



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 03/25/2025

ITEM NO: 4

DATE: March 4, 2025
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Chris Constantin, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Consider the proposed amendments to the existing 2018 Resolution that governs the Los Gatos Youth Commission

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider the proposed amendments to the existing 2018 Resolution that governs the Los Gatos Youth Commission, which would update current list of Town Commissions that Youth Commission may be involved with and modify four key areas: membership composition, term limits, liaison roles, and commission year timeframe. This proposal falls within the 2024-25 Youth Commission Work Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The Los Gatos Youth Commission was established to provide a structured avenue for student engagement in municipal governance. The purpose of the Youth Commission is to foster and encourage civic and neighborhood pride and a sense of identity through the knowledge, understanding, and increased involvement of the Town's youth in municipal affairs. The Commission serves as a formal body by which the youth of Los Gatos have a voice in community issues.

The Youth Commission is responsible for studying various problems, activities, and concerns related to youth and advising the Town Council on matters affecting the youth of Los Gatos. The most recent (2018) resolution establishing the Youth Commission outlined its membership requirements, responsibilities, and liaison roles to other Town Commissions. However, practical challenges identified by staff and Youth Commission members necessitate amendments to improve the commission's functionality and efficiency.

DISCUSSION:

1. Membership Composition

Current: The Youth Commission consists of 20 student members entering grades 8 through 12.

PREPARED BY: Jamie Field
Chief of Police

Proposed: Reduce the membership to 19 members to maintain an odd number for voting purposes with representation possible from the same grade range.

Rationale: An odd-numbered commission ensures decisive voting outcomes and avoids tie votes. This change was supported by staff and approved by a majority vote of the Youth Commission.

2. Term Limits

Current: Members serve two-year terms, except for first-time appointees and 12th-grade appointees, who serve one-year terms.

Proposed: Implement a uniform one-year term for all members, with a mandatory interview process for reappointment. Members may serve consecutive terms if re-selected through the interview process.

Rationale: A one-year term allows for better alignment with student schedules and varying levels of commitment. It also provides an opportunity to replace inactive members while ensuring continuity for engaged participants. Additionally, this will allow for more efficient tracking and noticing for recruitment processes.

3. Youth Commission as Non-voting Liaisons to Other Town Commissions

Current: Youth Commission members are appointed as voting liaisons to at least six other Town Boards and Commissions.

Proposed: Youth Commission members will serve as non-voting liaisons, providing input through public comments and verbal communications instead of holding voting positions.

Rationale: Scheduling conflicts, transportation limitations, and academic obligations often prevent full participation in external commission meetings. This change ensures Youth Commissioners can still provide valuable input while allowing other Town Commissions to maintain quorum and fully informed membership. Additionally, this revision alleviates the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) legal requirements by removing the need for Youth Commissioners to file Form 700 disclosures. If a Youth Commissioner wishes to be a voting member of another commission, they may apply independently as there is no age limit.

4. Youth Commission Year Timeframe

Current: The Youth Commission operates from September through June, aligned with the school year.

Proposed: Adjust the final month of the Youth Commission term to May instead of June.

Rationale: The June meeting often conflicts with final exams and summer vacations, impacting engagement. Concluding in May allows for a more structured transition, including an

opportunity for incoming members to observe the final meeting of the outgoing commission, fostering a smooth transition.

Update to Town Boards and Commissions listed in the Youth Commission Resolution

Currently, the Town of Los Gatos Youth Commission Resolution lists two Commissions that are no longer in existence with the Town or have a more updated title assigned:

1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission
2. Transportation and Parking Commission

Staff proposes replacing these two Commissions with:

1. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (D.E.I.)
2. Complete Streets and Transportation Commission

This is reflective of the most current list of related six Boards and Commissions in the Youth Commission Resolution and maintains the same number for involvement.

CONCLUSION:

Staff and the majority vote of Youth Commission members recommend adopting these amendments to enhance efficiency, improve engagement, and ensure the continued success of the Los Gatos Youth Commission. These changes align with the School Year 2024-25 Youth Commission Work Plan. With Council approval, the resolution will also be updated to reflect recent attendance requirements, aligning with broader Town Commission policies.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

ATTACHEMENTS:

1. Red-lined 2018 Resolution to reflect proposed changes