

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: March 24, 2022

From: City Manager Department

Subject: Mayor For a Day: Youth Essay Contest

Background: Recently, City Council expressed interest in offering a youth event entitled Mayor for a Day. This type of event has been produced by other cities such as Mountain View and San Diego, and generally takes the form of a contest. The premise of the contest is that youth will submit essays in response to a guiding prompt; then after a review of the essays the chosen winners get to experience a City Council meeting as “Mayor for the Day” and receive recognition.

Discussion: The City is planning to host the Mayor for A Day Youth Essay Contest in October 2022. There will be two divisions, one for elementary and one for middle school students. The essay deadline will be September 30, 2022. The elementary school winner will attend the October 13 meeting and the middle school winner will attend the October 27 meeting. Prior to the Council meeting, each winner will get the opportunity to meet with the Mayor or designee and learn more about the meeting process.

It is common for essay contest to have themes or guiding prompts from which the students can then focus their essays. One prompt example is: “If you were Mayor for a Day, what action would you take for your City?” Staff welcomes any feedback on the essay prompt. The essay contest will be open to students in the Soquel Union Elementary School District.

Report Prepared By: Nikki Bryant-LeBlond, Recreation Division Manager

Reviewed By: Chloé Woodmansee, City Clerk

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager