for the youth council to job shadow a county government employee. Each council member spent the day learning what is involved in county government and what requirements are needed in order to obtain the position. Some of our council members job shadowed a Superior Court Justice, Public Defender, Waste Management, Flood Control, and Board of Supervisors. In addition, some of our council members were offered internships for the summer and were told to keep in contact with their mentor. Each of the council members enjoyed this event and cannot wait to participate in it next year.

- **Senior Citizen Prom – February 2005**

This project has been a continuous project from previous years and each year, council members request that we have this event. The council enjoyed the Valentine's Day Senior Citizen Prom that was held at the Crown Pointe Retirement home. This was a successful event that brought the elderly citizens of the community together. Council members enjoyed dancing with the elderly and brightening their day. Many of the seniors from other apartment complexes requested our YAC help put something together for their complex.

- **Fundraiser Event for Tsunami Victims – February 2005**

The council decided to host a fundraising event at Ruby's Diner for the victims of the December 2004 Tsunami in Asia. The council donated the money raised to the American Red Cross.

- **Youth Summit Planning Committee**

Representatives from four of the five districts gathered together on a bi-monthly basis to plan the Youth Summit. This event was once again held at the Indio Fairgrounds. This year, the youth summit planning committee chair was David Watts from the second district. His dedication along with the planning committee helped to make the summit a successful and memorable event.

- **Youth Partnership Summit – March 24, 2005**

This event was hosted at the Indio Fairgrounds in Indio. There were approximately 600 students in attendance. We hosted workshops, which dealt with racial and religious tolerance as well as gender and sexuality along with drug abuse and violence. The morning session entailed a very renowned keynote speaker, Dr. Terrence Roberts from Little Rock Nine who spoke about his experience. The afternoon session entailed a theatrical performance by Planned Parenthood's IMAGES. IMAGES captured the whole audience with its riveting performance and message. The atmosphere was set so teens could feel free to contribute personal experiences and opinions to the conversations without feeling uncomfortable. This was a positive way to get information across to teenagers and a way to share their opinions and insight.

- **CAP Youth Summit Video Committee**

Our council leads the video committee in compiling a video of our event with the Riverside County Office of Education. Debi Hornyak, video-chair worked extremely hard in making sure we captured the different events which included the breakout sessions and lunchtime activity. With the support from Dr. Long's office, our students were able to use the video camera from RCOE videotape the Youth Summit. This video will be sent to all our sponsors and shown in our presentations.

- **Operation Safe House Walk – April 2005**

The council had the opportunity to participate in Operation Safe House's 2nd annual walk that took place at Santiago High School. Council members really enjoyed this event and would like to participate again next year.

- **Extreme Makeover: Home Edition – May 2005**

One of council members wanted our assistance in writing a letter of support for a family in our district who is in dire need of a makeover. The family attended our council meeting and asked for our support. Our council was very enthusiastic about this project and a committee was set up to meet and draft a letter.

- **Mother's Day Cards for Hospice Mothers – May 2005**

The council decided it would be a great idea to make Mother's Day cards for mothers in the local hospice. Each council member decorated their own cards which were delivered in time for Mother's Day.

- **Chik-Fil-A Fundraiser – May 2005**

Our council wanted to conduct another fundraiser to support the American Cancer Society. Our council had a fundraiser at Chik-Fil-A where 10% of the sales will go our council. All proceeds went to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

- **Relay for Life – May 2005**

The council enjoyed this event last year and wanted to participate again. The council participated in a 24-hour Relay for Life to support the American Cancer Society. The participants took shifts walking around the Ramona High School track for the full 24-hours and had a great time supporting a wonderful cause.

- **Dollars for Scholars – June 2005**

Several council students had the honor of presenting recipients of the Dollars for Scholars scholarship on behalf of the Tavaglione family at several high schools in our district during their awards night.

- **YAC Website**

Please visit us on the web at: <http://www.co.riverside.ca.us/depts/brdofsup/2/yac>

General Recommendations

- Look for applicants that do not have too many commitments
- More use of Robert's Rules of Order and Parliamentary procedure during meetings.
- More participation in events and meetings
- Keep setting time lines with goals and work on action plans in the beginning of the year and before each service project
- Have meetings before the retreat in order to figure out goals early.
- Keep doing community service
- Enforce and make attendance policy stricter

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY THIRD DISTRICT YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL
REPORT 2004-2005**

The Third District Youth Advisory Council is made up of high school students between the ages of 14 and 17 years old that reside in the Third District. The Third District is made up of the Cities of Hemet, San Jacinto, and Canyon Lake. Unincorporated areas within the Third District are: Anza, Aguanga, Idyllwild, Pinyon, Quail Valley, Valle Vista, Menifee, Sun City, French Valley, and Winchester. The schools represented this year were: Hemet, West Valley, Trinity Anza, San Jacinto, and Temescal Canyon High Schools.

