



STAFF REPORT

7/8/2026

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Rebekah Shepherd, Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Receive and File the Youth Advisory Commission's Youth Leadership Conference Presentation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that City Council receive and file the presentation regarding the Youth Advisory Commission's inaugural Youth Leadership Conference held on May 2, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Coachella Youth Advisory Commission (YAC) was established to provide local youth with an opportunity to actively participate in civic engagement while advising the City Council on issues affecting young people in the community. As part of its mission, the Commission seeks to develop leadership skills, encourage community involvement, and create meaningful opportunities that benefit the Coachella community. The Youth Advisory Commission is also required to complete at least one community project during the term of service.

On May 2, 2026, the Youth Advisory Commission hosted its inaugural Youth Leadership Conference as its annual community project. The conference was developed with the guidance of City staff to assist middle school students as they prepare for the transition into high school by exposing them to educational opportunities, career pathways, leadership development, and community resources available throughout the Coachella Valley.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The Youth Leadership Conference marked the first Commission-led event of its kind and represented a significant milestone for the Youth Advisory Commission. Commissioners played an active role throughout the planning and implementation of the conference by helping develop the event concept, supporting outreach and registration efforts, recruiting volunteers, assisting with event logistics, and engaging directly with participating students.

The conference hosted more than 50 attendees, including 26 registered students representing three local middle schools. Participants heard from six professional guest speakers representing a

variety of career fields and had the opportunity to connect with eight community organizations that provided educational, leadership, wellness, and student support resources. In total, all ten Youth Advisory Commissioners and three Honorary Commissioners participated in the event, demonstrating the Commission's commitment to serving the community through youth leadership and civic engagement.

City staff received positive feedback from students, parents, volunteers, and community partners regarding both the quality of the conference and the professionalism demonstrated by the Youth Advisory Commissioners. Community members expressed appreciation for the City's investment in youth leadership and were impressed by the engagement, curiosity, and professionalism displayed by participating students throughout the conference.

Commissioner Isabel Martinez will provide a presentation highlighting the conference, the Commission's role in planning the event, and key outcomes from the inaugural Youth Leadership Conference.

FISCAL IMPACT

While there is no fiscal impact associated with receiving this presentation, costs associated with the Youth Leadership Conference were funded through the City's General Fund.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Youth Advisory Commission Project Presentation