



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: May 13, 2009
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: James Latta, L.C.S.W., Human Services Administrator
Subject: 2009 Youth in Government Day Program
Attachment: Beverly Hills Unified School District, Youth in Government Day,
May 28, 2009

INTRODUCTION

The 25th annual *Youth in Government Day* program will be held Thursday, May 28, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. through lunch following a mock city council meeting. A list of students, their respective schools and the City roles they will assume is attached.

DISCUSSION

Twenty Beverly Hills Unified School District 8th grade students are selected by the District to participate in Youth in Government Day. The basis of the selection is the quality of essays written on a topic selected by the District. The essay topic then serves as the agenda for a mock City Council meeting. The topic chosen for this year is as follows:

Writing Situation

One of the duties of the Beverly Hills City Council is to meet the needs of a growing city. During the recent City Council elections an issue that was of great concern to the residents was the problem of traffic in the city.

Writing Prompt

What steps should the Beverly Hills City Council take to improve traffic conditions in the city that will also contribute to the “greening” of the city?

What are the current traffic problems? How can traffic be reduced and the needs of homeowners and businesses still be met? What sacrifices should the council require of its’ residents in order to reduce traffic and improve the environment? If your plan was adopted what would be the likely effects on the quality of life, traffic and revenue for the city and other city services? Should the Council make this decision or should it be put to the vote of the citizens of Beverly Hills?

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The City will host a pre-Youth in Government Day orientation for the students on May 20, 2009 from 12:30 pm to 3:15 pm. The orientation will include an explanation of local government; role of the mayor, city council, appointed officials and department heads; Council-Manager form of government; and the relationship between the School District and City government. In addition, the students will review a mock city council meeting agenda and script followed by lunch and a tour of the City Hall campus. This will provide the students with an overview of City operations and context for questions and topics that may arise during Youth in Government Day.

The format for Youth in Government Day on May 28, 2009, includes a welcome, introductions and a briefing from 8:30 am to 9:00 am. The students will then be paired with their counterparts to shadow their roles in preparation for the mock city council meeting. The mock city council meeting will take place between 10:45 am and 11:45 am in Council Chambers. Parents and all interested parties are welcome to attend.

The students, School District officials and staff, and Presidential Classroom students will be served lunch at City Hall. Students will be presented a certificate of participation and asked to describe their roles and remark on their experiences in the program. Each student will receive a DVD of the mock council meeting. The Presidential Classroom students will speak on their experience in Washington, D.C.

FISCAL IMPACT

\$2,000 has been budgeted for this annual program.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council and Treasurer participate to the extent possible in the Youth in Government activities.

James Latta, L.C.S.W.
Approved By



BEVERLY HILLS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Youth in Government Day
May 28, 2009**

Mayor	Ryan Feinberg	BV
Vice Mayor	Matt Leib	ER
City Council Member	Jonathan Berger	HAW
City Council Member	Elena Rust	HM
City Council Member	Collin Hart	BV
City Manager	Jason Friedman	ER
City Attorney	Natalie Gordon	HAW
City Clerk	Emma Cogan	HM
City Engineer	Alexandra Aftalion	BV
City Treasurer	Isabella Rosenberg	ER
Chief Financial Officer	Brittney Kolich	HAW
Director of Information Technology	Elbert Kim	HM
Director of Library	Jenny Chieu	BV
Director of Community Development	Abigail Rothstein	ER
Police Chief	Cordelia Perez	HAW
Fire Chief	Brendan Taglianetti	HM
Director of Community Services	Candice Hannani	BV
Asst Dir Com Dev/City Building Official	Matthew Hankin	ER
Director of Public Works	Anton Saleh	HAW
Deputy Director of Transportation	Monroe Walker	HM