The following are the key projects and activities the Third District Youth Council participated in throughout the 2004-2005 term. Listed are the key projects the Youth Advisory Council of 2004-2005 accomplished throughout the year.

- **August 2004-** The council attended the annual Youth Council Retreat in Desert Hot Springs. Officer elections were held for Commissioner, Co-Commissioner, Secretary, also, a historian position was nominated to take the place of parliamentarian for the council. Possible tours including: Coroner, Fire Department, Sheriff Station, Southwest Juvenile Hall, Southwest Detention Center, Southwest Courts, and Lamb's Canyon landfill, were discussed to take place during the duration of the year.
- **September 2004-** The council had guest speaker Sr. Investigator Duffy speak to the council on the 80-acre forestry area that will be available as a recreational facility for the youth. The council voted unanimously on helping Mr. Duffy on his project of creating a recreational facility. Bob Peterson also spoke to the council on a smoking ordinance that would propose that a tobacco license be issued to all sellers of tobacco products. The council toured The Fire Command Center on Sept.25.
- **October 2004-** The Divided by Violence, United by Diversity event, where Dr. Terrence Roberts spoke, took place on October 7th. The council visited the Coroner on October 13th. The "Hemet Beautiful" event was held on October 23rd, in which the council helped clean up the streets and parks of Hemet.
- **November 2004-** Seniors in the youth council participated in the Student Poll-Worker Program on November 2nd. The Council went to EMWD and to the Diamond Valley Lake for tours this month. Commissioner McCredie attended a commission meeting in which Bob Peterson spoke on the smoking ordinance. The council was updated on Mr. Duffy's plans for the progression of the recreational project. The council decided to set a long-term goal to volunteer at the Ramona Animal Shelter once every two weeks for the duration of the year.

- **December 2004-** The council participated in a canned food drive for the Hemet Valley Restart Center.
- **January 2005-** The council participated in Youth In Government Day, which took place on January 13th in Riverside. Council members attended a CAP Summit meeting, in which Dr. Terrence Roberts was chosen to speak at the upcoming event. The council submitted a report for a grant to put on the Battle of the Bands event, which will promote teens to be drug free. Council members continued their volunteer work at the Ramona Animal Shelter.
- **February 2005-** Council continued to volunteer at the Ramona Animal Shelter. Sr. Investigator Duffy informed the council that the recreational project has slowed down due to change of lands from departments, but is still underway. The smoking ordinance continued it's work on putting together a Form 11 for the board to review. The council was granted \$1,400.00 for Battle Of The Bands from the Dollars for Change program.
- **March 2005-** Committees were chosen to run the Battle Of The Bands, the chairs of those committees were: Drug Awareness Chair, Publicity Chair, and Project Coordinator Chair. The site of the benefit went under many considerations. The CAP Youth Summit took place on March 24th, 3rd District's responsibilities for the event were facilitator check-in, and parking lot. The council did an excellent job this year of recruiting students from their high schools to attend the CAP Summit event. The Council continued to donate time at the Ramona Animal Shelter.
- **April 2005-** All efforts have been focused entirely on the Battle of the Bands project. Project Coordinator Chair is Robin Reed, Publicity Chair is Katie Fields, and Drug Awareness Chair is Selena Paez. The event will take place at the Promenade Mall in Temecula on June 11th, 2005. Exhibitors such as M.A.D.D. and the Sheriff's Department have been asked to participate. The event will last from 5:00pm to 9:00pm.
- **May 2005-** The Ramona Animal Shelter Volunteering went on hold so the council could entirely focus on the Battle of the Bands. Demos of potential bands were listened to, and three bands were chosen to participate in Battle of the Bands. It is projected that there will be 5 or 6 bands at the event. The council was asked to participate in the Lazy Creek Park re-opening event, council accepted, and it will take place on June 18th. The council voted for the Spirit and Dedication award for a council member, and Selena Paez was selected.

