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1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • 3RD FLOOR • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Office of the Mayor
Jerry Brown
Mayor

(510) 238-3141
FAX: (510) 238-4731
TDD: (510) 839-6451

Letter of Nomination

April 4, 2006

The Honorable City Council
One City Hall Plaza, Second Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Councilmembers:

Upon nomination of the Mayor, the following persons are hereby appointed as members of the following Board or Commission:

Youth Advisory Commission

All terms beginning June 30, 2004 and ending June 30, 2006.

Edward Baraona replacing Samantha Lee
Glenda Frost replacing Monica Bogans
Malcolm Gaines replacing Amber Cox
Craig Gentry replacing Eduardo Garcia
Katrina Gilbert replacing Audarius Goins
Breanne Camille Gladney replacing Rhonda Goodwin
Connie Ip replacing Symantha Victoria Murdock
Olivia Lau replacing Alasha Raynor
Rocio Molina replacing Joshua Rose
Jasmine Moore replacing Kimberly Steele
Andy Nguyen replacing Kimberly Wong
Rickey Michael Robinson Samuel Styles
Renato Rocha replacing Sophia Mey

Terms beginning June 30, 2005

Lexus Monae Stromas replacing Belaynesh Legesse

Terms beginning November 2, 2004 and ending November 2, 2006

Annie Takahashi replacing Ricky Marshall

Diana Tran replacing Marquis Ransom

Patrick Sean Weston replacing Alexis Smith

Terms beginning November 30, 2004 and ending November 30, 2006

Lafiea Gary replacing Shamelia McClain

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

JERRY BROWN
Mayor

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jerry Brown". The signature is written over the printed name and title.

Dear Honorable Mayor Edmund Brown,

My name is Edward Baraona, I am 19 years old and I am seeking a position on the Oakland Youth Commission. I grew up in San Francisco in the home of poor yet strong working women, in the south of market district near downtown. My sister and I have been the vulnerable victims of eviction since I was 10 years old. For that reason after living with friends and eventually my grandmother, we were blessed to reside in our home in West Oakland. After high school I decided to take advantage of my abilities in directing and cinematography of documentaries funded by citizen film productions. On my arrival from my latest project in Israel, I returned to school and quickly adapted to the Laney Theatre company, debuting a performance on stage and making friends. I am currently an English major at Laney College.

After entering the workforce from welfare, my mother had no time for my sister and me. She was devoted entirely to cleaning houses and looking after people who were unrelated to our family. She, however, did this for our sake to pay for electricity and food, and did her best to help with our homework. After my father's death during my years in elementary school, she became both a mother and a father. She worked everyday, and at times I would find her crying outside in the hallway, for we lived in a studio apartment without a room to release her sentiments. Crying and knowing that she could no longer afford the rent. We spent a few months living in houses of close friends of my mother. We were then left with the options of living in with my grandmother who struggled to meet the demands of rent money and bills and to move out into the streets to join a shelter program. With my grandmother, at least we had a home. The only luxury was that of a color television that helped us forget that we were poor even if for just an hour or so. My mother and grandmother earned so little each month; a dollar was enough to excite me.

My remembrance of moving once again continues to burn in my memory. The rents were raised and we therefore found a home but almost on the brink of living out in the cold. The stretching of my mothers' labor time and crunching of her wages and detachment from her children was the worst form of involuntary neglect. After a hard day of work, the highest part of the day was anticipated for the next episode of stories in novellas (Spanish soap operas) on the television. It is almost as if her American dreams melt as she spends time with my sister in front of the TV. From an angle, each day is as mundane as the previous, especially for my grandmother who stopped going to work after her sickness took over her aging body. Her life is quite simple, either she watches television or sits out on the porch waiting for the sun to sink behind houses, her only view of a sunset. She is slowly waiting for the end of the day. At times when I come back home a little late, I see my grandmothers' face glow with colors and sounds of the images on the screen of the television in the darkness of the living room, but I also see something more vile and horrifying. I see a glimpse of my mother's future, after her energy has expired.

