CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: March 2, 2010

To: Honorable Mayor, City Council

From: Mahdi Aluzri, Assistant City Manager

Subject: Youth in Government Day

Attachments: Memorandum from Council Member Brien

INTRODUCTION

This item is brought to the City Council for consideration at the request of Council member Brien. As explained in the attachment, Council member Brien is requesting that the City assist in hosting this event which was eliminated from the programs offered by the City's Community Services Department as part of their budget reductions for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. The event's hard cost would be raised through donations and most of the activities would be staffed by volunteers and on duty staff without additional budget impacts.

DISCUSSION

If the City Council agrees with this request, staff will coordinate with Council member Brien on the date of the event and the associated activities including extending the invitation to the City Commissions, use of the City Council Chamber, and the suggested tours of the Police and Fire Department facilities.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact is anticipated provided staff involvement in coordinating the event is limited to the activities outlined above when the children are present at City Hall, and Fire and Police Departments. All hard cost expenses would be privately raised.

Mahdi Aluzri
Assistant City Manager

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL

Historically this was a 1 ½ day event that included over 50 hours of total staff time. The total cost to the city was between $2,750 and $3,000 which included staff time, taping, tours, lunch and certificates.

PROPOSAL:
Date: May 2010
Example as follows:

- 16 middle school students: (council members (5), city manager (1), city attorney (1), city clerk (1), police chief (1), commissioners (3) (determined by topic), technology committee (1), chamber member representing business (1), community member representing residents (1), CVB member representing tourism (1).
- 1 day program
- Morning tour for the student participants of City Hall and the Police Station (approx. 2 hours)
- Lunch
- Mock Council Meeting
- Volunteer Program using primarily current and past Council Members, Commissioners, members of the Chamber of Commerce, CVB and other community groups. Minimal staff time and involvement will be required.
- Student selection will be done by the schools.
- A topic, based upon a current and relative event/issue, will be selected.
    - Students, with the guidance of their teachers and volunteers, will prepare for the presentation and debate.
- A mock council meeting will occur in the Council Chambers.
- A mock public hearing in front of the mock council members will occur.
- Certificates will be presented to all participants at the end of program.
- Costs will be covered by approximately $1,100 of contributions.
    - Lunch donation from a city restaurant.
    - No city funds will be used.

CURRENT COMMITMENTS:
$350 Chamber of Commerce
$350 Beverly Hills Rotary