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY FOURTH DISTRICT YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL
REPORT 2004-2005**

The Fourth District Youth Advisory Council (YAC) identifies youth related concerns and issues that specifically address the fourth district. YAC is comprised of a representative student body from: Amistad, Calvary Bible, Cathedral City, Coachella Valley, Desert Chapel, Desert Christian, Desert Mirage, Desert Hot Springs, Indio, La Familia, La Quinta, Mt. San Jacinto, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Palm Valley, Palo Verde high schools.

Listed are accomplishments by the Fourth District Youth Advisory Council of 2004-2005. Thank you for your continued support and dedication of youth in our county.

- **Annual Youth Commission Retreat-August 2004**

The Annual Youth Commission Retreat was held in the Fourth District at Miracle Springs Resort. All five Youth Advisory Councils come together to interact on a personal level, the all day included activities meant to help meet the goals established for each council as well as public speaking, the Brown Act, Parliamentary Procedure. Participation in group activities, promoting team building, and group leadership skills through workshops and group activities under the guidance of motivational speaker, John Vandenburg from the PLUS Program.

- **Fourth District Inaugural Meeting and Council Retreat-September 2004**

The Fourth District Inaugural Meeting and Council Retreat brought together council members on a personal level to establish relationships and "break the ice." Teambuilding activities and facilitative leadership activities helped establish the foundation for the upcoming term. Elections were held at this time. Alyson Spensieri was elected Commissioner, Lindsay Armstrong was elected Co-Commissioner, Erin Wilson was elected Secretary, and Michael Nigosian was elected Parliamentarian.

- **Student Pollworker Program-September 2004**

The Riverside County Registrar of Voters approached the Riverside County Youth Commission to promote the Student Pollworker Program for the 2004 Presidential election. Our members promoted the program at their respective schools. All eligible council members participated; they found it to be a valuable experience that taught them more about the electoral process. The Riverside County Youth Commission set a goal of recruiting 500 students for the program; all five Youth Advisory Council's efforts surpassed that goal.

- **Serve Food for Less Fortunate at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission-October 2004**

On October 27th, Youth Advisory Council members volunteered at the Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. Council members helped serve food at the facility. They enjoyed interacting with the families and patrons of the Rescue Mission. Many of our students were very impacted by this experience and have returned on an individual basis to volunteer at the Rescue Mission.

▪ **Decorations for Thanksgiving Dinner-November 2004**

The Foundation for the Retarded of the Desert asked our Youth Advisory Council to assist them with their annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the clients of the Social Recreational Program and their families. Council members decorated centerpieces and provided decorations for the event. Members also attended to help serve food and interact with the clients.

▪ **Foster Children's Toy Drive-November 2004**

Youth Advisory Council members hosted a toy drive to benefit children living in foster care through the For The Children Chapter #105 of the California State Foster Parents Association. Council members selected children they would like to sponsor. They then sought individual donations and/or collaborated with church and school organizations to contribute toys for the children. Council members went above and beyond, contributing 3-5 toys for each child. Coachella Valley Unified School District Bus Drivers and Palm Desert High School's Aztec Impact Class were the groups that provided the largest donations of toys.

▪ **Youth in Government Day-December 2004**

Youth in Government Day provides Youth Advisory Council members the opportunity to gain a better understanding of how County Government operates. Job shadowing activities allow students to observe fields of interest. Mentors from the following departments participated: Probation, Salton Sea Authority, District Attorney's Office, Housing Authority, Economic Development Agency, District Attorney, Coroner, Environmental Health, Sheriff's, Fire, and Board of Supervisors. Some students were offered summer internships. The Fourth District Youth Advisory Council has hosted Youth in Government Day in the Coachella Valley for three years. We will continue to host the event in the Coachella Valley for years to come due to the overwhelmingly positive response from both mentors and students.

▪ **Senior Prom for the La Quinta Senior Center-December 2004**

The Senior Prom for the La Quinta Senior Center has been one of the most enjoyed projects by our students. Students from the Fourth District Youth Advisory Council learned how to do the Fox Trot, the Jitterbug and other dance moves during the 2nd Annual Senior Prom at the La Quinta Senior Center. The students danced alongside the senior set, while a live big band orchestra plays music from the Swing Era.

The event was held Friday, December 10th it was themed "Winter Ball". Council members provided the refreshments, decorations, and Polaroid pictures for the event.

▪ **For The Children Christmas Party-December 2004**

Youth Advisory Council members worked diligently raising gifts for children living in foster care. Council members raised over 200 gifts for children ranging from 5 months to 17 years old. Over 50 children had the opportunity to enjoy the festivities that included the presence of Santa Claus, refreshments, arts and crafts, games, entertainment and gifts at no cost. Council members conducted interviews with the media regarding their efforts. They were extremely touched by the smiles on the children's faces when they received the gifts.