I know that I am not the only one who has absorbed these experiences. There are many people in the world who suffer a much worse fate than I. In my neighborhood however

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the solution to stretch wages is through illegal and life threatening ways. The deep supply of addictive drugs sold to the homeless and teens that visit and wander throughout our streets during the afternoon is just a fraction of examples and situations. There is no future or hope but a circumstance that paralyzes our existence from attaining or attempting our dreams. They are attracted to temporary pleasures after their abandonment by their mothers, their fathers who are entrapped in the struggle towards avoiding blackouts of electricity and starving stomachs, in the repetitive, passionless devotion we call work. This feeds on the impatience and temptation to the fast and easy dollar. To boldly risk not only time in jail as a consequence, but death as a possibility in the games of high stakes. The game I resisted with all of my might, despite pains while growing up with nothing but dreams beyond the streets of shattered dreams.

Take a look at Oakland youth in the afternoon wandering throughout the streets, while parents work afternoon night shifts or at home after a long day at the job. The violence that takes place on the streets against the innocent over trivial matters is only one of the many aspects of time spent away from our own children. Invite Oakland citizens and civil service members to the homes, and experience the reality of living poor. These are merely the few examples the people of Oakland are compelled to face because in extreme cases such as midnight or afternoon homicides, witnesses will fear to come forward. It is not easy to risk being a Good Samaritan since the price adds to the annual rate of deaths of the city. I would personally write and mail letters addressing the problems to the legislative chamber members as an appointed member of the Youth Commission. I would personally hand one for each council member in their office to no longer consider them as politicians or civic workers but as friends to me and my neighbors. If all else fails these problems must be addressed in simple and clear presentations of visuals, testimonials, and the rekindling of faith of the city among people throughout poor neighborhoods. Oakland cannot afford to ignore these issues. The cost of one young life is already too high.

I offer my honesty and capabilities of taking a stand without falling apart. I will stand with my beliefs and viewpoints for justice and social change. I offer my persistence to tackle such issues with the influence and power appointed to me. I will lend my ears to the wisdom and knowledge of my colleagues with the greatest amount of respect and consistency. Above all I offer a spirit of commitment and leadership because I look forward to working with an intelligent group of people to serve the needs and issues that Oaklanders face today.

The future holds many possibilities, and one I hope to pursue is the mayor's office. In fact, the position of mayor is barely the beginning of my journey; I know that with my communication and presentation skills, I will strive to become Senator of California. My goals at this moment are to transfer into a prestigious university and continue in a school of law, Yale. Nothing is stopping me and therefore I will achieve my dreams with constant persistence and hard work, and maybe a bit of luck! The city of Oakland is not only home but my refuge, and I therefore owe this city everything I can offer.

Thank You

TO: Mayor Jerry Brown
City Council Members

November 23, 2005

RE: Letter of Intent

My name is Glenda Frost. I am 16 years old and I attend East Oakland Community High School and maintain a 3.64 GPA. I attend church on a regular basis, I am a Senior Girl Scout with the Girl Scouts of the San Francisco Bay Area, member of the East Oakland Youth Development Center, youth leader with the Oakland Community Organizations, member of Girls Inc. and I became a Youth Commissioner in the year 2004. I am a committed, responsible and dedicated person. I have set high standards for myself and I am determined to never give up on my dreams. I have been a resident of Oakland all of my life, I live with my parents who always support me.

Youth today are facing a lack of education, lack of employment opportunities because the jobs that were available to youth are no longer here. We are also facing a lot of hardships with building relationships with adults because of the lack of understanding and also lacking the finances to take advantage of being able to travel the country and learn about different life styles.

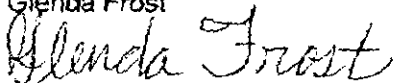
Being a Youth Commissioner gives me an opportunity to express my feelings and to hear from other youth and by doing so we can try and find solutions to the issues that we face. I would like to see more youth forums, more college to career fairs, more trips to other states and countries to see what is happening with youth in their communities.

I have been a youth volunteer for many years. I go to a lot of meetings with my parents and they have exposed me to a lot of political issues. I have worked phone banks with the Oakland Community Organizations to get out the vote, I have been a part of large action meetings with the school board, city council and the mayor to get small schools, safe streets and health care so I have an idea of what type of work it takes to make change.

My dreams and plans for my future is to attend a university and to major in Sociology and Foreign Language. I intend to become a Spanish and English teacher. I would like to travel and teach underprivileged children in the U.S. and all over the world.

Sincerely,

Glenda Frost



Rec'd 11/28/05

Malcolm Gaines' Letter of Intent

1. Personal History and Background: Over the past 14 years I have lived in East, West, Central Oakland and consequently attended approximately seven different Oakland Public Schools. This board exposure has helped me see problems from a variety of different situations involving people of many different cultures. I enjoy working with people from different backgrounds to solve problems.

2. What are current issue? I think there should be more planned activities for the youth. Overexposure to drugs, profanity, gang life at too early an age. Hanging out with bad influences. Students not taking their studies seriously.

3. What would I do to address these problems? Build more community in high crime areas. More community meetings between youth and City leaders.

4. I think I would be a good addition because by living in so many different parts of Oakland I can bring a very broad view of problems and issues facing youth. I have a very positive attitude, enjoy working with people to solve problems.

5. I plan to attend college on an academic/sports scholarship (undergraduate and graduate). After school I want to pursue a job that allows me to help people and make a difference in the world.

To the Mayor and City Council:

My name is Craig Gentry. I was born in Oakland and lived here until I was age six. At that time, my family relocated to San Leandro, CA where we resided for another ten years; however I stayed between my grandparents home in Oakland and my own. During this time, I attended elementary school at Corvallis, middle school at Washington Manor and two years of high school at San Lorenzo High. I attended Deer Valley High School in Antioch, CA for my junior and senior years of high school. Throughout my K-12 grade education, I had exceptional grades graduating with a 3.8 cumulative GPA and I participated in many clubs at my school including the Black Student Committee where I held the position as the historian as well as the Math Club. I was also the youth director at my church and the Vice-Chair of the Oakland Youth Commission my senior year of high school. Currently, I attend San Francisco State University as a sophomore where I am also a member of the Black Student Union and plan to run for junior class officer next school year.

Violence is the number one issue that youth in my community face. Violence that stems from gangs, drugs, or mentality and is constantly surrounding Oakland's youth. I believe that there are other issues such as the lack of positive places to go after school and the lack of quality in education that also perpetuates the violence in Oakland.

Many of the issues that youth in Oakland face are extremely apparent and can be witnessed by youth as well as adults. I do not think that it is necessary to further address the issues because the media does every time someone is murdered or convicted of crimes. What I think the youth commission and the city of Oakland need to focus on is drawing attention to the positive things that are going on in Oakland such as Youth Uprising, a very popular place for teens to go after school, and the mural project that the youth commission worked so hard to have put up. Once people begin to see that there are things to do in Oakland other than selling drugs and being involved in gangs, they will want to join and I know this because I did and I'm sure the rest of the commissioners can testify to as well. Oakland's youth participate in many negative things because of boredom and if there were more places and events for youth to go to, that element would be virtually eliminated.

I would be a great addition to the commission because I was a very influential in the events that we have put on the past few years that were very successful. Youth Recognition Day and International Youth Day were both events that I dedicated a large portion of my time to along with a few other consistent commissioners. I also have many more ideas that I believe would be an asset to the commission and how it can go about effectively changing how youth in Oakland are perceived.

I have not decided entirely what I want to do with my life, however I do know that I have a passion for working with youth and being a part of changing Oakland for future generations. I believe that it can happen with the right people and the right motivation. I also have a passion for cooking which is why I want to attend culinary arts school once I have graduated from college with my B.S. in Business Administration and my M.B.A. in Business Law. I am going to begin working on my real estate license in the start of the New Year. I believe that I will do real estate for a while until I have earned enough money to buy a restaurant and become established in the career while still pursuing real estate. Hopefully after a few years, I can open up another restaurant and begin a chain of them. I also want to have a cooking show on television which will increase my clientele. All the while I will continue working with youth, maybe even becoming the overseer of the commission and being a youth preacher at my church like my father. I am just an eager and ambitious person who will not stop until I have accomplished the purpose in life and the goals I set for myself.

10/24/05

Dear Mayor Brown and City Council,

My name is Katrina Gilbert and I am thirteen years old. I attend Verdesse R. Carter Middle School, as an eighth grade student. I am very interested in being apart of the City of Oakland's Youth Advisory Commission.

