



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Agenda

Youth Commission

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

6:00 PM

Youth & Teen Center
2446 Cabrillo Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95051

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1 25-1684 [Action to Approve the Youth Commission Minutes of the November 18, 2025 Meeting](#)

Recommendation: Approve the Youth Commission Minutes of the November 18, 2025 Meeting

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

[This item is reserved for persons to address the body on any matter not on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body. The law does not permit action on, or extended discussion of, any item not on the agenda except under special circumstances. The governing body, or staff, may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed, and appropriate body may request staff to report back at a subsequent meeting.]

GENERAL BUSINESS

- 2 25-1686 [Discuss and Take Action on Youth Commission FY 2025/26 Work Plan & Goals](#)

Recommendation: Discuss and take action on the activities and efforts in support of the Youth Commission's Work Plan & Goals for FY 2025/26.

STAFF REPORT

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled meeting of the Youth Commission is on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

MEETING DISCLOSURES

The time limit within which to commence any lawsuit or legal challenge to any quasi-adjudicative decision made by the City is governed by Section 1094.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure, unless a shorter limitation period is specified by any other provision. Under Section 1094.6, any lawsuit or legal challenge to any quasi-adjudicative decision made by the City must be filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which such decision becomes final. Any lawsuit or legal challenge, which is not filed within that 90-day period, will be barred. If a person wishes to challenge the nature of the above section in court, they may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the meeting described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Clara, at or prior to the meeting. In addition, judicial challenge may be limited or barred where the interested party has not sought and exhausted all available administrative remedies.

If a member of the public submits a speaker card for any agenda items, their name will appear in the Minutes. If no speaker card is submitted, the Minutes will reflect "Public Speaker."

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the City of Santa Clara will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities, and will ensure that all existing facilities will be made accessible to the maximum extent feasible. The City of Santa Clara will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities including those with speech, hearing, or vision impairments so they can participate equally in the City's programs, services, and activities. The City of Santa Clara will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities.

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Individuals who require an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or any other disability-related modification of policies or procedures, or other accommodation, in order to participate in a program, service, or activity of the City of Santa Clara, should contact the City's ADA Coordinator at 408-615-3000 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.



City of Santa Clara

1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050
santaclaraca.gov
[@SantaClaraCity](https://twitter.com/SantaClaraCity)

Agenda Report

25-1684

Agenda Date: 12/9/2025

REPORT TO YOUTH COMMISSION

SUBJECT

Action to Approve the Youth Commission Minutes of the November 18, 2025 Meeting

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the Youth Commission Minutes of the November 18, 2025 Meeting

Prepared by: Gayle Ichiho, Recreation Supervisor

Reviewed by: Kimberly Castro, Recreation Manager

Approved by: Damon Sparacino, Director of Parks & Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft - Youth Commission Meeting Minutes of the November 18, 2025



City of Santa Clara

Meeting Minutes Youth Commission

11/18/2025

6:00 PM

Youth & Teen Center
2446 Cabrillo Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95051

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

This meeting was called to order by Chair Martin at 6:07 p.m.

Present 15 - Commissioner Allysa Domensino, Commissioner Mateo Espinal, Commissioner Seoyun Chong, Commissioner Namita Gaidhani, Commissioner Sriksa Gopisetti, Commissioner Julianna Arias Hernandez, Commissioner Neha Israni, Commissioner Drew Madriaga, Commissioner Rebecca Kunze, Commissioner Malia Martin, Commissioner Samaira Mehta, Commissioner Aneesha Vemu, Commissioner Brian Rong, Commissioner Samarth Suresh, and Commissioner Niharika Uppalapati

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. [25-1587](#) Action to Approve the Youth Commission Minutes of the October 14, 2025 Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Israni, seconded by Commissioner Gopisetti to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was carried by the following votes:

Aye: 15 - Commissioner Domensino, Commissioner Espinal, Commissioner Chong, Commissioner Gaidhani, Commissioner Gopisetti, Commissioner Arias Hernandez, Commissioner Israni, Commissioner Madriaga, Commissioner Kunze, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Mehta, Commissioner Vemu, Commissioner Rong, Commissioner Suresh, and Commissioner Uppalapati

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

2. [25-1588](#) Discuss and Take Action on Youth Commission FY 2025/26 Work Plan & Goals
- At the November 18, 2025 meeting, the Youth Commission will begin discussions regarding its work plan priorities and goals for the FY 2025/26 term. Commissioners developed mission statements for each committee to align with their work plan goals.
1. The Community building committee aims to foster a culture of inclusion, belonging, and connection among the Santa Clara youth through bonding events and collaborative opportunities.
 2. The Youth Empowerment committee seeks to empower the Santa Clara youth through projects including but not limited to panels highlighting local voices and activities to create opportunities for youth to serve our community.
 3. The Civic Engagement Committee seeks to facilitate community outreach and education, while providing better accessibility to city resources. Our goal is to broaden the awareness of Santa Clara's youth by highlighting essential services and information.

