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City of San José, neighborhood services and education committee meeting.

>> Councilmember Campos: Neighborhood services and education committee. Roll call, please. [Roll call.]

>> Councilmember Campos: Thank you. We're first going to make some adjustments to the agenda. Before we go to item D, which is 1 through 4, I'd like in the motion to move the youth commission update to the bottom, which would now be number 4, and then we'll take everything in order from there. And then to defer 1 through 5 on -- if we can do that.

>> Councilmember Chu: I'll move 1 through 5 and then move number 2, the youth commission to last.

>> Councilmember Chirco: Second.

>> Councilmember Campos: All in favor, opposed, that passes. Norberto, do you want to introduce the antigraffiti campaign update.

>> Norberto Duenās: Thank you. Norberto Duenās, Deputy City Manager. Mark Marni, deputy director of parks, is here to make the introductory comments on the presentation. Thanks, Mark.

>> Councilmember Campos: Thank you.

>> Thank you. Let me find my notes here. Good afternoon, Councilmember Campos and members of the committee. Again. My name is Mark Marni, I'm the deputy director of the parks division within Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services. Also with me here today is Brandon Casper. Brandon oversees both the antigraffiti and antilitter programs for us. We are both relatively new to this assignment. As part of the reorganization of last year, this program came into the parks division. We both had a good time getting up to speed on what's going on. We're excited about some of the activities that are taking place there and we're happy to give you an update on those activities today. At this point I'm prepared to kind of walk you through some comments on the staff report, okay. So let me get that squared away here. So in our review of the report, we're going to focus on antigraffiti first, antilitter second, then I'll close about some comments about some upcoming events. First as we take a look at the antigraffiti program, this program is a collaborative effort. We have a lot of partners. We have a lot of volunteers who participate in this effort and we're excited about these collaborative efforts. I want to highlight a couple of those here today. In the last few months we've had an opportunity to work closely with some individuals from Work2Future. We had three individuals who came to us last summer, helped us out in a variety of ways, and it was a good opportunity for them to get exposure to leadership opportunities. Also go ahead and look at some things a little bit differently with some fresh sets of eyes. We are excited with what we are able to bring to our program. This program fortunately was extended, and we're currently working with some additional folks and will have up to six additional staff members or participants from Work2Future with us for the next few months, through the end of March I believe is our date that we'll have these individuals. So we've been able to use them in house in answering the phones, we've had them out actually abating graffiti and providing -- doing data entry and it's been helpful to us as we've gotten used to the program, it's been good and energized some of the staff. A second area of collaboration, San José police department, in the last few months, San José police department has been really looking to trying to identify some of the key suspects who participate in large scale graffiti across the bay. And so they've worked with our staff to look at some of the catalogs of information that we keep as far as photos and graffiti activity. And when we've been able to supply that information to them which has been helpful to them as they build their cases and try to bring these suspects forward, for potential prosecution. In these efforts over the last three months, or last four or five months actually, there were three key suspects who have been identified, and these suspects are potentially responsible for up to \$100,000 worth of property damage within the City of San José alone and each of them are known throughout the Bay Area. And so we're excited about being able to partner with the police department and try and eliminate and deter some of the activity, graffiti activity. So along with the collaboration, we depend on -- we depend on our collaboration to really help us, because graffiti is something that continues, unfortunately, to be growing in our city. Our 2009 report showed that our activity was up over 25% from the previous year. So these collaborative efforts really help us, the Work2Future folks, trying to get some of these individuals off the street, we see as key to helping us stay on top of this issue. Along with these areas, we look internally, also, over -- we have been looking internally over the last few months on what we can do to optimize our operation. And we've come up with a couple of key steps that I think have already begun to pay some dividends. Two of those specifically are the psychologist of the paint bank with our primary operation site. Previously, staff went to our central service yard to pick up their truck, they then went to a secondary site and loaded that truck at the paint bank before they went out to the field. We've now been able to consolidate those two into one location, so they're able to come to work, get their truck, load up and get