I think that I will be a great asset to the Youth Commission because I am a leader in the making. I am also a hard worker, and friendly. I speak my mind when necessary.

Some issues and problems, I feel youth face in our schools and communities are peer pressure, violence, lack of good teachers, and no encouragement for doing good. Another major issue we face is ignorance.

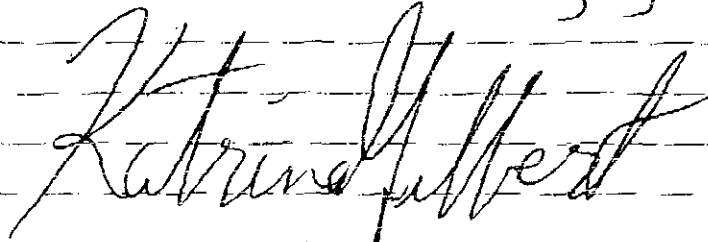
The first thing I'd do to begin addressing some of these issues through the youth commission and the city of Oakland would be to try and make sure students have good teachers in place when the first day of school comes. I would ask for a rule to be in place for our schools' administrative offices to have teachers in their places when school starts.

My dreams and plans for my education is to go to a good university. The university that I would really like to attend is Howard University. My professional goals are to go into law and become an attorney. After being an attorney for several years, I would like to be

Rec'd 10/26/05

a politician. The biggest professional goal, that I have is to become the first African-American Female President of the United States of American. I have a dream to stay in leadership like capacities, through my career and within my education. I able to accomplish, good things.

Thank You For Reading My Letter,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Katrina Gilbert'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large initial 'K' and 'G'.

Katrina Gilbert

KATRINA GILBERT

Youth Advisory Commission

Application

Supplemental Questions

Why do you wish to serve as a member of the Youth Advisory Commission?	I wish to serve as a member of the Youth Commission because I would like to help make a difference in our community.
What experience do you have in youth issues?	The experiences that I have in youth issues are resolving issues between other students at my school.
What experience do you have on boards and/or commissions? (Don't worry if you don't have any!)	I am a member of the Carter Middle School Student Leadership Council. I also served as the co-chair of my church's youth and young adult department this year.
What organizations are you a member of?	I am a member of the Student Leadership Council at Carter Middle School.
What volunteer activities are you involved in?	I am involved in the food drives at school.
What other interests and hobbies do you have that may benefit this commission?	I enjoy going to CASC (California Association of Student Councils) trainings and conferences.
How did you hear about the youth commission?	I heard about from my teacher leadership teacher Mr. Bell and at an All City Council Middle School Meeting.
Approximately how many hours do you have available to spend on Youth Advisory Commission Activities each month?	15 hours

10/27/05

Dear Mayor and City Council,

My name is Breanne Gamble Gladney and I am thirteen years old. I attend Verdes R. Carter Middle School and I am in the eighth grade. I am very interested in being apart of the Youth Advisory Commission.

I believe that I would be a great addition to the Youth Commission because I am a determined worker, a fantastic leader, I have my personal opinions, and I am very friendly.

Some issues and problems I feel youth face in our schools and communities are drugs, violence, peer pressure, and no

encouragement. These problems can be solved by getting a role model in our community and letting kids know that drugs and violence isn't the answer.

The first thing I'd do to begin to address some of these problems through youth commissions and the City of Oakland would be to get speakers within our schools to encourage kids. After that I'd make a campaign against drugs and violence.

My dreams and future plans for

education and professionalism are to be apart of the Youth Advisory Commission,

10/27/05

set an example for future leaders, and to make a difference within my community. I'd like to become a better leader as I see fit. My plans are to carry out my Leadership abilities, and to get others involved in the Youth Commissions. I want to go to Howard University and get my medical degree. From there I want to be a Pediatrician. If I am selected, you will be amazed of what I am able to accomplish.

Sincerely,
Breanne Camille Flaherty

Dear Oakland City Council/Mayor

Hi. My name is Connie Ip and I am fourteen-years-old and I am attending Skyline High School. I am an avid enthusiast of school; nothing pleases me more than to do mounds and mounds of homework all while absorbing new information. I am also an extreme bibliophile.