STAFF REPORT

Gayle Ichiho, Recreation Supervisor announced the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Friday, December 5th from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at Central Park. The event will feature live entertainment, local artist booths, arts and crafts activities, and food trucks. Santa will visit and distribute complimentary teddy bears and candy canes to children. A special guest tree lighter, Wanda Buck will illuminate the tree to mark the beginning of the holiday season. Community members are encouraged to attend this festive celebration.

Karen Guzman, Teen Librarian highlighted several resources and programs available to teens. Brain Fuze offers free live tutoring for students from kindergarten through college, accessible to library cardholders. The service includes test preparation for PSAT, SAT, AP, ACT, and other exams, as well as skills building, a 24-hour writing lab, and foreign language assistance with limited timing. Additionally, personalized e-learning opportunities are available. Upcoming programs include a Teen Yoga Workshop for destressing on December 11th and JIAREN. Teens are also encouraged to participate in the Library Card Art Contest designed specifically for their age group.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Chair Martin attended a meeting on November 16th with Jack and Jill of America focused on a mix of civic education, community service, and youth policy debate. The session began with a talk and Q&A featuring Council Member George Casey, who emphasized the importance of civic engagement and fostering youth participation in local government. Following this educational segment, the group collaborated on a community service project, preparing essential items for the upcoming Holiday Giveaway to benefit local families. The meeting concluded with a policy debate on the timely topic of whether 16- and 17-year-olds should be granted the right to vote for School Board members, a discussion that included a specific review of the new youth-voting laws recently enacted in Berkeley and Oakland.

Alternate Rayees, attended activities from late October to early November involved a mix of civic dialogue, regional volunteering, and attendance at official government proceedings. On October 18th, there were discussions about the SCPD Explorer program and a meeting with the Mayor of the City of Saratoga to learn about the initiatives of the Saratoga Youth Commission. This was followed by a community service effort on October 25th, where the participant volunteered for City's Halloween SpooktaClara event with students from different high schools. The reporting period concluded with attendance at the Joint City Council/Stadium Authority Board Meeting via Zoom on November 4th, and a SCUSD Special Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees on November 6th.

Commissioner Gopisetti, Commissioner Domensino, Commissioner Madriaga attended the Santa Clara Unified School District Board meeting on November 13, 2025. The superintendent presented wanting to increase student engagement.

Commissioner Arias Hernandez reported that the Santa Clara High School Marching band recently ended their historic record-breaking season, ending with 2nd place in the 2A Regional Division Level. They will be attending next month's City Council Meeting to be recognized by the mayor for their achievements and hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Suresh and seconded by Commissioner Vemu to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Aye: 15 - Commissioner Domensino, Commissioner Espinal, Commissioner Chong, Commissioner Gaidhani, Commissioner Gopisetti, Commissioner Arias Hernandez, Commissioner Israni, Commissioner Madriaga, Commissioner Kunze, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Mehta, Commissioner Vemu, Commissioner Rong, Commissioner Suresh, and Commissioner Uppalapati

MEETING DISCLOSURES

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Proposed Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Youth Commission Workplan

Background

At the November 18, 2025, regular meeting of the Youth Commission, the Commission adopted work plan priorities and activities for FY 2025/26 related to the Commission's goals.

1. The Community building committee aims to foster a culture of inclusivity, belonging, and connection among the Santa Clara youth through bonding events and collaborative opportunities.
2. The Youth Empowerment committee seeks to empower the Santa Clara youth through projects including but not limited to panels highlighting local voices and activities to create opportunities for youth to serve our community.
3. The Civic Engagement Committee seeks to facilitate community outreach and education, while providing better accessibility to city resources. Our goal is to broaden the awareness of Santa Clara's youth by highlighting essential services and information.

Current Membership

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Youth & Teen Center.