out in the field saving us time on the front end and being more productive. That's the front end of the day. The back end of the day, traditionally the same staff had come in at the end of the day and they would catalog or do data entry for the activity that took place during the day. Now a lot of the individuals that we have that are performing this function, data entry isn't necessarily one of their key skills. They're very good at abating graffiti but that entry wasn't something that they were necessarily highly skilled at. So what we've looked at doing is actually taking that responsibility away from our front line staff, moving it over to some of our administrative staff, maximizing the efficiency for both groups, keeping our staff out in the field longer, abating graffiti, and still making sure that we've got good reliable data so that we can report out on our activities. Both of these have been successful. Our staff has been receptive to the opportunity, and we've seen some improvement in our response times, both 24 hour response time for gang graffiti and our 48-hour target for other calls to the hot line. Other areas that we continue to kind of work on are making sure that the program stays visible. Making sure that folks are aware of the hot line number that they call in with, to report activity. And so we are continuing to do some of the outreach that we have through some of the commercials that we run, through other volunteer programs to make sure that we're out there, you know, highlighting this as another program that we offer, and we're also looking at trying to figure out what other ways we can look to expand our visibility. Some of the areas that we're currently looking at is maybe going out through the SNIs and community groups and making sure they're aware of the program and how to report graffiti activity. Also we're looking at partnering with code enforcement to see if there's a way that we can streamline our efforts and their efforts to actually get response to some of the graffiti on private property and turn those around sooner so that folks don't see those out in the neighborhoods. Also, we're looking at potentially partnering with D.O.T. and figuring out how some of our volunteers who are working both both graffiti and litter may move over to some of the programs that D.O.T. is working on for some of their medians and abatement areas. One of the key areas that are identified as the primary tagging location is light poles and signs and so, again, there's a cross-over between what we're doing and what they're doing sparse those areas. So as we look at shifting over to the antilitter program, the antilitter program runs a little bit different than the antigraffiti program. In the antilitter program, we primarily are providing training materials, organizing events, and volunteers are coming to those events and participating and doing the actual litter collection. It's been -- it's a successful program. This last year we had over 3900 volunteers who participated and collected over 7 tons of litter through the program. So we're excited about that program. We've got some key individuals that are in the community that are diehard out there almost on a daily basis working in the program. So we've got some great volunteers there. One of the -- probably the most significant activity that takes place as part of the antilitter program is the annual great American pickup program, that happens in the spring of this year. This past year we had 1800 volunteers that participated as part of that process. Also as part of the process we've had a friendly competition going on between council offices. Councilmember Chu was successful as the winner a couple of years ago and this last year I want to congratulate Nora, council district 5 as the winner and I think your district mobilized about 600 individuals for the event so congratulations. So again antilitter is a great program and actually we get great bang for the buck in the program. We're seeing great results with very limited staff, dedicate staff time. In closing just to kind of highlight a couple of key things. Again to highlight the great American litter pickup, that is scheduled for next year, March 20th of next year. March 20th will be a busy day. March 20th is also the day that happy hollow park and zoo will reopen. So hopefully folks can get time to get out and participate in the litter pickup in the morning and maybe get out to happy hollow in the evening. And we have scheduled our next survey for mid January, where we're actually going to do our citywide survey of graffiti, and we plan to bring those results along with some of the efforts that we spoke about here today back to you at that time. I would like to jump back real quick if I could back to the 18th graffiti, and touch on one area that we haven't been real successful on. And that is the utility box area. The utility box was an area that was identified in the program I'm guessing a year or more ago. There are were preliminary efforts at looking at getting together with the different responsible parties for the different utility boxes and trying to identify a program to make them more responsible for abating the graffiti. Unfortunately as part of the reorganization that process really kind of stalled as Brandon and I were getting up to speed. So over the last couple of months we've initiated some contacts scheduled a meeting and we're committed to furthering those discussions over the next six months or so. What we hope to achieve is a mechanism where we can talk with the visible responsible groups, talk to them about whether they want to be responsible for providing abatement on their own and doing so in a timely manner or if they want to potentially reimbursing us for providing that service to them. So we're hoping to have some discussions

with them over the next few months. That concludes my presentation and we're happy to answer any questions.

>> Councilmember Campos: Thank you. Are there any questions from my colleagues? Vice Mayor.

>> Councilmember Chirco: Maybe you can help me understand on page 4. They talk about the total tags. And then, the next chart down, talks about total tags removed. And so for like 2008, it says 13,902 tags but then it talks about tags removed and I'm guessing '08-'09. It says 101,700 tags removed. What do those numbers represent?

>> Let me take a stab at it and Brandon can correct me if I'm wrong. The 13,902 tags identified are the number of tags that were identified as part of the survey. Now the survey is done once a year. Where we go out and we canvass the streets and we identify a number. So on that given -- during that given time it's a one-week period of time we identified 13,900 tags. So -- but throughout the overall year, obviously, you know, tags are removed and then they come back. And so the number down below, the 101,000 tags are what we were actually able to abate over the entire-year process. Is that correct?

>> Councilmember Chirco: That totally makes sense. I don't know that it's called out as clearly as you just said it.

>> Okay. We can make sure as we come back that they're in your report.

>> Councilmember Chirco: In your survey week, that is the number of tags. Are they the same tagger and you're only counting them once or you're having to remove them ten times each? Couldn't see where the numbers came from. Thank you. I thought it was a very good report and lots of good work being done. I am curious to see how your utility box abatement program goes. That's what we see a lot of tagging on, and of course the utility poles. But utility boxes provide a big flat surface.

>> Councilmember Campos: Councilmember Chu, and then Councilmember Oliverio.

>> Councilmember Chu: Thank you. I just wanted to congratulate District 5's staff, under leadership of Councilmember Nora Campos, be able to mobilize almost 600 volunteers on the great American litter pickup date. I pushed my staff real, real hard and we only be able to make the 400 volunteer mark, so I know how difficult, how motivated actually the residents of district 5 is, so we'll try hard to gain that plaque back, next year. [Laughter]

>> Councilmember Campos: Councilmember Oliverio.

>> Councilmember Oliverio: On the utility boxes in other municipalities what typically happens there?

>> Outside the City of San José?

>> Councilmember Oliverio: Correct.

>> You know, I don't know if you have -- you know, unfortunately we are both relatively new. So we haven't done a lot of research with other areas. We have art Capagon who has worked in the program previously. He may have some information as to previous research.

>> We have done research with some of the other cities, and most of them did not have anything in place. Most of the other utility companies in the other cities were taking care of graffiti on their own, taking care of the boxes. One example here is PG&E. They have a team that actually does go out and abate graffiti on their utility boxes. They were very specific with us because they did not want us touching the utility boxes because the high voltage and very specific coatings on their boxes. So they do have teams. Not tall companies do. And like PG&E for example they'll abate it as soon as they know that it's there. One of the issues of making sure that they are aware that there is graffiti on some of their boxes.

>> Councilmember Oliverio: And art, in your experience are they responsive as soon as they know?

>> Pretty much. Yes.

>> Councilmember Oliverio: Pretty much the same turn around for us when we know?