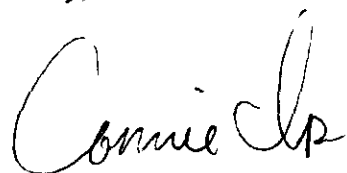
There are many issues in our society, but I believe a major problem is that the youth have a mentality that they cannot succeed, which gradually descends to ignorance and soon enough, violence and crime. Plus, I think that youth today are not complying with etiquette; they speak in a very foul language profusely that it has been a great distraction to the school community. If power was vested to me to resolve these issues, I would start informing people of these problems and campaign for a solution to it.

I will be a great addition to the youth commission; I am very devoted to whatever I am passionate about, which is currently, to be a representative on the youth commission, and I have a strong sense of urge to ameliorate the society I am living in. Also, I am an extremely motivated person and when I pursue something and I do more than what is expected of me.

In the future, I will attend a prominent university and obtain my B.A. degree while graduating summa cum laude. Afterwards, I will go to graduate school. I am not certain what my major will be, but time will tell.

I am looking very forward to working with you and I hope this letter has been helpful in review of my application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Ip". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'C'.

Olivia Lau

October 21, 2005

Dear Mayor and City Council members,

I am Olivia Lau, and I am writing this letter to convey my interest in the youth commission program. I attended school at the East Bay French American School in Berkeley, Pre-K through 8th grade. There, I learned English, in addition to becoming fluent in French. Currently, I go to Bishop O'Dowd High School as a sophomore. Though I do not participate in school sports, I contribute to other activities. I am an officer for my school's Asian Student Alliance and also a co-founder of the Esperanto Union. I am also a Dragon Ambassador for my school. My duty as an ambassador is to give parents and 8th graders a tour of Bishop O'Dowd.

After graduating from high school, I plan to enroll in a college. Though my hope is to study abroad in London or go to New York, but my mother needs me to stay near by. When I finally graduate from college, I would then decide whether or not to continue another few years for graduate school. For me, the far future is ambiguous. At this moment in time, I have no precise idea of what I would like to pursue as my career. But I would like my future career to encompass helping others positively – like a teacher or doctor.

One issue that faces the Oakland youth concerns, is one of the most important – education. The schools in the district are deprived, putting the children at a disadvantage. With the school conditions, it compels some to attend public schools, while the not as fortunate are forced to attend public schools. I would work with other members of the youth commission help resolve this issue.

I think that I would be a great asset for the Youth Advisory Commission because have all the qualities needed to make this program the most fruitful. I am enthusiastic and dedicated with everything I engage in, and this will be one of them. As I am not part of many activities, I have time to fully participate. I have to offer my organizational and creative skills, too.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Olivia Lau

Rec'd 10/27/05 akt

Rocio Molina

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Oakland, CA

My name is Rocio Molina and I am a 15 year old Mexican American. I have lived in Oakland all my life and gone to its public schools up to eighth grade. Upon graduating from middle school I was awarded the title of valedictorian and I have always kept good grades. School and the responsibilities that come with it take up a lot of my time but when I have time I love reading. I can read anything but I like fiction mainly.

I have many plans for my future. I am planning on going to a UC or ivy league college and studying medicine. I plan to become a great doctor and traveling to third world countries helping the people that need help the people who need it most. After a couple of years of this I plan to settle in the US once more and starting my own medical center for people under the poverty line.

Many problems in the Community I live in have to do with the amount of time youths have on their hands these days. I believe that if there were more after school activities that youth could get interested in they would not have so much time to join gangs, do graffiti, or drugs. I don't mean just tutoring programs or student government but things that everyone can enjoy. For example, at my old school we only had one sports team, a basketball one but many other people that do not like basketball had nothing to do. These programs would also make working parents who can't always keep a watch on their kids more comfortable.

To the Honorable Mayor Jerry Brown and City Council:

My name is Jasmine Moore and I am requesting to be appointed to the Youth Advisory Commission. Since reading the Youth Advisory Commission's website, I developed a strong interest in serving on the Commission. I would like to actively participate in local government so that I can make sure that Oakland youth have a role and a voice in the policy and budget decisions that impact their lives.

