SPA #4
OCT 19 2015

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MEMORANDUM **Community and Neighborhood Services Department Memo CNS16-029**

DATE: **OCTOBER 14, 2015**

TO: **MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

THRU: **MARSHA REED, ACTING CITY MANAGER** MR
NACHIE MARQUEZ, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
JENNIFER MORRISON, COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DIRECTOR
BARBARA YOUNG, RECREATION MANAGER BYoung
SANDRA MUÑOZ-WEINGARTEN, RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT-NATURALIST SMW

FROM: **TONY BAUMANN, RECREATION COORDINATOR II** TB

SUBJECT: **MAYOR'S YOUTH COMMISSION TEEN TOWN HALL 2015 REPORT**

This year marked the sixth annual Mayor's Youth Commission Teen Town Hall. The purpose of the Town Hall is to bring teens from the community together to discuss issues of concern in Chandler and offer recommendations for practical solutions. This year's topics of discussion included ***"Underage Driving", "Teen Racism", "Domestic Violence",*** and ***"Teen S.T.E.M."*** The successful event, held on May 19, 2015, hosted 117 high school students from both public and private schools within the City of Chandler.

Each group discussed its assigned topic by defining the problem and possible contributing factors. The groups were then asked to develop practical solutions to be recommended for implementation and then present the recommendations to all the participants. The recommendations for each topic have been compiled into the attached Mayor's Youth Commission Teen Town Hall 2015 Report.

The Commission would like to thank Councilmember Heumann and Vice Mayor Hartke for being in attendance at the event, and Councilmember Sellers for providing the closing remarks. They would also like to thank the Mayor and all members of the City Council for their continued commitment to and support of the Commission.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 782-2710.

Attachment: Mayor's Youth Commission Teen Town Hall 2015 Report

City of Chandler Mayor's Youth Commission

Teen Town Hall 2015 Report

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Chandler City Council/Dignitaries

Mayor
Jay Tibshraeny

Vice Mayor
Kevin Hartke

Councilmembers
Rick Heumann
Jack Sellers

City Manager
Rich Dlugas

Assistant City Manager
Nachie Marquez

Parks and Recreation Board Member
Linda Peterson-Price

Chandler City Staff

Recreation Manager
Barbara Young

Recreation Superintendent
Sandy Muñoz-Weingarten
Erika Berry

Mayor's Youth Commission 2014-15

Officers
Yingyu Sun, Chairperson
Shiv Shah, Vice Chairperson
Sammi Tam, Secretary
Ekta Patel, Historian
Connie Zhu, Points Commissioner

Commission Members

Lydia Chew	Asha Devineni	Heba Shiban
Sammi Tam	Chase Hettinger	Yingu Sun
Shiv Shah	Hannah Miao	Connie Zhu
Alex Braddock	Ishaan Mehta	Niharika Karnik
Isabella Tassinari	Alex Yuwen	Jocelyn Alvar
Harold Carrigan	Ishaan Mehta	Ekta Patel
Shivam Bhanvadia		

Staff Liaison
Tony Baumann, Recreation Coordinator II

The Mayor's Youth Commission would like to extend a special thanks to Safeway, Chipotle, Einstein Bros. Bagels, and Sprouts for their donations used to provide breakfast and lunch. We would also like to thank the City of Chandler for giveaway items and for providing wonderful amenities such as the Council Chambers and City Hall for the forum.

