



CITY OF GILROY  
YOUTH COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA



**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025 | 6:00 PM**

GILROY SENIOR CENTER  
7371 HANNA STREET, GILROY, CA 95020

**Chair:** Anna Nguyen

**Vice Chair:** Benedict Pham

**Treasurer:** Biruh Abaneh

**Commissioners:** Biruh Abaneh, Alazander Cruz Bermudez, Ashleen Bhandal, Diana Diakova, Logan Gill, Sophia Gutierrez, Anna Nguyen, Jacob Ortega, Benedict Pham, Maya Sanchez, Thanmay Sarath

**Staff Liaison:** LeeAnn McPhillips, Assistant City Administrator & Adam Henig, Recreation Manager



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City will make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Office at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at (408) 846-0204 or [cityclerk@cityofgilroy.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityofgilroy.org) to help ensure that reasonable arrangements can be made.



Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the City of Gilroy Youth Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available with the agenda packet on the City website at [www.cityofgilroy.org](http://www.cityofgilroy.org) subject to the Staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE GILROY OPEN GOVERNMENT ORDINANCE**

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, task forces, councils and other agencies of the City exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES:**

During the **PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA** portion of the meeting, each person wishing to speak should prepare a presentation of not more than three (3) minutes. Persons wishing to address the Commission are requested, but not required, to complete a Speaker's Card located at the entrances. Completion of this speaker's card is voluntary. All persons may attend this meeting and speak, regardless if a card is completed

or not. Speaker's slips should be submitted to the Secretary **BEFORE** this portion of the meeting begins. Anyone wishing to address the Commission on any other item on this **AGENDA** is requested, but not required, to fill out a speaker's slip as well and submit it to the Secretary **BEFORE** the Commission takes action on the item.

Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the City of Gilroy Youth Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection with the agenda packet in the Recreation Division at Senior Center, 7371 Hanna Street, during normal business hours. These materials are also available with the agenda packet on the City website at [www.cityofgilroy.org](http://www.cityofgilroy.org).

The agenda for this regular meeting is as follows:

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. FLAG SALUTE**
- 3. ROLL CALL**
- 4. SECRETARY'S REPORT**
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - 5.1. Approval of the Minutes from the October 13, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Youth Commission**
- 6. INTRODUCTIONS**
- 7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
- 8. NEW BUSINESS**
  - 8.1. Involvement in Youth Leadership Organizations**
    1. Staff Report:  
Adam Henig, Recreation Manager
    2. Public Comment
    3. Possible Action:  
Review and motion to join the Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action and Association of California Youth Commissions.
- 9. OLD BUSINESS**
  - 9.1. Discussion of FY26 Youth Commission Work Plan**
    1. Staff Report:  
Adam Henig, Recreation Manager
    2. Public Comment
    3. Possible Action:  
Receive and comment on the FY26 Commission Work Plan.

**10. STAFF/COMMISSION COMMENTS**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**City of Gilroy  
Youth Commission  
Minutes  
Monday, October 13, 2025 | 6:00 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Nguyen at 6:01 p.m.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

Staff Liaison Henig introduced Commissioner Guterrez, who was then sworn in by City Clerk Mancera. An icebreaker game followed.

**1. Welcome Commissioner Sophia Gutierrez & Icebreaker**

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

**4. ROLL CALL**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Attendee Name</b>
Present	Biruh Abaneh, Commissioner
	Alazander Cruz Bermudez, Commissioner
	Ashleen Bhandal, Commissioner
	Diana Diakova, Commissioner
	Sophia Guterrez, Commissioner
	Logan Gill, Commissioner
	Anna Nguyen, Commissioner
	Jacob Ortega , Commissioner
	Maya Sanchez, Commissioner
	Thanmay Sarath, Commissioner
Absent	Benedict Pham, Commissioner

**5. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The meeting packet was posted on October 10, 2025.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Approval of the Minutes from the September 8, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Youth Commission**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Sarath. Commissioner Diakova seconded. Motion passed 10-0-0.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

No comments were made by the public.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

## 1. Discussion of FY26 Youth Commission Work Plan

The Commission discussed its current work plan.

The Commission brainstormed ideas that could become a potential legislative issue. The following were mentioned: a policy to spray and neuter stray cats within city limits given the influx; Replacing all plastic sold in Gilroy with seaweed plastic; Targeting homeless & providing essential resources for the; a health-care issue that impacts youth and teens. The Commission wants to brainstorm more ideas at its next meeting before they select a topic.

Each committee (Music/Games and Décor/Theme) reported on their findings since the most recent commission meeting. Commissioner Gill, who is on Music/Games, mentioned the type of songs and list of games they plan to provide at the dance. For Decor/Theme, Commissioner Abaneh discussed the theme, types of decorations, and how the room will look on the night of the dance. Nguyen also added additional items that hadn't been mentioned such movie posters on the wall. Both committees will meet again before the November meeting date. Commissioner Guterrez will join the decor/theme committee and offered to design the program flyer.

For Tech Day, since it's during GUSD's Thanksgiving break (not GECA's), three (possibly four) commissioners will be able to support seniors with their technological devices from November 24 through November 26. They are commissioners Nguyen, Bermudez, Sarath and possibly Pham.