>> No. When I talked to PG&E, they have two teams, two folks that are going almost the entire Bay Area but their response is much slower than hours.

>> Councilmember Oliverio: It's not my cup of tea, I have other things going on, these are tough times, does the city have legal ability to make them do things or not?

>> There are ways that we can do it. We may need to adopt some ordinances. For example we have owners from weed abatement that would be the same type of thing, I brief but it's possible.

>> Councilmember Oliverio: Okay, thank you very much and it's in about six months we'll have an update to this committee.

>> Yes.

>> Councilmember Oliverio: I put in my blackberry now, thanks.

>> Councilmember Campos: And I want to follow up on that question because I think as you go into these discussions I would like to have the discussion sooner than six months. Because we know that

blight is not something that we want to see in our community, in our neighborhoods. And this seems to be an issue that we've been dealing with for many years, these utility boxes. And getting the appropriate company to be able to be responsive in a timely manner has been challenging. Not that they're not doing it but the fact that it's up more than 48 hours tends to draw more activity towards that utility box. And as the Vice Mayor said, it's just a flat service that sits in a neighborhood and just draws more unwanted tagging. So I would like to ask the City Attorney and I don't know if it has to come through this committee or if it should go through Rules but I think that it would be helpful that as we're having staff go and have these discussions, that if we can also think about how do we start putting some of these policies in place, because we know this is not going to go away. So that we're staying ahead of the curve on how to abate these utility boxes with these big corporations. Because they are big corporations. So Councilmember Oliverio, I think that was a great point brought up and we really should get ahead of this if we can from a policy perspective.

>> Councilmember Oliverio: Thank you for emphasizing sooner versus later and I'm happy to support that.

>> Councilmember Campos: So I'll ask the City Attorney if that's possible to come through this committee or does it have to go through --

>> I think you can cross-revenues through the council and the council can direct us to either come up with an ordinance or explore other means.

>> Councilmember Campos: So at the time of the motion we'll ask to cross-revenues this on the agenda. There were a few other things I wanted to talk about. First of all thank you Councilmember Chu. There is no secret both of us chair the antilitter committee. We tend to be so passionate about this issue. Whoever thought we would be so passionate about having all the litter in the City of San José removed. But it is an important issue. Thank you for repeating the date it is, on March 20th. And I think as often we can get that date out, that would be helpful. You also mentioned that we also have happy hollow open on that day. I don't know if we can coordinate the times, I mean one's in the morning and one may be a little later at 11:00 or somewhere around that. So councilmembers can attend both events because they're both important to the city. So that would be one thing that I would suggest that you also work on. And the other thing that I was thinking about, as we had our antilitter committee meeting and reviewing this memo and I know that we have a lot of other things that are coming up. We're having to eliminate through the Department of Transportation some of the landscaping. Because we just don't have the capacity to give the attention to these median islands that they need. And I know that everything is done around volunteer capacity. So I'm wondering, if there is an opportunity to figure out how we're capturing all the volunteers that are participating in the antilitter day and doing a -- and getting them incorporated into the general database of volunteers. And maybe even doing just a small, little flier for people, survey for people to fill out or questionnaire saying, is this your first time, would you like to be a volunteer in the City of San José on other projects? No more than three questions, so we know we can have that data, and can we go back to them or is this the only event they like participating in? You are talking about 1800 volunteers, that is a lot of people. We hope to be able to increase that as we go forward. And you also mention that this is a friendly competition. So I would ask that my colleagues on the city council think about participating at greater level. It really is a lot of fun and it's rewarding to see how many young people are coming out. The other question that I had, around this particular memo, has to do with, you talked about the workforce, I believe you mentioned that earlier.

>> The Work2Future.

>> Councilmember Campos: Work2Future. How is that working?

>> Good afternoon. Work2Future is actually a federally funded program where they were in contact with the antigraffiti program prior to my coming in there, and that's where the three participants came from. They recontacted us to let us know that there was additional funding available, and that they would have people available if we were willing to accept them. So we -- I spoke with their leaders there and asked them if there was an opportunity, at how many people we could bring, what was kind of the parameters of the work times and schedules. And they said we could have a few people there and could work them up until the end of March.

>> Councilmember Campos: Oh, that's great, good.

>> I believe the funding for that is through the stimulus money that's paying for that. Obviously we're excited about this opportunity now but assuming it's going to go away here some point in the future.

>> Councilmember Campos: And the last thing I wanted to touch on was the graffiti. I know that we have seen a rise in tagging and graffiti. So I'm hoping that as we create the motion, that we could also put an

emphasis on making sure that gang graffiti is coming down as soon as possible. And it sounds like we're already do that, and in the business districts. Because we do not need to have graffiti in our business districts because that's where people are shopping. And if they see that they may get the impression that it's not safe.

>> And I'm happy to say that for the last several months, actually, we've been on target meeting our 24 hours for gang-related graffiti and currently we're running in the 98% range on our 48 hours. So we're above our 98% target on that currently. One of the reasons we wanted to start talking to code enforcement is regarding some of the things like the business district areas, some of those tags are actually showing up on the building. If those are pointed out to us we will go and look at them and if it's on private property we'll go in and talk to the owner and offer to on the first time abate that graffiti for them. However, if they're not interested in that it then becomes a code enforcement issue and that's where we're trying to work with code to figure out is there a way that we can help to track and follow through on some of those items. Because their resources have been depleted over the last several years. We can work diligently to keep it off of light poles but if it's on the building next door for a few months obviously we're not being successful in the overall intention of the program. So that's why we're hoping to have those discussions with code to see if there are other opportunities.

