
MEMORANDUM FROM COUNCIL DISTRICT 2

DATE: MARCH 11, 2016
TO: VICE MAYOR CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, CHAIR OF THE LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE & MEMBERS OF THE LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE
FROM: COUNCILMEMBER ABEL GUILLÉN
RE: PRESENTATION BY AYPAL ON SURVEY RESULTS OF 500 ASIAN YOUTH IN OAKLAND

Background

Established in 1998 as an organization to build community power, Asian Pacific Islander Youth Promoting Advocacy and Leadership (AYPAL) formed in response to increasing gang activity, truancy, and substance abuse issues among low-income Asian and Pacific Islander (API) youth in Oakland. For nearly two decades, AYPAL has worked to engage and activate API youth through their leadership training institute as well as local neighborhood social justice campaigns. AYPAL currently has four programs that encourage the development of civically engaged community members and train participants through leadership development, community organizing, arts activism and collaborative coalition building.

AYPAL, in conjunction with Banteay Srei and the Spot Youth Center, conducted a survey of 500 API youth in Oakland between summer 2014 and winter 2015. Their survey was related to youth safety, economics, school environment, personal culture, neighborhood climate and health and their sample of participants focused on 14-18 year olds who attend Oakland public high schools. The overall objective of the study was to better understand the API youth community in Oakland with a particular focus on underrepresented API groups such as the Southeast Asian communities. In addition, AYPAL and its partners will be providing a presentation on their findings at the Life Enrichment Committee on March 22, 2016. In addition, they plan to publish a final report with policy recommendations for the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) and City of Oakland staff, Mayor and Council.