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny and the Chandler City Council

Teen Town Hall

May 19, 2015

Hosted by the City of Chandler Mayor's Youth Commission

Schedule

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	**Arrival and registration** City Hall Council Chambers
8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	**Opening Session** - Council Chambers Welcome Guest Speaker Teambuilding activity
9:25 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	**Committee Sessions** Teen Racism – Community Center Room 111 Underage Drinking – City Hall 3rd Floor Large Conference Room Domestic Violence – Community Center Room 109 STEM Education – City Hall 4th Floor Large Conference Room
11:10 a.m. – 11:40 p.m.	**Educational Speaker** City Hall Council Chambers
11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	**Lunch (provided)** City Hall Mezzanine
12:20 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	**Committee Sessions Resume**
1:25 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.	**Committee Session Presentations** City Hall Council Chambers
1:50 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	**Closing Session** City Hall Council Chambers

The Mayor's Youth Commission sponsored its sixth annual Teen Town Hall on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at Chandler City Hall. The conference had 117 teens registered from various Chandler High Schools, Middle schools and Charter schools. The purpose of Teen Town Hall is to bring together teenagers from the community, discuss topics of concern to Chandler's teens, and offer recommendations for practical solutions the community can implement. To ensure input from all sectors of our community, individuals from numerous private and public high schools and non-profit groups within the City of Chandler were invited to participate.

The Teen Town Hall began with Mayor's Youth Commission Chair Yingyu Sun welcoming the participants and then introducing keynote speaker Taylor Pineda. Taylor opened her speech with some shocking facts: roughly 1.5 million high school boys and girls in the U.S. admit to being intentionally hit or physically harmed in the last year by someone they are romantically involved with; females between the ages of 16 and 24 are roughly three times more likely than the rest of the population to be abused by an intimate partner; and on an average day more than 20,000 phone calls are placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide. She plucked at the heartstrings of her audience with her personal experiences of domestic violence. Taylor spoke for about twenty minutes and left the teens with this message: preventing unhealthy and abusive relationships starts with education, and that in order to end dating violence, young people must be educated and protected by the law.

Shawn Peoples, the Recreation Coordinator I for the City of Chandler teen programs, concluded the opening session by conducting an energizing team-building activity. Participants were then divided into four discussion groups covering the different topics that the Commission had chosen earlier based on last year's survey. These topics of discussion were **Teen Racism, Underage Drinking, Domestic Violence, and STEM Education.**

Participants (assisted by facilitators) met in their groups and began discussion of their assigned topics by defining the problem and possible contributing factors. The groups were then asked to focus on solutions to address their assigned issue and develop practical recommendations that could be easily implemented within the City of Chandler. Each group met for an hour and a half in the morning and one hour after lunch.

This was the second year that the Teen Town Hall had invited a guest to speak to the group, and Ted Huntington, Community Programs Coordinator from ICAN had been chosen. Mr. Huntington gave an inspirational talk about making positive choices and the importance of positive risk taking as a teenager. He aimed to inspire the students to make positive choices that lead them to their goals and destinies by taking positive risks. Positive risks require courage to take action and lead us towards our goals, to say "yes" to what is healthy, and to say "no" to what is not. Mr. Huntington provided some strategies for taking positive risks such as: training teenagers in strategies to help them avoid dangerous situations, limiting teenagers' exposure to risky substances and situations, teaching self-efficacy, providing opportunities to practice concrete skills, and giving teenagers practice at recognizing environmental signs of danger.

In the Teen Town Hall's closing session, the teen leader from each discussion group presented his/her committee's recommendations to all the Town Hall participants. They started by explaining their topic, their group's recommendations, and how the suggestions might be carried out. These presentations provided attendees the opportunity to gain understanding and insight from one another. After the presentations were concluded, Councilmember Sellers addressed the participants. He explained how excited he was to see the interest and involvement in the event from so many schools throughout Chandler. He encouraged the participants to walk away knowing that being there and listening to the topics has already made a difference. Finally, he concluded by reminding the group that this Teen Town Hall was the voice of the rest of Chandler's teens.

Sammi Tamm, Vice Chair of the Mayor's Youth Commission, closed the day by thanking all the dignitaries and participants for attending. She informed the participants that the results of all their hard work would be compiled into a report that would be shared with the Mayor and members of City Council at a City Council meeting in the fall.

In addition, this Teen Town Hall report will be made available to various agencies, organizations, clubs, and schools for review, and will be used as a resource in our community. In this way, the Teen Town Hall event provides both teens and adults the opportunity to communicate openly with one another about important issues that affect them.