>> Councilmember Campos: And I would be careful on I guess penalizing the business owner because some youth or adult decided to put a tag on their building. So I would be careful on what penalties we put on them. And I'm not claiming to know the solution on how we encourage them to be a partner with us but we need to put more efforts in encouraging them to be a partner with us in the business districts. Any other questions? Councilmember Oliverio.

>> Councilmember Oliverio: You raise a question then of the private property owner so I guess for the City Attorney, so today, if just prime example, whatever business district you choose, if a tagging is on a privately owned building, and the private property owner says either I don't have the time or the money to clean it, and it's already been cleaned once, then from what I understand it would goad to the code enforcement level to comply, is that pretty much how it works?

>> I'm not sure if that's actually what's happening but it could happen that way. I don't know what the practice is. And I do know also that there are some buildings that for example have gotten facade grants from the redevelopment agency and there are covenants in those grants that the building owners are required to remove graffiti within a certain period of time. So contractually they have an obligation as well.

>> Councilmember Campos: Richard is going to address that.

>> Richard Keith with redevelopment. That's true what Patty said but also, we fund Carolyn -- her name is Carolyn Sleznick, I don't know if you're familiar with her. And she is 100% dedicated to downtown and just the eight neighbor business districts that are in redevelopment areas, all but Willow Glen. And we do point out through our business managers, whenever possible, and as fast as possible, to -- if there's graffiti on the building, to -- for her to go out and to -- she's great. Before she does actual citing she'll do a warning, and they'll take care of it. But I should get with your staff to contact her immediately she's dedicated to that effort except in Willow Glen which is in a redevelopment area.

>> Councilmember Oliverio: That's a good point. I often call the graffiti hot line and I realize that the graffiti is on private property, and you know, not really getting into that detail of actually painting it out or having the discussion with the property owner but somehow it disappears. And I guess in a municipality does have the right to declare that -- actually that would be a legal question. Do I have a right as a city to say graffiti on this private property must be gone, because someone might say, remember there's that Kay in Mountain View where that guy painted his house in those weird strange things and he gets to keep it.

>> I guess it depends on what's the definition of graffiti, like what's the definition of art. It's a little bit tricky there. It sounds like for the most part we're able to cajole the property owners into taking care of their own property. And I'm sorry, I'll have to get back to you regarding the ability of code enforcement to actually enforce something like that. I don't know off the top of my head but I believe that -- we could bring a public nuisance-type action, if it truly is, for example, gang graffiti or something like that. Oh, good, art would know better, maybe.

>> I have a few of those answers. Regarding property owners, especially businesses or anyone, we will paint it out for them once, within six months. We'll also leave them paint and painting materials so they can, then, also remove it. The issue for us is we try to make it as easy for them to remove graffiti as possible. If they decide they don't want to or refuse to do it that is when code enforcement would come

in. We try to make it as easy as possible to remove. In terms of graffiti the definition we utilize is anything that's put up without permission. If I have a piece of property and somebody put it up there whether they wrote it up there with a big paintbrush or they did a mural, if it's without my permission it is graffiti. So that's a definition we typically utilize.

>> Councilmember Oliverio: Thanks for the clarification. Chair, do you want the motion at this time?

>> Councilmember Campos: If you can.

>> Councilmember Oliverio: Sure, I will try to encompass all the thoughts that we discussed here. So it would be a motion to accept the report, for a cross reference to council with just the discussion then of the utility issue, and prioritizing business districts and gang graffiti? Was I right? Okay.

>> Councilmember Chirco: Second.

>> Councilmember Campos: All those in favor? That passes unanimously. Thank you. Now we're going to go to item 2 which was 3 which was the report on neighborhoods commission.

>> Norberto Duenãs: Madam Chair, members of the committee. You have a staff report in your packet. Staff is recommending the approval of the neighborhoods commission work plan, as presented in the attached document. Just a reminder, on the process that we followed so far, at your meeting last month, you review and accepted the preliminary draft of the neighborhoods commission work plan, and you forwarded the draft work plan to the mayor and the city council, which they reviewed at their December 1st meeting. And for additional review and input. The mayor and council accepted the report, with no changes. And now this comes back for your formal approval. And then we'll go back to the city council for December 15th. So on Tuesday, this coming Tuesday, this action will come to the council for formal approval of the neighborhoods commission work plan.

>> Councilmember Campos: Thank you. Are there any questions or any comments? Is there anyone from the public that would like to speak on this? If not can we get a motion?

>> Councilmember Chirco: I would like to make a motion to accept the work plan as presented. And to thank, well, Ernest and Norberto and everybody else that worked so hard on this and all of the neighborhood commissioners. So it's nice to see it coming to fruition. And we can begin the work of the neighborhood commission.

>> Councilmember Campos: And we'll take that as a universal thank you. And I have a second. All those in favor? And that passes unanimously, thank you. So we're now to schools and city collaborative monthly verbal report. But I know that we also have Norberto, that we'll talk about the staff report.