▪ **Martin Luther King Commemoration Celebration-January 2005**

The Fourth District Youth Advisory Council took part in a celebration to commemorate civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. There was not a march this year. Council members have participated in this event for three years.

▪ **Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival Promotion-January 2005**

For the past four years, the Riverside County Economic Development Agency has requested that Youth Advisory Council members assist with promotion for the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival. Council members posted flyers and pamphlets at their schools, neighborhoods, and local businesses. Members were compensated with two free Date Festival admissions.

▪ **Diabetes Fair for the City of Coachella-February 2005**

Leticia DeLara, Legislative Assistant for Supervisor Wilson asked for student volunteers for a health fair on February 6th. Council members assisted various booths registering people for diabetes screening and translating for physicians and nurses.

▪ **Fair Tickets for Tsunami Relief-February 2005**

Youth Advisory Council felt a moral obligation to help victims of the recent tsunami disaster. In partnership with the Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival Board, they decided to sell tickets for the fair. Council members had less than a month to sell the tickets. They sold more than \$5,000 worth, generating approximately \$500 in tsunami relief funds, which were donated to UNICEF.

▪ **Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival President's Day Parade-February 2005**

Council members were scheduled to ride in the monster trucks for the Date Festival's Presidents Day Parade but due to the rain and windy conditions the monster trucks were unable to make it to the parade.

▪ **Riverside County Dollars for Change Grant-March 2005**

The Riverside County Dollars for Change is a youth philanthropy made possible by the Riverside County Prevention Education Trust and the Riverside County Office of Education meant to deter students from drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. Council members met and brainstormed ideas for a project proposal. Council members unanimously voted on hosting the 1st Annual Coachella Valley Cultural Showcase (CVCS). The CVCS gives high school student performers the opportunity to showcase their talent to friends, family, and the community while competing for prizes and scholarships in different categories. All proceeds from the Coachella Valley Cultural Showcase will be donated to a non-profit organization that keeps youth away from drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

Council members wrote and submitted the proposal to the Riverside County Dollars for Change Grant Review Committee and were awarded the maximum amount of \$2,500 to host the 1st Annual Coachella Valley Cultural Showcase.

▪ **Pacific Life Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Gardens-March 2004**

The Riverside County Economic Development Agency provided our Youth Advisory Council the opportunity to take advantage of the Riverside County's suite at the Indian Wells Pacific Life Open Tennis Tournament. It was an enjoyable event for all those that participated.

▪ **17th Annual Desert AIDS Walk-March 2005**

In the effort to raise funds for the fight against AIDS in the Coachella Valley our council established a Desert AIDS Walk team to participate in the 17th Annual Desert AIDS Walk held in Palm Springs on Sunday, March 13th. Council members solicited donations on an individual basis.

▪ **Childhood Obesity Taskforce-March 2005**

Childhood obesity has become an issue of great concern for community leaders in the Riverside County, especially in the Coachella Valley. The Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) sponsored a luncheon to inform elected officials and community leaders on the dangers and secondary effects of childhood obesity. The information was then presented to the Youth Advisory Council. Council members were surprised by the results of several studies. They brainstormed ideas in which they could help. They decided to host a survey of their peers.

▪ **Community Action Planning Youth Summit-March 2005**

On March 24th, the Sixth Annual "Youth Partnership for Safe Communities" held at the Riverside County Fairgrounds united youth representatives from diverse backgrounds for a day of dialogue. Students took part in discussion forums where they explored solutions to issues affecting their communities. This year our council hosted a booth that surveyed students regarding their opinions on childhood obesity. Participants in the survey were entered into a drawing for a digital camera. The data obtained will be presented to the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) and community organizations participating in the Childhood Obesity Taskforce.

▪ **Habitat for Humanity Partnership-May 2005**

Adrienne Smith, from the Coachella Valley Habitat for Humanity made a presentation to inform our students about the Habitat for Humanity program. Habitat for Humanity provides affordable housing to families. Volunteers and recipients of the homes work together to build the houses. On May 7th, council members landscaped the lot of a two homes that will be built off of Fred Waring and Deep Canyon.

▪ **1st Annual Coachella Valley Cultural Showcase-May 2005**

The 1st Annual Coachella Valley Cultural Showcase took place Friday, May 20th at the Riverside County Fairgrounds. High school students competed for a \$500 scholarship and several other prizes. Council members sold drinks and snacks to finance future projects. All the proceeds from the entrance fees were donated to the Boys and Girls Club of Coachella.