The following pages provide details on each of the four topics of discussion at this year's Teen Town Hall, as well as the specific recommendations for change created by each group.

Teen Racism

Discussion Summary:

a) Racism is still very prevalent.
   - It is a form of bullying.

b) How to React
   - We need to teach students not to be bystanders. It's difficult to react politely when you feel strongly about the subject; react assertively but not in an ignorant manner.
   - Don't respond to violence with violence—this can put other people's lives in danger.
   - People should be able to use rights of assembly and petition to speak out against racism.
   - People sometimes lose sight and focus more on the violence than on the topic at hand.

c) Current Problems
   - What is the difference between racial profiling and police doing their job?
   - Ignorance is the main problem—people can't see past their "tunnel vision."
   - Reverse racism—a lot of "reverse discrimination": could become a dire issue. Racism is racism no matter who is being racist.
   - Racism is based more on who has the power: ex—police departments that are primarily made up of white people.
   - Input from a Native American student: there is a philosophy in his community that if you're not born on the reservation, you're not Navajo; sometimes, intra-race discrimination occurs.
   - Stereotypes will never be removed so we must take steps to combat them. You can't just "accept" racism.
   - First amendment: what is the line between free speech and racism?

d) Racism and Education
   - Affirmative action originally used strict ratios but now it simply considers race in deciding whether to accept an applicant as a type of extra support to make up for a lack of opportunities in prior life. It's appropriate—but to what extent?
   - Getting people educated is the first step in raising their economic status; it's important to keep people in school and provide them with the resources to graduate.
   - Once more education occurs, the numbers of minority students will grow; however, many don't have the money to attend college.
   - Having a degree is more important than having a high school diploma; more and more people are going to school. Education opens up doors through connections, networking, and competition.
   - We need to facilitate discussion with school districts about implementing current events and more in-depth histories of racism into school curriculum, and implementing educational programs. School-based solutions are the best since we focus on teenagers and education; this

can also be done through club outreach (offering public forums for discussion).

e) Racism and History
   - It is very difficult to just change an entire culture's way of thinking. The idea is so deeply rooted in society that it's going to take a long time to change.
   - We feel disconnected from our history; we don't know how to relate it back—we need to connect current events back to history.

To address these issues, the group proposed the following recommendations:

a) Informational video/PSA
   - Implement an informational video about anti-racism/different races that could be distributed on social media. The creation of this PSA could be a part of the Creative Expressions Contest at the Multicultural Festival. To generate more teen interest, the winner of the contest could be selected by public votes instead of a panel of judges.

b) Anti-racism presentations at assemblies
   - Most schools have regular assemblies scheduled. We propose using an assembly to counter racism and spread cultural awareness. The week of the assembly, schools can immerse students in a racially diverse and engaging experience—for example, through a culture's cuisine, music, etc. The week can culminate in an assembly where racism (especially in current events) can be discussed and cultural awareness can be spread, which will help to identify the origins of racism and how to combat it on a societal level.

c) Courage Retreat:
   - Invite high school students to elementary schools to speak on the problem of racism. Students can engage in interactive activities/games to raise awareness on the issue. Students can share personal stories about their own experiences with racism.

Addressing Teen Racism Facilitators:
Leah Powell, Community Resources and Diversity Manager for the City of Chandler
Lydia Chew, Mayor's Youth Commission member
Hannah Miao, Mayor's Youth Commission member
Momen Abdelkarim, Mayor's Youth Commission guest
Shahd Abdelkarim, Mayor's Youth Commission guest

Underage Drinking

Discussion Summary:

a) Survey
   - The participants were unaware has to how many youth in the community drank, what the causes of underage drinking were, and the consequences of underage drinking.
   - The participants felt that underage drinking was not terrible as long as the youth were not getting drunk or driving afterward.
   - No participant reported stopping a situation where youth were drinking, or reporting underage drinking to law enforcement.

