



DATE: MARCH 19, 2024

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND LOMPOC CITY COUNCIL

FROM: LOMPOC YOUTH COMMISSION

RE: ANNUAL COMMISSION REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Lompoc City Council:

The Youth Commission is comprised of eleven members, seven are youth between the ages of 15 – 21, two are adult members and the remaining two are non-voting members that are youth or adult members. The Commission meets once a month (excluding June and July), on the 4th Monday at the Anderson Recreation Center, with each meeting averaging one to two hours.

Working with City staff and the community, we have had the opportunity to provide exciting opportunities to the youth of our community as well as represent the community youth to ensure their concerns, issues and viewpoints are presented.

It is with great pleasure that the Youth Commission respectfully submit this annual report for 2023/2024 listing our accomplishments, special programs and projects and our plans for 2024/2025 year.

Special Programs and Projects:

TOTAL – Teaching Our Teens As Leaders

The Youth Commission is very proud of the continuous success of the TOTAL Conference, as we continue to Teach Our Teens As Leaders. This year's event was held on Monday, February 12th at the Dick DeWees Community & Senior Center and the Youth Commission was excited with how engaging the group who attended was. The Commissioners are passionate about this program because of the opportunity it gives to all teens, regardless of their background and academic ability.

One of the continued challenges that we face is the continued rise in costs (i.e. speaker fees and meals), which required us this year to downgrade the program by one professional speaker. There has also been a noticeable decline in attendance and for this reason, the Commission is considering offering the conference bi-annually, which will still provide multiple opportunities for middle and high school students to attend in their teen years. This will also allow more time for planning, recruiting Commissioners, community input, and other youth group collaborations. The goal is to secure more sponsorships to ensure that everyone can attend for free.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Youth Commission believes that their role is one of advisory and contribution of time for service. Over the last year, members of the Youth Commission have volunteered as judges for

the Lompoc Valley Children's Christmas Season Parade, assisted at the Father Daughter Dance, Mother Son Luau, Easter Egg Hunt and the 4th of July Family Fun Day in the Park.

New Programs:

The Youth Commission works hard year-round planning and coordinating the annual TOTAL Conference but recognizes there is a need for additional teen services that can be offered at little or no cost. Commissioners have discussed hosting other special events throughout the year, such as free teen pool parties at the Lompoc Aquatic Center, teens only Movies in the Park and teen inspired workshops.

Commission Requests:

The Youth Commission is aware of the evaluation of each City Commission, Committee and Board and would like to request the following for the Youth Commission:

- The Lompoc Youth Commission feels strongly that there is significant benefit to maintain this Commission. Those that serve on the Youth Commission are learning valuable life skills that will assist them in becoming strong future leaders of this community. It is requested that the Lompoc City Council continue to fund and support TOTAL and any teen events created for the community. There has been so much work laid as a foundation for this program that it would be a significant loss for our community.
- The Lompoc Youth Commission would also like to amend the age requirement to change from 15 years to 14; and would also like to eliminate the City boundary for all positions, as it currently only allows Youth members eligible. This eliminates participation from adults who reside outside of City limits but have an interest in serving as an adult member.

Recruitment:

Recruitment continues to be an ongoing issue due to the limited availability during the school year with sports and clubs many teens participate in. This has caused loss of engagement, causing cancellations to many meetings due to lack of quorum. We continue to recruit with the hopes of filling the additional remaining vacant seats. Staff has made an effort to personally meet and present at secondary schools to promote the commission and also the TOTAL conference.

Plans for 2024/2025:

- ❑ Continue the TOTAL Conference Bi-Annually
- ❑ Provide free or reduced cost events for Teens
- ❑ Provide more teen volunteer and career training opportunities

Again, this information provides some general information regarding the topics that the Youth Commission has reviewed and taken action on over the past 12 months. Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karla Paniagua ~ Chair, Lompoc Youth Commission