During the apparel and logo design discussion, Sarath and Abaneh presented their findings and provided apparel options based on the commission's budget. The Commission preferred to go with the purchase of both a T-shirt and a quarter-zip sweatshirt with a logo featured only on the front. However, since it went slightly over the budget maximum of \$550, Henig was going to check to see if the intergenerational dance comes in under budgeted, if those excess funds can be used to cover the difference for the apparel. If it cannot, then the Commission would opt for a two-sided logo T-shirt.

Four logo designs were presented by commissioners Bhandal and Sanchez. The Commissioners selected design number one, which was made by Sanchez. However, there were a few edits commissioners would like to make to the design. As a result, it was decided that Sarath, Abaneh, Bhandal, Sanchez, and Guterrez, would meet separately to finalize the design.

## 10. STAFF/COMMISSION COMMENTS

Henig reminded the Commission if they had not RSVP to the November 20 Commission Recognition Dinner, they should do so as soon as possible. Also, he reminded them that he will only be sending emails to their city email account from here on out.

1. **Reminder to RSVP to the annual Commission Recognition Dinner on Thursday, November 20, 2025 at the Senior Center.**

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nguyen adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.



# City of Gilroy Youth Commission

## STAFF REPORT

**Agenda Item Title:** Involvement in Youth Leadership Organizations  
**Meeting Date:** November 10, 2025  
**From:** LeeAnn McPhillips, Assistant City Administrator  
Adam Henig, Recreation Manager  
**Department:** Youth Commission  
**Submitted by:** Adam Henig, Recreation Manager  
**Prepared by:** Adam Henig, Recreation Manager

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### RECOMMENDATION

Review and motion to join the Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action and Association of California Youth Commissions.

### BACKGROUND

Recently, Assistant City Administrator LeeAnn McPhillips attended the annual League of California Cities conference. While there, she learned about two organizations that the Youth Commission should consider getting involved with.

The **Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action** (SVYCA) empowers teens and young adults to combat climate change immediately through impactful education and policy initiatives. Our youth work in focused climate action teams to ensure important climate policies and measures receive support at every level, including local, regional, and statewide. Youth at SVYCA gain in-depth knowledge about climate policy, build relationships with key climate stakeholders such as elected officials and climate tech leaders, and gain exposure to climate career pathways across multiple industries and disciplines.

This past August, SCYCA hosted an in-person conference in August in Campbell. Although the conference passed, there is an active Morgan Hill-Gilroy chapter that commissioners can join and report back to at future meetings. Registration is available at their website. Furthermore, if the Commission decides to develop an environmental legislative policy, this group can be a valuable source of information.

The **Association of California Youth Commissions** is a consortium of youth commissions and advisory bodies within the State of California that "wishes to share best practices and collaborate to enhance the well-being of teens in our local communities and in California." Their objective is become "a collective voice to serve that may help to create legislation to benefit our constituent youth." Staff liaison Henig also already submitted an application to join the consortium. In addition, there is a virtual conference occurring on Saturday, November 15 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For more information, please see Adam Henig.



# City of Gilroy Youth Commission

STAFF REPORT

**Agenda Item Title:** Discussion of FY26 Youth Commission Work Plan  
**Meeting Date:** November 10, 2025  
**From:** LeeAnn McPhillips, Assistant City Administrator  
Adam Henig, Recreation Manager  
**Department:** Youth Commission  
**Submitted by:** Adam Henig, Recreation Manager  
**Prepared by:** Adam Henig, Recreation Manager

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## RECOMMENDATION

Receive and comment on the FY26 Commission Work Plan.

## BACKGROUND

The purpose of the work plan is to serve as a guide for the Commission's goals. During the budget adoption for FY26 and FY27, the Youth Commission approved the following work plan:

1. Identify a legislative issue that impacts youth and teens of Gilroy or community at large.
2. Participate in a Community Clean-up day
3. Organize and host an Intergenerational Dance at the Senior Center
4. Support Breakfast with Santa
5. Assist seniors with their technological devices
6. Organize and host OpportuniTEEN Fair

## ANALYSIS

### Apparel update

The Commission T-shirts have been ordered and should arrive by the November regular meeting date. Commissioners are encouraged to wear their T-shirts at all Commission-related events.

### Intergenerational Dance (November 21)

Both committees—Music/Games and Décor/Theme—have been busy planning the Intergenerational Dance event since the October 13 meeting. The music/games committee finalized the evening's schedule while the decor/theme committee ordered decorations, conducted an inventory, and developed how the evening would be tailored to maximize the experience for the senior participants. Treasurer Abaneh has been tracking expenses to ensure the event does not go over budget. As of the typing of this report, there are 41 registered seniors (capacity is 84).

### Legislative

At the previous meeting, commissioners brainstormed the following ideas as possible legislative issues:

- A policy to spray and neuter stray cats within city limits
- Replacing all plastic sold in Gilroy with seaweed plastic;
- Targeting homeless & providing essential resources for them;
- A health-care issue that impacts youth and teens.

Commissioners can continue to brainstorm, though, they should also begin the process of narrowing down their options to no more than two ideas. A committee also needs to be formed that will work on identifying a legislative issue and recommending it to be adopted at the December meeting.

### Digital Assistance, Breakfast with Santa (12/7)

Shifts are available to sign-up for senior digital assistance for the following dates at the Senior Center:

- Monday, November 24, 9:30-11:00am
- Tuesday, November 25, 9:30-11:00am
- Wednesday, November 26, 9:30-11:00am

Also, commissioners should plan to attend the Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, December 7 from 8:00am-12:00pm.