>> Norberto Duenãs: Yes, Madam Chair, members of the committee, on the schools city collaborative update, we did decide to provide you with a written report for today's meeting and that's something we would like to continue to do from this point forward. We have a lot of activity and spent a lot of time with our colleagues in the school districts to work collaboratively on a number of issues, and we want to make sure that you are aware of them. We just had our quarterly meeting, actually, yesterday morning. We will be providing additional information on what took place at that meeting in a future report. But one of the items that we did discuss is actually in your staff report, it's the second item, the school impact and needs assessment for the envision San José 2040 general plan update draft environmental impact report. Our Planning Department is working very closely with the school districts to make sure they're engaged and informed as we update our general plan. Laurel Prevetti has done an excellent job in communicating with the school districts on this over the decision making points of the general plan update of the City of San José. Then one minor administrative change to the way we're working with the school superintendents, in the interest of being sensitive to everyone's schedules. We have essentially collapsed the three steering committees that we've had over the past few years into one issues working group. And moving forward, as we look at different areas to discuss and work on, we are using more of an issues working group committee to do that. We've received some very positive feedback from the school superintendents and they do really feel that, from a decision making standpoint and from a working together standpoint, we feel that that model works really well. And again we'll continue to evaluate that as we move forward. And last but not least, I think it's important to highlight that, at the last schools-city collaborative meeting we did have a representative from the charter schools that was invited, Alicia Gallegos, the charter school consortium, actually was invited by the school superintendents to be part of the schools city collaborative, and I think that's an important mile stone as we continue to work together on issues regarding education. With that that concludes my update. Thank you.

>> Councilmember Campos: Thank you for that update, Norberto. I know that the Vice Mayor sits on this collaborative. I don't know if she wants to add anything at this time.

>> Councilmember Chirco: What I'd like to say is I really want to thank the mayor for reenergizing the schools city collaborative. I think in this time, I don't see a foreseeable time where we won't have limited resources. This is the only way that we are going to be successful, schools or the city, so on collaborations and shared assets. Using what we can with what they've got to maximize our ability to impact most especially our children's lives. So if you need a motion to accept this report I would be pleased to make that motion.

>> Councilmember Campos: Please at this time.

>> Councilmember Oliverio: Second.

>> Councilmember Campos: All those in favor? That passes unanimously. Thank you. At this time I'm going to ask the youth commission to come to the side of the table over here where there are opportunities for them to sit and address us and if you could just introduce yourself and your district, and then staff, I'll ask you to take the lead on this. Festival let me say, it is a great honor that we have two youth commissioners here presenting before us and part of the dialogue. Because I think that it's great to be able to get your perspective on a commission that you are actually leading with your other colleagues.

>> All right, good afternoon, everyone. Angel Rios, one of the deputy directors with Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services. And I'm joined here today by our youth commission chair, Kavia Shankar also a senior at Edenbrook High School and Nicholas Palousa, vice chair of the commission also a senior at Leland high school. Little later we may be joined by another commissioner, coming a little late from school, Casey Ong, if she gets here she'll join us as well. The work of the youth commission is guided by an annual work plan. We're here today to basically provide you with a status update on progress through November.

>> (inaudible) we do have a work plan that is put together every year. The youth commissioners actually put this together. In front of you we will show you the five strategic goals for this year, which are foster cohesive and effective youth commission, establish and maintain an involved youth advisory council in each district. Advise city council, PRNS, and SJPD and other community groups on youth related issues and also, to provide opportunities to inform, educate, and empower San José youth. And finally to create a public awareness of the youth commission as a resource. And with those as our five goals, but again, we have commissioners here, and they will each individually will go on and introduce the goals and what they've done. Kavia.

>> Thank you, Betty. So we're going to be starting off with our strategic goal 1, which is to foster a cohesive and effective youth commission. To start off, because we have a system established with youth advisory councils which Nick will go into more detail afterwards, we are able to fill vacancies really quickly with students that are already involved with the commission through the youth advisory councils. In addition to that, every year around September, we have our annual retreat. And at the retreat we have both returning and new commissioners attend in order to help refine our work plan. This year we held our retreat from September 5th to 7th and we had five returning commissioner and four newly appointed commissioners attend this retreat. In addition to this we have trainings every Sunday in order to help develop our skills further. Because as you probably know during the meeting time itself we mainly are going through the business but we don't necessarily have time to develop our own leadership skills. During these trainings every Sunday we have different type of workshops and trainings on topics such as project planning, on topics such as presentation skills, meeting skills, in order to help develop our own leadership and help us lead our own youth advisory councils in a more efficient manner. Next I will be turning it over to Nicholas palousa, our vice chair, who will be speaking about our strategic goals.

>> Thank you, Kavia. So Madam Chair, and committee members, I will be reporting on strategic goals number 2, 3 and 4. So under strategic goal 2, which Betty said was establish and maintain and involve youth advisory councils or YACs which is what I'll be referring to them from now, in every single district in San Jose. So YACs are advisory groups made up of other youth within the districts to help advise the commissioners on youth-related issues so we can have more of a basis for when we are addressing city council. Also, we create work plans within the youth advisory council and we work toward accomplishing these goals. They are largely modeled after these commission's work plan. Currently, youth advisory money 90% of the council districts and we have one vacancy in the youth commission itself and we are currently working on filling that. So what we have done most recently to address the strategic goal is we had all youth advisory councils, the members thereof, attend a YAC orientation where they learned how their voice is heard through the youth commission. So basically it was just giving them a common goal so they know what all the other youth advisory councils are doing in other districts. Because all too often they don't meet other YAC members. At our YAC orientation training we had approximately 66 YAC

