

Good evening Mayor, Vice Mayor, Council members, staff, and members of the public, allow me to introduce myself, my name is Michael Schouten I am currently the Chair of the Santa Paula Youth Advisory Committee, before I start I would like to acknowledge my colleagues that made this presentation possible tonight:

- Vice Chair Nathan Ramos Rodriguez
- Secretary Daniel Navarro
- Committee Member Iris Perez
- Committee Member Pedro Robles

And our distinguished advisors:

- Beverly Ruiz
- Councilmember Crosswhite

When I was first charged with the power to present to council by the Youth Advisory Committee, I though, how do I articulate all of the projects and policies we have been working on in my short time with the council, and ultimately the committee came up with various points that we felt conveyed our message and were pertinent to issues and problems that we are trying to solve.

Since the start of the Youth Advisory committee we had hit the ground running jumping directly into the Santa Paula Teen Center, from the moment we toured the sight and had one of our very first committee meetings inside, we knew we had a long road ahead of us. From the somewhat stale carpet to the peeling off white paint, the center has been transformed. Promoting Youth engagement and serving as a pillar in our community.

It wasn't very soon after that we ran into the vast world of finance, we started to look at the cost of the renovation, the cost to staff such a center, and we ultimately got to the point that each and everyone of us public servants deal with, how can we make the most out of the funding we have.

To many of us the term "Measure T" was something that we had never heard of before, and if we did we had no idea what the Measure entailed, it wasn't until Councilmember Sobel, then a member of the Measure T committee, was presenting to us about the various implications of the Measure T budget.

Soon after the center had opened, we were once again faced with the restrictions of a budget, we were asking ourselves:

- How do we staff the center?
- How do we make sure that staff members aren't going over their allotted hours?
 - As there is so much planning and preparation that goes into the day to day operations of such a facility.

While we are continuing to address these questions, it is important to note that so far, we have had (on average) anywhere between 20-25 kids a day at the Teen Center. The Ad Hoc Committee is working effortlessly to maximize the potential of the Santa Paula Teen Center.

Aside from the Teen Center we have been focused on catering to the Youth's needs using are constituents and the Youth Needs Assessment as our compass, in guiding us down this somewhat windy road of policy and community relations. According to the Youth Needs Assessment, mental health access was one of the major needs outlined. Since then Vice Chair Nathan Ramos Rodriquez has worked on creating an ad hoc committee that has been doing an amazing job partnering with various community agencies on bringing awareness to the lack of access to mental health within the community. Recently we heard from Dr. Sandy Gomez, from the Coalition for Family Harmony, who mentioned that they are looking for another community partner in order to provide counseling for our youth.

In addition to these efforts, we have been working on creating an internship program here in the city. So far, we have reached out to Francine Sprigel a program director for the CITY Internship Program in Thousand Oaks, a program in which the city partners with Cal Lutheran University to offer college credit for the internship, Ventura County Office of Education to provide liability insurance for students, and various businesses within the City of Thousand Oaks. Francine has been kind enough to provide us with SLOs (Student Learning Outcomes), application documents, application procedures, and a guide that she created which outlines the processes and program goals. Iris Perez and myself are members of the ad hoc committee responsible for seeking out and employing the development of such a program. Our next steps are to meet with City Manager Michael Rock.

Here are a few points that the Santa Paula Youth Advisor Committee would like to make.

- When translating items that are going to be distributed, the committee would appreciate it if the information was circulated around to check for errors.
 - In short the Spanish version of the Youth Needs Assessment Survey, wasn't easily understood and some questions didn't align with the options proposed.
 - This may be the source of the non-response bias or the N/A answer selection
- The Committee would have liked to see a more in depth needs assessment
 - In short the presentation provided to council by the outside agency responsible for the Santa Paula Youth Needs Assessment, seemed a bit simple.
 - The committee would have liked to see the presenters stay after the meeting to address and answer questions from the Youth Advisory Committee
- The Committee would like to have a greater understanding of the MOU's drafted and the MOU's that have been drafted with the Santa Paula Unified School District.
 - In specific the MOU that Councilmember Crosswhite and Mr. Cotti referenced in past City Council meetings in regard to facility usage (i.e. Pool)
- The committee would like to see the City of Santa Paula reach out to Dr. Sandy Gomez and see in which ways the council could facilitate in bringing the programs mentioned earlier to Santa Paula
- The committee asks that staff distribute the Santa Paula Youth Needs Assessment to all stakeholders within the community, including Assistant Dean Dr. Jesus Vega at Ventura Colleges East Campus, Ventura College President Dr. Damon Bell, and Chancellor Gillespie, if this has not already been done

- The committee believes that providing key stakeholders with the Santa Paula Youth Needs Assessment, will allow for outside entities to cater to the needs of Santa Paula Youth.
- The committee would also like to ask that the Measure T committee meet with us to keep each other updated.

In closing, I would like to again acknowledge my colleagues for making all of these visions come to fruition.

- Vice Chair Nathan Ramos Rodriguez
- Secretary Daniel Navarro
- Committee Member Iris Perez
- Committee Member Pedro Robles

And our distinguished advisors:

- Beverly Ruiz
- Councilmember Crosswhite