I am currently a senior and honor roll student at St. Elizabeth High School in Oakland where I serve as Senior Class President and Yearbook Editor. During my junior year, I served as Junior Class President and Vice President of the Pacific Island Asian-American Club. I am also, a member of the Wall Street Wizards Financial Literacy and Career Education Program. This program is designed to teach Oakland youth about the world of finance, the careers associated with it, and college preparation. In my free time, I enjoy video editing and reading.

I am especially concerned that there are not enough educational enrichment programs for youth in my community. Oakland youth need to be aware of the educational programs available to them, outside of school, which will help them to prepare for college. To address this issue, I would advocate the need for non-profit organizations, who provide extra-curricular educational enrichment programs and who receive funding from the City of Oakland's Kids First! Fund, to publicize their services in throughout the public and private school systems and at recreation centers in Oakland.

I would be a great addition to the Youth Advisory Commission because I am a hard worker who believe that dedication and commitment is the key to succeeding in any endeavor.

My goals are to attend the University of California, at Irvine and major in criminology. After I obtain my BS degree in criminology, I plan to attend law school and become an attorney. My future goal is to open my own law firm and provide legal representation for those in my community who cannot afford an attorney.

Being appointed to the Youth Advisory Commission will be a welcome challenge, one in which I plan to face with my enthusiasm for learning, dedication and commitment.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Moore

Rec'd 10/26/05.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Andy Nguyen. As an individual, I consider myself a young man of Vietnamese-American heritage. I am currently fifteen years of age. My background with youth and different organizations includes: the San Antonio Unity community newspaper, Oakland Ready to Learn assistant, St. Anthony Year Round School tutor, St. Joseph Notre Dame-Designated Campus Minister, and the San Antonio Community Development center. In my past experiences, I have helped in the organization of events (including the 25th avenue block party and masses at my school.) As one who has participated in past OYC events, I also have experience and knowledge to what the OYC does as an organization. I have also attended several conferences and retreats where I have learned leadership skills.

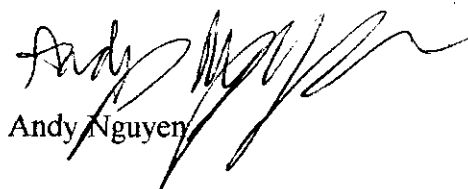
In today's world, I feel that the most serious problem facing youth is apathy. There are many youth out there who do not care about what circumstances they are placed in. They may complain about it, but they refuse to do productive things about it. I also feel that youth violence is another problem. Not only violence, but some of the factors that can lead to violence, including: lack of after-school activities, poverty, etc.

As an Oakland Youth Commissioner I would try to bring these problems to the proper city officials. I would speak up for those lacking the means to speak up for themselves. I would try to become a link in the chain of understanding between adults and youth. I feel that getting youth active inside the local government or at least more active in their communities would also be a step I would like to take because this would present a united youth front.

I feel that I would be a great addition to the Oakland Youth Commission because one of my strongest points is data analysis. I pride myself on sensibility and being able to compromise to reach feasible goals. I feel that the OYC, as an organization set to make a difference, would benefit from having me because I would bring prudence to the commission. With clear and reachable goals, I feel that anything can be more successful.

In the immediate future, I would just like to maintain my positions in my community. I want to grow as an individual; becoming more influential. When I am an adult I would like to work as a family doctor. I enjoy working with other people, they keep me on my feet. I also would like to keep involved in the community I currently live in, the San Antonio.

With gratitude,


Andy Nguyen

Hello Mayor Jerry Brown and City Council members,

My name is Rickey Michael Robinson and I was born in Oakland, California on March 26, 1988. I am an only child who was raised by my mother for the majority of my life. I have seen and done many different things throughout my life but mainly focused on the city of Oakland because I have been most familiar with it and I was raised in Oakland. I am a person who would be considered a leader in every aspect of life and I am very caring when it comes to helping the community or uplifting the community. I am a Christian and I have all faith in GOD. I have many plans for the future which include going to a four year university by the next year and managing businesses for the city of Oakland. I have worked on the Oakland Youth Commission for the past 3 years now.