members attend. They learned their roles and the value they bring to the commission by attending several training or leadership workshops, which we provided. The orientation included -- or concluded with Creatv, which provided hands-on training to help us all create a PSA, public service announcement. So what we're going to be doing in our YACs is pretty much creating PSAs that we will be using to directly address the youth. So anyway, moving on to the next point it was just essentially that pretty much we have three goals that we had at this training, so the first goal is to have 75% of YAC members learn new leadership skills, learn something new that they can take to their youth advisory council in whichever district they go back to and help that district. And evaluation shows that about 88% of YAC members learned a new skill which is a good thing. So our second goal was to energy the knowledge of the YAC's presence in the community by 100%. About every single person we had we wanted them to understand what's going on in the other YAC. In the evaluation of the feedback, it showed that 97% had a better understanding of their purpose and the other 3% actually already knew their role so that was a good thing. The third and final main goal that we had for the YAC training was to have 100% of YAC members develop a new contact with a YAC member from another district. And evaluation showed that we met this goal, every single person met someone new and established a contact with someone so that was definitely cool. Also 87% of YACs have updated their district youth commission, 2009-2010 work plan and working -- staff is continuing to work with various youth advisory council to update to bring their work plans up to date. And so just moving on that was a strategic goal number 2 so strategic goal number 3 which is advise city council, PRNS and San José police department on youth related projects and issues. So we did multiple things to address this strategic goal. The first being that commissioners gave their feedback on the City's 2040 general plan update and encouraged YACS to give their input through Wiki planning which was pretty much open to anyone within San José to give feedback to what the community actually wanted to happen in 2040. The second thing was that commissioners voted to dedicate their time to address the high truancy rate that is currently a big problem in our schools. The next point is that commissioners and their YACs shared their opinions and recommendations through a PSA done with the mayor's gang prevention task force. As I mentioned before, we along with the YACs created positive PSA announcement are displayed at the mayor's gang prevention task force summit on January 23rd. Most of the YACS will have some sort of PSA they want to present issues and bring recommendations forward. We also conducted youth focus groups for the Lake Cunningham park playground design. I'd just like to note that the things that the people who created this design and planned for a children's playground, the idea is that we as a youth commission had were -- a lot of our ideas were different. We definitely liked the design but there's a lot of things that we like this more than most people actually think we do. So as a result, the original design was actually modified and changed. All this goes to show that it is important to hold the youth forum so we can get feedback from the youth especially if it's going to be something that's going to directly be affecting the youth. And the next thing is we participated in the San José police department's ride along program and the newsletter the insider so pretty much we did is a lot of our youth commissioners went and rode along with police officers and experienced what actually -- what these police actually do on a daily basis. Because very often, the police are dealing directly with the youth. So just moving on to strategic goal number four which is create opportunities to educate, inform and empower San José youth. So the main thing that we did for this was the youth commission held the beat the statistics youth conference on February 1st, 2009. Essentially what the commissioner did is modeled it after the president's address that he holds annually and addressed it just the youth. Over 280 San Jose High School students attended the conference, and teens who attended workshops heard from outstanding youth speakers and learned how to become more involved with different volunteer organizations in the city. Right now I'd like to take the opportunity to show you a short video clip of the actual conference.

>> I am part of the lost generation and I refuse to believe that I can change the world. I realize this may be a shock but happiness comes from within, it's a lie and money will make me happy. So in 30 years I will tell my children they are not the most important thing in my life. My employer will know that I have my priorities straight because work is more important than be family. I tell you this: Once upon a time families stayed together. But this will not be true in my era. This is a quick-fix society. Experts tell me 30 years from now, I will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of my divorce. I do not concede that I will live in a country of my own making. In the future environmental destruction will be the norm. No longer can it be said that my peers and I care about this earth. It will be evident that my generation is apathetic and lethargic. It is foolish to feel that there is hope. All this will come true unless we choose to reverse it. There is hope. It is foolish to presume that my generation is apathetic and lethargic. It will be evident

that my peers and I care about this earth. No longer can it be said that environmental destruction will be the norm. In the future I will live in a country of my own making. I do not concede that 30 years from now I will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of my divorce. Experts tell me this is a quick fix society. But this will not be true in my era. Families stayed together once upon a time. I tell you this, family is more important than work. I have my priorities straight because my employer will know that they are not the most important thing in my life. In 30 years I tell my children, money will make me happy is a lie and true happiness comes from within. I realize this is a shock but I can change this world and I refuse to believe that I am partly of a lost generation. [cheering and applause]

>> The San José youth commission believes in the power of young people. Because of this today the youth commission will deliver its first ever state of the youth address. Please --

>> All right. So as you can pretty much see from the video, it basically culminated our entire message for the conference which was essentially to instill change in our youth, and to go forward to create a positive future. So one of our goals is to have our peers come together, to effect change, and this is one of the main things that we were addressing in this conference. Now I would like to take this opportunity to hand it over to commission chair, Kavi Shankar.