Name	Appointed	Term Ends
Seoyun Chong	5/13/2025	5/2026
Allysa Domensino	5/13/2025	5/2026
Mateo Espinal	5/13/2025	5/2026
Namita Gaidhani	5/13/2025	5/2026
Srikha Gopisetti	5/13/2025	5/2026
Julianna Arias Hernandez	5/13/2025	5/2026
Neha Israni	5/13/2025	5/2026
Rebecca Kunze	5/13/2025	5/2026
Drew Madriaga	5/13/2025	5/2026
Malia Martin	5/13/2025	5/2026
Samaira Mehta	5/13/2025	5/2026
Brian Rong	5/13/2025	5/2026
Samarth Suresh	5/13/2025	5/2026

Niharika Uppalapati	5/13/2025	5/2026
Aneesha Vemu	5/13/2025	5/2026

Purpose, Role and Duties of Youth Commission:

The City of Santa Clara Youth Commission was established in 1995 to act in an advisory capacity providing City Council with valuable insight regarding youth and teen issues in our community. Since its inception, the 15-member Youth Commission has continued to serve their peers and the greater Santa Clara community. The Youth Commission primarily advises the City Council on matters affecting the youth and teen population, particularly regarding municipal programs. Their work includes studying youth issues, holding workshops, and recommending new community resources. They also foster youth involvement in local government, review referred municipal matters, and make recommendations, while carrying out assigned functions from the City Council.



Agenda Report

25-1686

Agenda Date: 12/9/2025

REPORT TO YOUTH COMMISSION

SUBJECT

Discuss and Take Action on Youth Commission FY 2025/26 Work Plan & Goals

BACKGROUND

The Youth Commission develops an annual work plan through discussions of current trends and civic needs that relate to the youth and teen population. The annual work plan drives the activities of the Commission throughout the term. The Commission established goals over the past few terms including promoting health and wellness, providing public outreach and education, and fostering community inclusiveness.

DISCUSSION

At the November 18, 2025 meeting, the Youth Commission prioritized three themes for the FY2025/26 Work Plan:

The **Community Building Committee** aims to foster a culture of inclusivity, belonging, and connection among the Santa Clara youth through bonding events and collaborative opportunities.

The **Youth Empowerment Committee** seeks to empower the Santa Clara youth through projects including but not limited to panels highlighting local voices and activities to create opportunities for youth to serve our community.

The **Civic Engagement Committee** seeks to facilitate community outreach and education, while providing better accessibility to city resources. Our goal is to broaden the awareness of Santa Clara's youth by highlighting essential services and information.

At the December 9, 2025 meeting the Commission will hear committee updates and they will discuss specific goals and activities to promote their respective theme.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The action being considered does not constitute a "project" within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5) in that it is a governmental organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect changes in the environment.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Youth Commission agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall Council Chambers. A complete agenda packet is available on the City's website and in the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to a Regular Meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special Meeting. A hard copy of any agenda report may be requested by contacting the City

Clerk's Office at (408) 615-2220, email clerk@santaclaraca.gov or at the public information desk at any City of Santa Clara public library.

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and take action on the activities and efforts in support of the Youth Commission's Work Plan & Goals for FY 2025/26.

Prepared by: Gayle Ichiho, Recreation Supervisor

Reviewed by: Kimberly Castro, Recreation Manager

Approved by: Damon Sparacino, Director of Parks & Recreation

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Youth Commission Work Plan 2025-26

**City of Santa Clara
Youth Commission
Work Plan FY 2025/26**



**City of
Santa Clara**

GOAL #1: Community Building with Santa Clara residents

Objectives	Ad Hoc Sub-Committee	Timeline	Current Status
Foster a culture of inclusivity, belonging, and connection among the Santa Clara youth.	<u>Commissioners:</u> Brian Rong Mateo Espinal Namita Gaidhani Niharika Uppalapati Drew Madriaga Srikha Gopisetti	Spring 2026	Developed mission statement for their committee goals & brainstormed ideas to reach committee goals.

GOAL #2: Civic Engagement

Objectives	Ad Hoc Sub-Committee	Timeline	Current Status
Facilitate community outreach and education while providing better accessibility to City resources.	<u>Commissioners:</u> Neha Israni Malia Martin Ibrahim Rayees Ayaan Mathur Seoyun Chong	Spring 2026	Developed mission statement for their committee goals & brainstormed ideas to reach committee goals.

GOAL #3: Youth Empowerment

Objectives	Ad Hoc Sub-Committee	Timeline	Current Status
Empower the Santa Clara youth through opportunities to serve our community.	<u>Commissioners:</u> Julie Arias Samarth Suresh Rebecca Kunze Samaira Mehta Aneesha Vemu Alyssa Domensino	Spring 2026	Developed mission statement for their committee goals & brainstormed ideas to reach committee goals.