This project was made possible by the Dollars for Change Grant and the Riverside County Economic Development Agency for allowing our council to use the fairgrounds.

▪ **End of the Year Celebration-May 2005**

Youth Advisory Council members ended the year with dinner and a movie.

▪ **Recruitment**

Recruitment for the Fourth District Youth Advisory Council is ongoing through the end of the term and summer. Council members provided contact information of students they recommended for next year's council. Youth Advisory Council members were asked to bring potential applicants to projects and meetings during the end of the term. Our council is promoted through the media, letters to school officials, and word of mouth. Our council also purchased a banner with the Riverside County logo for our events.

General Recommendations

- Continue inviting Supervisor Wilson to our meeting
- Host innovative community service projects
- Recruit committed members
- Establish more methods of communication with members
- More accurate Commission meeting reports, possibly video taped
- More presentations from community organizations
- Create uniformed Youth Advisory Council/Youth Commission polo shirts
- Continue council's positive attitude
- Expand the Youth Advisory Council with more members
- Partner with other youth organizations in the Fourth District
- Continue applying for grants

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIFTH DISTRICT YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL
REPORT 2004-2005**

To the Riverside County Board of Supervisors;

Listed are achievements of the 5th District Youth Advisory Council of 2004-2005. Thank you for your constant support and commitment to the youth in our county.

▪ **Annual Retreat – August 2004**

The 5th District Youth Advisory Council participated in the annual retreat at the Miracle Springs Resort and Casino. This was the first chance to interact with YAC members for the 04-05 year, and our members found this experience to be both beneficial and enlightening. They met members of other councils as well and participated in discussions from youth motivational speaker, John Vandenburg and his Plus program. We found this experience to be the energizer needed to kick off a great year to follow.

▪ **5th District YAC, First meeting – September 2004**

Since all of our members weren't present at the annual retreat, we decided to halt elections until we had a quorum from active members. We decided this would be the fair thing to do, and the council voted unanimously to approve this action. At the meeting following the retreat, Jesse Melgar of John W. North High School was elected Commissioner and Brandon Wise was elected Co-Commissioner. Also, Alyssa Nemecek was elected secretary, and the meeting began as the rest of the meetings would proceed following this one. Goals for the year were discussed and brainstormed as well. Positive and Delta's were the suggestion of intern Steven Hernandez in running an effective and professional meeting.

▪ **Hearts Walk – September 2004**

Member Alyssa Nemecek was an employee at Washington Mutual, and we teamed up with them in the hearts walk. Together we helped raised roughly 2,000.00 for heart research. Members felt this was a very fun, and meaningful project to be a part of. Most money went to AIDs research as well.

▪ **West Nile Virus – September 2004**

The council received a presentation from Mr. Bob Peterson with the Riverside County Health Department. He explained the importance of spreading the word of the West Nile Virus in Riverside County, more importantly fifth district. Members of the council were affected by the threat and we decided to do an information distribution campaign, hitting every corner of fifth district from Cabazon to Perris. Nonetheless, the event was a success as it enlighten constituents throughout the 5th District.

- **Florida Relief Project – October 2004**

In October, the council decided to implement a Florida Relief Fund at each of the fifth district schools. We raised a substantial amount of money to donate to the American Red Cross and sent a check on the council's behalf. This allowed us to engage the youth of our county, and include them in a meaningful project. Moreover, the council learned of the drastic natural disasters and should be done in case a disaster were to occur.

- **Student Poll Worker – November 2004**

The council members participated in the Riverside County Poll Worker program. We also decided to assist the Riverside County Registrar of Voters by recruiting over 50 members from our high schools to participate in the program. The council members enjoyed the program and were thrilled to be able to participate in the voting process. They learned of the voting process, elections and civic responsibilities.

- **Smoking Ordinance – November 2004**

Our council received a presentation about the importance of implementing a smoking ordinance in Riverside County. We were given smoking statistics about teens who smoke and how that could be changed in the future. We all asked many questions and decided this was a more than worthy effort to participate in. We signed up to be a part of the undercover operation, and enjoyed participating and endorsing the program. Furthermore, the council was part of implementing legislation concerning illegal sales to minors. The legislation proves to be beneficial as it seeks to curtail sales to minors.