>> Thanks Dick. So moving on to strategic goal number 5 which is to create public awareness of the youth commission. So first off, the youth commission in March of this past year participated as youth judges in the world Savvy world affairs challenge. So basically what this challenge involved was many youth came together in order to address a global issue. This year it was human migration and basically had to research the topic and present information regarding the topic as well as potential solutions to the issue. In a creative manner. And the youth commission actually got to serve at the youth judges along with other adults for this competition. And it is a really unique experience for us to be able to hear from other youth about opinions on issues and in addition we were also able to learn some ideas for our own conference from the experiences. The conference was very well run and we definitely got a lot of tips from them. In addition to that the youth commission has finally decided to join the social networking era and we have launched our first Facebook page in September of this past year. So it's actually been very effective so far, because of the high number of teenagers that do have Facebooks. It's been a really easy way for us to get the word out about different events, whether it's an event that we hosted or a youth advisory meeting that's coming up, it is a really easy way to try to gain access to more people. So we're pretty excited about that and we'll keep you posted on what new additions we have to this page. But if you have a Facebook you can look at it. In addition to that, we have been having several round table discussions, with key city officials in order to learn more how we can strengthen our relationship. So for example we had meet and greet with mayor Chuck Reed, also the Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services director, and the San José police department chief. So this also helps create more public awareness about the youth commission, away we kind of do, in order -- what we kind of do in order to talk about the different issues that we address. And as a result of this we are actually writing articles for the insider which is the San José police department's police newsletter and we can talk about some of the youth issues that are going on and how we think we can better work with the police department. Beyond that we also have been working on attending other neighborhood -- other neighborhood groups and city commission meetings. So for example we attend the parks and recreation commission meetings. I serve as a member of the steering committee for project cornerstone as a representative of the San José youth commission. And similarly, we hope to work closer with other community organizations in the future. Beyond this, we also have really strong relations with neighborhood groups within our communities. Mainly working with their YACs in order to serve as liaisons to all these neighborhood groups. So we've worked closely with neighborhood associations and SNIs in order to create National Night Out, family giving trees, community safety fairs, community beautification projects and community cleanups. And most recently we helped them feed people during the Thanksgiving system and we've assisted with the Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services junior Olympics held in the summer for their camps. Beyond that my YAC, the district 1 YAC we have recently launched a newsletter which involves as much youths from our district to get them to submit articles on issues that are important to them. And this was distributed through councilman Pete Constant's e-newsletter. views of it through the online version but we also have a PDF so we hope to continue this in the future. And it really helps increase the public awareness of the youth Commission. So now we've kind of talked about what we've done but beyond that I think what's more important is what we plan on doing for the future. So in terms of some of our next steps, we are going to be working to fill our youth commission vacancy. There will be a presentation given to the two high schools on December 14th in an effort to provide more information

about the youth commission and also to try to recruit a youth commissioner. In addition to that there is going to be a YAC attack, which is basically a regional conference for youth advisory councils. It's not hosted by San José it is for all the youth advisory commissions in the areas we hope to bring our YAC members and they have a lot of different tracks that you can participate in. We are pretty much the youth commission that's the most involved with what's going on in the city. Most of the other youth commissions tend to be more recreation based. So we hope to learn a lot from the other commissions as well as provide some insight on what we've been doing. So that's going to be happening in March. Beyond that, once again we hope to host our third annual beat the statistics conference. Usually our conference is held in February but this year we've actually pushed it out to April. In order to engage youth in participating in global youth service day which is actually on April 24th, it's the day after the conference so we hope to kind of inspire you to go out the next day and get involved in the community and we felt like that was kind of a good sometime frame for them. So we hope that the youth commission will take on even more of an active role in the conference this year handling more of like even the logistics of the conference, not just handling content and that sort of thing so we hope to take on a more active role. Beyond this, we're currently working on a project, a youth bill of rights. So this is going to kind of be a document that outlines the fundamental rights for youth. To give some background on this, the second one ever, the first one was in Portland, Oregon and it's actually been adopted at the state level now as state legislation. So what we are doing is we're taking that youth bill of rights and we kind of looked through it and there's two areas that we feel that the bill of rights hasn't really addressed and that's positive peer influence. Because a lot of it is about holding adults accountable. But we think we should hold ourselves accountable not just holding adults accountable for ensuring the cultural competence. The youth bill of rights, we plan on adding two additional articles in addition to the San Mateo one and kind of create the San José youth bill of rights. That's kind of our goal. After that we hope youth like the new recommendations that have been created and we also plan to work closely with project cornerstone and make sure that their 41 developmental assets are kind of engrained and integrated into the document. Beyond this since the budget is sort of a major issue right now we plan on definitely staying involved in the upcoming city budget process and our staff will be setting budget trainings for us so we can understand better how the city budget works and how we can an active voice on what's going on. Also, as we said earlier we write articles for the San José insider. We write one article per month so we kind of switch off commissioners basically and then we want to work closely with project cornerstone once again this year. In order to ensure that their 41 aspects are presented to the community and integrated into the activities that the youth commissioners are doing. We think project cornerstone trying to do to get more youth voice and youth involvement within the city and within the county. So that kind of concludes the discussion on the five strategic goals. Beyond that I just wanted to first say, I would like to introduce first Casey Ong one more time. She's our second vice chair and our district 4 commissioner. So we are really excited to have her here.

>> Hi, good afternoon. I'm really sorry I was late, I ran into a bit of traffic while on the way here.

>> We're really glad to have her here. And in addition, even though redundancy there, but we definitely could not do anything without the support of Betty Montoya and Veronica Reese. They meet with us on Sundays they give up their Sundays for us in order to mean up with us for trainings. In addition to our meetings and our trainings we also have YAC meetings that we and I really feel as though even from a personal standpoint they've really helped develop my leadership even more than just working with youth. So I think that I would like to give them a round of applause if that's okay. [applause]

>> So with that, they make my job real easy here, I'm like thank you. Thank you for acknowledging our staff. You know Betty and Veronica have done an exceptional job. And as you can see it as you can hear I think our future's in pretty good hands. So with that we'll open up for questions.

>> Councilmember Campos: Well, I think you're absolutely right. First of all, phenomenal presentation. And it's very encouraging to see that the City of San José is in great hands. You are a policy commission, and meeting with the other one that is mostly recreational might do you some good to figure out how you get a little fun in there! But I know that it is fun, and I'm glad to see that you're doing so much. And I almost feel like saying you should cross-reference and have them figure out how we balance the budget. But I know that that's left to the council to do, but I'm going to open it up to any of my colleagues that would like to ask any questions. I have a few questions also but I'll open it up to Councilmember Chu and then Councilmember Oliverio.

>> Councilmember Chu: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to take the opportunity to thank the staff and I also notice that there are some proud parents, I would ask Ms. Shankar, maybe you can introduce your parents as well?

