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REPORT TO THE CITY OF FRESNO YOUTH COMMISSION

August 2, 2019

FROM: Jose Espinoza, Program Coordinator
Youth Leadership Institute

BY: Marco Martinez, Senior Deputy City Clerk
City Clerk's Office

SUBJECT

Update, discussion and actions pertaining to selection of the new City of Fresno police chief

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

N/A

BACKGROUND

The Fresno Youth Commission hosted a Town Hall on July 12, 2019. The Town Hall served to provide the youth of the City of Fresno with a platform to express their concerns about the selection of a new police chief. The Town Hall consisted of workshops, and the Fresno Youth Commission approved a letter to be sent to City officials incorporating the Town Hall's findings and youth surveys.

At the May 17, 2019 Fresno Youth Commission meeting, Sher Moua, program manager for BMOC spoke during the Public Comments portion of the meeting in regards to the City's efforts to recruit a new police chief. He stated that the City had held five community meetings and he urged the Fresno Youth Commission to use its platform as Council's advisory body on issues affecting youth in order to assure that the new police chief was sensitive to issues affecting youth, in particular to the issue of police officers that worked in school campuses.

Chair Jauregui and Commissioner Villegas asked that BMOC Program Manager Moua and BMOC provide a presentation at the next Fresno Youth Commission meeting.

At the June 7, 2019 Fresno Youth Commission meeting, BMOC Program Manager Moua and BMOC youth representatives gave a presentation in regards law enforcement interactions with youth at Fresno Unified School District high schools. They expressed concern that youth were being arrested and disciplined at disproportionate rates at area high schools by school resource officers. They urged the Fresno Youth Commission to hold a public meeting and to invite local youth to express their concerns in regards to law enforcement in high schools and city-wide. They also asked the Commission to urge the City Council to use its power in order to advocate for the hiring of a police chief that is responsive to youth concerns.

The Fresno Youth Commission voted to create an ad-hoc committee to study the issue of law enforcement and youth interactions, and to coordinate a Town Hall.

The actions taken by the Fresno Youth Commission at this meeting will be based on the findings presented during the meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS

N/A

LOCAL PREFERENCE

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A