b) Presentation
   - Introduction to CCYSA (Chandler Coalition on Youth Substance Abuse) and to the guest speaker, JR Robertson.
   - Facts about underage drinking
     1. They were shocked to hear that the average age in which youth had their first drink was 12 years old.
   - Causes of underage drinking (according to a 2013 survey taken by their peers)
     1. Adult attitudes and misconceptions
     2. Ease of access. They were shocked to learn that 32% of alcohol was provided by someone unrelated over 21. JR Robertson talked about CCYSA's shoulder tapping program in which teens helped change adult attitudes about providing alcohol to minors.
   - Biological harms
     1. Most of the group was able to contribute information about what parts of the brain were affected by alcohol, as well as the drug-like effects of alcohol.
     2. The group was surprised to learn that alcohol is the leading cause of death among youth- especially teenagers. (5,000 a year)

c) Academic Obstacles
     1. 29% of 10th graders in Chandler were drunk or high at school in the past 12 months
   - High Risk Behavior
     1. Alcohol weakens resistance to high risk behavior and may cause:
     a. High risk of sexual activity
        - One teen brought up the topic of rape, and talked about its relation to alcohol use
     b. Violence
        - The students watched a video about alcohol and violence
     c. Delinquency
     d. Accidental injuries
     e. Drinking and driving
   - Penalties of Underage Possession or Consumption of Alcohol
   - Penalties of Providing Alcohol to a Minor

- What you can do as a teenager in the City of Chandler (in relation to high risk behaviors)
- The group was provided with some actions they can take to prevent underage drinking
- What CCYSA is doing
- Social Host Ordinance
    1. A law which holds the owner of the property where a party occurs to be responsible for underage drinking that occurs on their property.

d) Activity
- The group was given "drunk goggles" and asked to perform easy tasks (such as walking in a straight line) in order to understand how alcohol affects vision.
- JR Robertson ended the activity by providing some stories of how drinking can harm everyone, including how MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) started.

e) Survey
- The group was given a survey to demonstrate their change in attitudes about drinking.

To address these issues, the group proposed the following recommendations:

The group decided that the best way to change attitudes about underage drinking was to target different audiences.

a. In order to reach teens, they suggested a revamped D.A.R.E. program to be implemented in schools. They pointed out that the major flaw with the previous program was the lack of seriousness it carried as well as the young age it was presented at. They recommended the program be implemented at a high school level and that guest speakers come in and give testimonials.
b. In order to reach adults, the group suggested a mandatory online information presentation that the parents must read. A certificate of completion, along with a signed permission slip, would be needed for their child to join any school clubs. The session would be similar to the concussion course that high school athletes must complete every year in order to participate in school games.
c. In order to reach the rest of the community, informational pamphlets should be kept in local stores and all City of Chandler buildings.
d. The group decided that the Mayors Youth Commission could partner with the domestic violence committee and advocate through a project, program or event. This would increase awareness and let teens know that there is help and they are not alone.

As a legislative measure, the group also suggested the City of Chandler pass the Social Host Ordinance, in which a property owner would be responsible for any underage drinking that occurred there. For the first offense, the owner would have to pay a $250 fine and attend an education class. They must not have a repeat offense within 180 days. If it did happen again within that timeframe, the fine would be increased, and an

additional 180 days would be added. A second offense would constitute a $500 fine, and a third offense would constitute a $1,000 fine.

Addressing Underage Drinking Facilitators:
JR Robertson, CCYSA Representative.
Niharika Karnik, Mayor's Youth Commission Member
George Gilliam, Mayor's Youth Commission Guest
Alex Braddock, Mayor's Youth Commission Member

Domestic Violence

Discussion Summary:

a.) *Objective*: to educate teenagers 13-18 years old about domestic violence, its consequences, and what they can do about it.

b.) *Summary:* At the beginning of the session, during the initial role-play activity, many of the teenagers fell into the traps of the honeymoon phase, revealing that they didn't know much about domestic violence. However, at the end of the session, the teenagers were well-informed about the diversity of domestic violence and how they can overcome challenges regarding domestic violence.