>> Sure, that's my dad, Matt Shankar, she works at and Chitra Shankar, she works at Intel in Santa Clara.

>> Councilmember Chu: Next generation of leaders I know it is a big commitment on your part to drive them around to attend all those meetings so thank you very much. I also wanted to congratulate Casey for being elected as the second vice chair, with such a short amount of time in this commission. So I notice that you have some paper in front of you. Do you have a presentation to make?

>> Actually, I was supposed to present strategic goal number 1 and 2 but because I came here after the presentation started I just let them.

>> Councilmember Chu: If there's no objection, should we hear the goal number 1, one more time?

>> Would you like to add anything, feel comfortable. Anna.

>> I feel like they've touched on everything but I really want to thank the commission for being so welcoming, especially I was just elected, I was just sworn in, in August. So I would really like to thank the commission and especially Betty and Veronica for helping me in the beginning, especially because I was new, I didn't know what I was doing, and it's really an honor to be on the executive board especially at such a young level on the youth commission.

>> Councilmember Chu: Thank you very much for your presence on on the commission.

>> Councilmember Oliverio: this will be good preparation for you so thank you for enjoying your city so much and having a parent structure that allows you to support that. Thank you very much.

>> Councilmember Campos: Vice Mayor.

>> Councilmember Chirco: I don't really have any questions, because I have the honor of being the liaison to the youth commission. But I have to say, I am grateful for their focus, and their intelligence. And I've been to a few of their events. And you have really grown the commission into what it is now. And I know that Betty and Veronica are there to assist you and mentor you. But you are exceeding, well, as my father used to say, you're supposed to get smarter than me, and I think you're all well on your way. I want you all to hold up your hands and swear that you will be back in San José, after you finish college. Because we need your intelligence and your compassion. You will make a big difference in the world. Thank you for your presentation, it was excellent. Thank you Betty and Veronica for all you do to help them.

>> Councilmember Campos: I'd like to add to that, I'd like you to raise your hands and say you quill be excellent mentors to your YACs because they are ready to move into your position. So and I want to thank as you said angel, that we don't compliment our staff as often as we should, Betty and Veronica for their time and their effort on making sure that our young people are getting the tools that they need to be successful on our city and on our youth commission. So having said that we've been talking about that vacant position. And it actually is in my district. So I thought this was a good opportunity to be able to ask a few questions, to understand the reasoning on why it's taken so long to be able to fill this vacancy. So I don't know if city staff can address that for me and I'm hopeful that we'll be able to get someone on soon, on the commission soon.

>> Sure. This is actually one of our top priorities is to fill the last remaining vacancy. We have in coordinates with the office of City Clerk who is the lead recruiter for commissions, Annette Castanet, these folks in coordination with the office of city clerk have are cast a net the second time. We're hopeful that we will have someone seated within six to eight weeks.

>> Councilmember Campos: So angel when this became vacant in June, is that correct?

>> Correct.

>> Councilmember Campos: What is the time frame for us to start thinking about going back out to recruit someone and what is the criteria, since you said the bar has been risen a little higher, can you explain that to me?

>> Yeah, literally the recruitment starts almost immediately. I know the office of the City Clerk has an actual process that they follow, given the different commissions and workload associated with that, I think in the area of recruiting a youth commissioner it's a little bit more challenging because unlike other commissions where you already have a captive audience of folks who are interested in literally getting involved with the youth commissions there is a little bit of a sales aspect to it. Not to mention where we've moved away from just having somebody who is a strong ASB leader at their high school and trying to really shift to somebody who really has aspirations beyond that. a commitment to improve the state of

the youth for the city. So there's a broader mission and of course that triggers the use for attending all these functions, the events, the meetings. We have a very strict standard around attendance policy. So those expectations among themselves, we want to make sure we get commissioners that are going to be in the best position to advise the mayor and council. That's the process. We have already spoken to the office of City Clerk. We have talked to your office. This is a number one priority and we are very confident within the next six to eight weeks we will have somebody.

>> Councilmember Campos: I would hope so. And I would hope that you can keep myself and my office informed as you move forward.

>> Okay.

>> Councilmember Campos: I'm looking at these fabulous commissioners and thinking, wow, my district is missing out now. I'm hoping that we can get someone that will be able to work with them and communicate with the constituents, the youth that I represent, so they can continue to be a part of the wonderful things you work on and bring forward and learn from all of you. You really have demonstrated your leadership not just as youth but as citizens of the City of San José. If there are no more comments I would be willing to accept a motion.

>> Councilmember Chirco: I'd be more than proud to move for approval.

>> Councilmember Oliverio: Second.

>> Councilmember Campos: All those in favor? Opposed? Passes unanimously.

>> Also, we've brought copies of this, it's basically of the closing session. Yes, of the closing session so that includes the state of the youth address that we've presented. So I think it's pretty exciting.

>> Councilmember Campos: Thank you.

>> Councilmember Chu: Thank you.

>> Councilmember Campos: Thank you. Well, thank you for your time, and do you have to go back to school or are you --

>> Done for the day.

>> Councilmember Campos: Done for the day. What a great way to end your day. Thank you for being here. At this point, Norberto, do you have anything else you'd like to add?

>> Norberto Duenãs: No, we're done with the agenda, Madam Chair, members of the committee. Just also a reminder that we will not be having a committee meeting in January. Our first meeting for 2010 will be in February. And we look forward to seeing everyone then.

>> Councilmember Campos: At this point I'm going to open it up to open forum. I don't have any cards, so meeting adjourned. Thank you.