I feel that there are many issues and problems that youth face in their schools and communities today. Some specific problems that youth throughout Oakland face today is *having too much time on their hands due to the lack of after school programs*. This causes them to get into trouble with each other and the law. There are programs and organizations that individuals could possibly join but they don't have the resources to find out about them. For younger kids they are taking use of these organizations but for youth mainly focusing on middle and high school students they have grown out of these organizations and need more up to date and helpful places to go. There is also a lack of things to do for youth in Oakland on the weekends, which is why there has been a high violence and murder rate in the past.

As a member of the Oakland Youth Commission I would try to help establish more youth programs for teens on the weekends. I think it would be best to take surveys throughout the middle and high schools in Oakland on what youth would like to do the

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most that would be positive and a way to include everybody. I feel that I have a very strong voice as a youth myself and youth listen to youth more than adults because they can relate to us so I would be a very strong addition to the youth commission.

I feel that a very strong connection and good understanding between the youth in Oakland and the city officials of Oakland is always helpful because you guys as the city is what approves of us. I would really love to continue to be on the Oakland Youth Commission to be able to interact with the city officials about how you see youth? And what's going on with youth in Oakland today? Being on the youth commission to me is very important because we as the youth are able to have our voice heard for all youth.

Rickey M. Robinson

Renato Rocha

October 25, 2005

Oakland's Youth Commission Application

Letter of Intent

To Whom It May Concern:

During my summer internship at the Oakland Mayor's Office I learned that some of the many issues that are affecting youth today are truancy, violence, and teen pregnancy. After being involved with Coro I have started to look in to these issues in more depth by a conducting logic study on how youth can obtain a higher education and workshops with youth on how truancy affects the school budget. Also the Latino youth are faced with school drop out problems even in the middle school level. I believe the cause of this problem may be a lack of motivation and a tendency not to set goals for themselves. Youth leaders in our community have a responsibility to do something about these issues and I believe the Oakland's Youth Commission is the *perfect place to start* for a youth. If a part of the Oakland's Youth Commission I will be creative to find solutions to the problems brought to the table and support the growing youth movement in Oakland.

ns-3A 10/26/05 rk

Lexus Monae Stomas

January 12, 2006

Mayor Jerry Brown & City Council
Youth Advisory Commission
150 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4211
Oakland CA 94612

Dear Mayor Jerry Brown & City Council

My name is Lexus Monae Stomas, I am an enthusiastic, energetic fourteen year old freshman, currently attending Concord High School. I attend First African Methodist Episcopal Church in Oakland under the Leadership of Reverend Dr. Harold R. Mayberry.

As I am striving to broaden my horizon, I am gravitating more towards developing leadership skills, public speaking skills, writing and debating skills. I am also interested in engaging in international issues, discovering other cultures and promoting social development while enhancing personal growth.

The youth in my community struggle with low-self esteem, which has ultimately led to substance abuse, alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, lack of educational support in the schools as well as violence in the schools, because of hurting youth who hurt other youth.

I am a firm believer if you are not a part of the solution; you are a part of the problem.

In addressing some of these problems, I would write a proposal to encourage the youth, through seminars on character building for young people to elevate the self-esteem of the youth and to possibly decrease teen pregnancy, when one feels good about themselves, you don't look for happiness or satisfaction in others. I would encourage more extra curricular activities and part-time jobs in the communities so that the youth could possibly earn educational credits in school.

If I am given an opportunity to serve on the Youth Advisory Commission, I feel that I would be a great addition, because I am active in various communities, which enables me to obtain a variety of ideas and also submit ideas to encourage youth all over.

I am currently an applicant for the youth leadership explore program for the Concord Police Department and I am also an applicant for Mount Diablo Medical Center.

I plan to complete my high school and college education as I work towards becoming a pediatrician. I was given the privilege to serve as an intern at the San Ramon Medical Center last year as a part of my 8th grade studies under the Supervision of Dr. Donna Carey, Pediatrician. It was a wonderful experience and an opportunity of a lifetime.

Thank you in advance for taking time out of your busy schedule to review my resume and letter.