c.) *Plan of Action*: The students thought the biggest problem was the lack of awareness about domestic violence. They thought the most effective way of raising awareness would be to create an event platform where people can talk about the times they've experienced domestic violence, and likewise, have an event at school (similar to an anti-bullying assembly) with a guest speaker. They also advocated for joining the programs from the City of Chandler [Ex: Domestic Violence Commission] and raising awareness of the Commission's presence to teens.

d.) *Sequence of Events:*

1. Opening Remarks
2. What is Domestic Violence?
3. Ice breaker- get to know each other

a. The students wrote down anonymous secrets about themselves, and we read them out loud. The point was to show that a secret being revealed isn't as bad as people think.

4. Explaining the objective of Teen Town Hall
5. Initial role-play: What do people know about domestic violence?
6. Domestic Violence PowerPoint
7. Part 1: Intro to domestic violence

a. The signs
b. How to recognize them

8. Part 2: Different types of Domestic Violence

a. Verbal
b. Physical
c. Emotional
d. Forms of Manipulation

9. Part 3: What you can do about domestic violence?

a. Safety Plan
b. Where to go
c. What to take with you
d. What to do about the abuser
e. Safe places
f. Places to contact
g. Shelters
h. How you can get a job or become an advocate
i. Helping someone in a case of domestic violence

e) Looking at different examples of domestic violence
    j. Kendrick's Story: MTV (College/ Young Adult)
    k. Lisa's Story (Adult)
    l. Nadine's Story (Teenager)
f) End: Final role play to see what the students learned throughout the day

To address these issues, the group proposed the following recommendations:

a. Set up an event in Chandler, probably over break or during the summer, where people can talk about domestic violence and how it has affected them. There could be local restaurant stalls and local bands so that the event doesn't become gloomy.
b. During school courses such as "Health" there is a section on domestic violence, during which students can learn more about it, and become more aware of the issue.
c. If classrooms have more posters about domestic violence- similar to the bullying posters- students would know more about domestic violence.
d. Many students mix up domestic violence and bullying. There should be assemblies at schools to make sure students know the difference and can learn more about the issue. We should also show real life examples where students realize how much of a problem domestic violence is.

Addressing Domestic Violence Facilitators:
Nicole Bruno- Domestic Violence Committee for the City of Chandler
Clarinda Barney, My Sister's Place
Joyce Caldwell, My Sister's Place
Ritika Bharati , Mayor's Youth Commission Guest
Justin Zhu, Mayor's Youth Commission Guest
Heba Shiban, Mayor's Youth Commission Members

STEM Education

Discussion Summary:

a. *Objective:* Introduce STEM education to the group and come up with ways to raise awareness in our community.

b. *Sequence of Events:*

1. Introduction
2. Ice-Breaker
   a. Everyone wrote down the name of a popular culture figure on a card and placed that card on their neighbors' back. Everyone then had to ask questions in order to figure out who their culture figure was.
3. Presentation
   a. Joe Greene introduced STEM Education.
   b. ASU Engineering program students shared personal experiences and opportunities in regards to STEM Education.
   c. Michael McBride presented information on ASU's engineering program and opportunities within STEM fields.
4. Activity
   a. The attendees were assigned an engineering task to save a puppy from a well given limited materials.

To address these issues, the group proposed the following recommendations:

a. The group decided that the best way to increase awareness of STEM Education and opportunities was to get companies involved.
b. The committee proposed that the City of Chandler should hold a STEM Education Festival. The festival would be open to the general public and targeted towards students. At the festival, businesses could set up booths to present some of their projects and opportunities in STEM Education.

Addressing STEM Education Facilitators:
Joe Greene, Perry High School Assistant Principal
Micheal McBride, ASU STEM and Engineering Program Representative
Chase Hettinger, Mayor's Youth Commission Member
Harold Carrigan, Mayor's Youth Commission Member