- **Operation Christmas Child – December 2004**

As our December service project, we promoted and helped out Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan's Purse. Operation Christmas Child is designed to provide Christmas presents for underprivileged children in countries throughout the world. The program works through the donations of individuals who wrap shoeboxes and fill them with small gifts, as well as providing the shipping costs. We decided to promote this program throughout high schools in the 5th district and collected more than 35 boxes. We as a council, took the boxes to Harvest Christian fellowship, one of the many drop-off locations. The project turned out to be a great success.

- **Adopt a Soldier – January 2005**

Our council participate in adopting a soldier in Iraq. We decided it would be important for us to send these brave individuals items that they were lacking and to send them cards to show how much we appreciate their support. We enjoyed this project and felt it was rewarding in the end because of its significance.

- **Youth In Government Day – January 2005**

Our council participated in Youth in Government Day and were ecstatic about its outcome. Council members split up with different department throughout the county and job shadowed significant individuals. Commissioner Jesse Melgar was able to job shadow supervisor Marion Ashley, and other members including Samir Roberts job shadowed members from the Economic Development Agency. All in all, we felt this was one of the most enlightening experiences of the year. We enjoyed this opportunity and returning members are already anticipating this event for next year.

- **Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival – February 2005**

Members Lauren Deliva and Riley Elrod participated by showcasing animals from their farms to children. Other members went to support and assist with the event. We really enjoyed the feel of this event and were glad to be a part of it.

- **Child Abuse/ Rape Awareness – February 2005**

Members of the council participated in information distribution about child abuse and rape awareness, similar to that of the west nile virus. We passed out information to areas throughout fifth district including libraries, schools, and other community centers. We were glad to be a part of this important information distribution.

- **CAP Youth Summit – March 2005**

The 5th Annual Youth Summit was hosted at the Indio Fairgrounds for the second time. There were approximately 850 youths in attendance. Council members participated by hosting workshops on mental health/stress and drugs and gang violence. Youth in attendance were given the opportunity to share personal experiences and opinions within their workshops. In addition students enjoyed the speaker, who was an original member of the "Little Rock 9". Members came a day before to help organize and decorate the event. Members felt that this was a great event and look forward to working on it next year.

- **Youth Opportunity Centers – March 2005**

Member Samir Roberts, who job shadowed employees of the economic development agency, had the opportunity to visit a youth opportunity center in Moreno Valley. He suggested that it was a great opportunity for us to interact with students who attend, and decided to attend to host a forum. We hosted this forum, bought pizza for the students, and heard their concerns and criticisms about the centers. We also took letters from them to share with county officials about receiving funding for the next school year.

- **Youth Walk 2005 – April 2005**

Members participate in the first annual Youth Walk 2005, and raised a substantial amount of money for the youth opportunity center of Moreno Valley. We enjoyed this experience and have personally witnessed the benefits of keeping the Youth Opportunity Center open. Being so, we decided this was an important project to pursue.

- **Mid County Parkway Project – April 2005**

Members of the Council learned about the Mid County Parkway Project. They were enlightened of the importance of the project for future growth and traffic. The Council was asked by Legislative assistant Rick Hoffman to disseminate information regarding the Mid County Parkway Project. The council distributed information to local libraries and community centers.

- **Edward Dean Museum – May 2005**

Members visited the Edward Dean Museum and experienced a cultural enlightening in that they were able to view art and music from other cultures. The reason of the visit was to encourage the public to view the museum and also as a way publicizes the museum. Members were encouraged to let other know of the museum and talked about the importance in preserving the museum for future generations to come.

- **University of California Riverside – May 2005**

Members visited the University of California Riverside in an attempt to expose members to College. In the visit, members discussed the importance of College both for personal reasons and the benefits it would have on communities. Members discussed the importance of civic involvement and also had the opportunity to interact with college students.

- **Orange Blossom – May 2005**

Collaborating with the Youth Advisory Council for the City of Riverside, the YAC participated in the Orange Blossom by hosting a booth for recruitment. They disseminated information about the Youth Commission and encouraged the public to apply.

- **Water Conservation – May 2005**

Water conservation is one of the County objectives in sustaining a healthy living environment in Riverside County. The council was asked by Rick Hoffman to disseminate information regarding water conservation in Riverside County. They also learned of the realities of not conserving water. This event proved beneficial in that it informed YAC members, many of whom are farmers, of the importance of conserving water. They also learned of plants and irrigation techniques that conserve water.

- **Recruitment – May 2005**

The council is recruiting members within the new 5th District, which now encompasses areas spanning from Moreno Valley to Northern Palm Springs. Members are to recruit at least three members from their respective high schools and are encouraged to recruit from high schools currently not represented on the council