



CITY OF GILROY  
YOUTH COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA



MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 | 6:00 PM

GILROY SENIOR CENTER  
7371 HANNA STREET, GILROY, CA 95020

**Chair:** Anna Nguyen

**Vice Chair:** Benedict Pham

**Treasurer:** Biruh Abaneh

**Commissioners:** Biruh Abandeh, 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



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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.

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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 December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Youth Commission

**6. INTRODUCTIONS**

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

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**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**

10.1 – Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Attack Conference, Saturday March 7 2026 in Los Altos.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**City of Gilroy  
Youth Commission  
Minutes  
Monday, December 8, 2025 | 6:00 PM**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

**3. ROLL CALL**

<b>Present</b>	Biruh Abaneh, Commissioner Alazander Cruz Bermudez, Commissioner Ashleen Bhandal, Commissioner Diana Diakova, Commissioner Sophia Guterrez, Commissioner (late 6:05pm) Anna Nguyen, Commissioner Jacob Ortega , Commissioner Benedict Pham, Commissioner Maya Sanchez, Commissioner Thanmay Sarath, Commissioner
<b>Absent</b>	Logan Gill, Commissioner

**4. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The meeting packet was posted on December 5, 2025.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Approval of the Minutes from the November 10, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Youth Commission**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Abandeh.  
Commissioner Diakova seconded. Motion passed 9-0-0 (Gill and Gutierrez absent)

**6. INTRODUCTIONS**

None.

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

None

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Discussion of FY26 Youth Commission Work Plan**

The Commission discussed the following items on its work plan:

- Nguyen acknowledged that the Commission has already completed half of its work plan—Intergenerational Dance, Senior Digital Assistance, and Breakfast with Santa.
- Intergenerational Dance— The dance occurred on Friday, November 21. Overall, the dance was a successful event. The seniors had a great time and were glad to have attended. Commissioners shared comments about what went well and areas for improvement.
  - Positives - Dinner; interaction with seniors; being personal waiters; games were fun; photo booth; Jeopardy; Hollywood theme; decorations; popcorn and song selection
  - Improvements - Photo booth process took too long to produce keychains; seat seniors first and then they can come up on their own to the photo booth; popcorn containers should be small and start popping at the beginning of the event; commissioners should rotate duties (photo booth, popcorn, etc.); have a seating chart and make sure commissioner have their own seat; Seniors grabbed their badge without waiting to be given it; allow a better way for teams to answer questions during Jeopardy; have the right amount of utensils.
- Digital assistance - Nguyen, Pham, Sarath, and Bermudez supported providing digital assistance to the seniors during the week of Thanksgiving. They served 22 seniors.
- Breakfast with Santa - Ten commissioners attended and supported the event. They helped with arts and crafts projects as well as serving breakfast.
- Legislative — The committee met the previous week and came up with the idea of creating a policy to make streets in Gilroy safer for bicyclists/scooters/walkers riding to school.  
 For example, there is significant vehicle traffic during the morning commute to Gilroy High School. What could the commission propose to alleviate the vehicular traffic? What would it take to encourage students to ride their bike instead of going by car? Would protective barriers on bike pathways, for example, encourage riders to ride their bike/scooter/skateboard as opposed to driving?  
 It was noted that several schools are impacted by the morning commute, including Gilroy High School and Solorsano Middle School. The committee will meet before the next regular meeting.
- OpportuniTEEN Fair - Commissioners divided themselves into three committees:
  - Logistics: Ortega, Bermudez
  - Marketing: Diakova, Pham, Guterrez, and Sanchez
  - Vendor: Bhandal, Nguyen, Pham, Abaneh, Sarath

Before the next meeting, the vendor committee will meet to identify which organizations and business the Commission will reach out to.

Commissioner Gill, who was absent, will need to select a committee to serve on.

**2. Treasurer's Report for the Youth Commission as of December 1, 2025**

Treasurer Abandeh presented the treasurer's report, which was included in the meeting packet. Abandeh asked if the unspent monies could be rolled over into another budget category such as the OpportuniTEEN Fair. Henig said he would look into it and follow up.

**10. STAFF/COMMISSION COMMENTS**

During comments, Nguyen and Pham mentioned that they both attended the virtual conference organized by the Commission of California Youth Commissions. During the conference, topics such as electric e-bikes, AI, mental health and sleep were discussed.

Henig mentioned that there is a regional in-person conference for youth commissioners on Saturday, March 7 that he encourages everyone to attend. More details to follow.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Nguyen adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.



# City of Gilroy Youth Commission

STAFF REPORT

**Agenda Item Title: Discussion of FY26 Youth Commission Work Plan**

Meeting Date: January 12, 2026

From: LeeAnn McPhillips, Interim Administrative Services & Human Resources Director/Risk Manager  
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

The Intergenerational Dance, Breakfast with Santa, and digital assistance for seniors have been completed.

## ANALYSIS

Below is an update on the Commission's work plan:

- **Digital Assistance:** Four commissioners (Ortega, Abaneh, Diakova, and Sanchez) assisted with providing digital assistance to 14 seniors for their personal electronic devices during the week of December 15. Altogether, for this current term, the Commission has served 43 seniors.
- **Legislative:** On Wednesday, December 17, 2025, the legislative committee—Sanchez, Nguyen, Bhandal, Gil and Ortega—met to discuss their topic, improving bike and pedestrian access for students to and from Gilroy High School. They discussed the following:
  - Objective: Develop a policy to recommend to City Council that aims to reduce the number of vehicles driven by Gilroy and Christopher high school students and parents to and from school. For example, it could be a recommendation to fund protective bike barrier lanes on key routes that are in proximity to the school.
  - Next Steps:
    1. Identify the current traffic situation and barriers for non-motorized modes of transportation for students attending Gilroy's two main high schools, Christopher and Gilroy.
    2. Find out what other cities of similar size have done to address the problem.
    3. What is the latest research on this issue? What has worked and could potentially be implemented in Gilroy?
    4. Identify potential grants to cover the cost of construction and maintenance.
    5. What are the benefits (health, environment, etc.) of providing students with alternative and safer routes to school?

The committee will meet prior to the regular meeting to share their findings and discuss next steps.

- **OpportuniTEEN Fair:** During the December meeting, the Commissioners divided themselves into three committees:
  - Logistics: Ortega, Bermudez
  - Marketing: Diakova, Pham, Guitierrez, and Sanchez
  - Vendor: Bhandal, Nguyen, Pham, Abaneh, Sarath

The logistics committee met on December 17 and went over the possible vendors to approach for the OpportuniTEEN Fair in March. Altogether, they came up with nearly 70 businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations to reach out to. The committee members will begin reaching out to their assigned vendors and report their status at the meeting.

YOUTH AND TEEN RECREATION SERVICES PRESENT

MAR 7, 2026

# YAC ATTACK

FEATURING



## DEVELOPING YOUNG LEADERS

Los Altos Community Center  
75 Hillview Ave. Los Altos, CA 94022

9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Purchase Tickets Online



For more information, email: [YTRSDistrict4Chair@gmail.com](mailto:YTRSDistrict4Chair@gmail.com)