Sincerely,


Lexus Monae Stomas

*

[REDACTED]

Letter of Intent:

To Mr. Jerry Brown and the Oakland City Council:

My name is Annie Takahashi. I am a 4th generation Asian American, specifically Korean American and Japanese American, which both have some influence on me in my life; however, for the most part, my family and I are pretty Americanized. I am also an only child, which can have its benefits and downsides. I have a lot of space, which at times can become boring, but to me that is what friends are for—to be there for you, and just enjoy each other's company. My parents are really supportive of me, and truly try their hardest to provide me with as many opportunities as possible, the Oakland Youth Commission being one of them. For them, I am really thankful, because they have sacrificed a lot for me, especially in my education and extra curricular activities. My mom is lawyer for a firm in Oakland called Wulfsberg Reese Colvig & Firstman, meaning she goes out of town a lot. I've actually learned to live with this, and because of her business trips, I've gotten the experience of traveling to New York multiple times, and going on my first vacation to Hawaii (very fun I must say!) My dad is a professor and administrator at UC Berkeley, so because of him, I get to attend many events at the university, exposing me to many different issues that are going on in the world. My dad really helps me with my plans for college, and he's already taken me to visit a few universities. Also, because I have been going to the Cal Bears games since I was barely able to walk, I have definitely become an avid Cal fan, meaning that I go to every football game played at home during the season. Throughout my life, I have been involved in many organizations, camps, and things like that, way too many to keep track of and way too many to name, but most pertain to my hobbies and interests. I currently play the piano, going on about 7 years now, and I play basketball in an Asian American league. During the winter, when I have time, I love to go skiing, normally up at Bear Valley. And when my mom gets back from Michigan, we're going to take yoga together. Other interests I have are pretty common I guess you could say: art, socializing, traveling, music, sports, and just hanging out with my friends. That pretty much sums up me!

In Oakland, there are many issues I feel we need to tackle, the public schools is one of them. In general, California has a big budget deficit when it comes to the schools, but I think it is more dominant in Oakland. I personally decided to go to a private school for high school, because I thought that I would receive a better education, and I still believe that I will. But there are those who can't afford to go to different schools, and have no choice but to go to the public school within their district or another Oakland Public School. I know that Oakland is working to improve their schools, but they're still not close to being where they need to be. My cousin goes to a public school in San Mateo, and in my opinion, she receives about the same level education as I do at Bishop O'Dowd and she doesn't have to pay for it. Now that's saying something. Perhaps all the schools should offer academies like the Engineering Program and the Paidea Program at Oakland Tech, to ensure that kids will end up where they would like to end up. I know that the school district is making a great effort, and that's wonderful, but more people need to take action. And truthfully, I'm not sure where to start, but Oakland must start

Annie Takahashi

somewhere if they want to get anywhere. Another problem I think Oakland has been faced with is parent involvement. Parents blame the schools and the teachers, but most never think to look at themselves. I know we can't just go to every home to ensure that involvement occurs, but maybe if we have more mentoring kind of programs that might help a bit to steer people in the right direction. More available programs in general would be nice, or maybe I just don't know about the available programs, so perhaps more advertisement of the programs. Sports organizations are great, I mean look where Marshawn Lynch and Leon Powe are at now—UC Berkeley! And my friend at Tech, tells me that both come by the schools, along with Robert Jordan, too. This is a superb idea, because then kids can see that they too can go somewhere. Along with athletes, there are musicians and artists. There are so many people from Oakland and the Bay Area who are making a name for themselves and leading a full life. And I'm sure that there will be more to come. So far, those are a few ideas and a few solutions, although I'm not sure if they'll work, but anything is worth a try. These issues are why I want to be on the Oakland Youth Commission—so I can make a stand and a difference within our community.

For college, I would love to either stay in California and potentially attend a UC, or go to the East Coast and attend a school there. I know total opposites, but I can't get enough of either of them, and I really don't know much about what's in the middle of the two, so that's how that decision came to be. The colleges I would like to attend in the future or apple to are: UCLA, USC, UC Berkeley, Stanford, UCSD, NYU, Columbia, Harvard, and Yale. I have high expectations for myself, and hopefully will achieve and follow through with them. I'd like to go to graduate school after college at one of the universities that I listed above, too. So as to my future profession, I'm not quite sure, but I have an idea of the careers I might want to do. When I was younger, I really wanted to be a grocery store bagger—I mean I even had the fake fruit, and a little play scanner that I made—but luckily, I have grown out of that stage. Now I'm thinking of being a lawyer like my mother, a doctor because I love all those medical shows and it looks intriguing, or some role in the media (not like the tabloids or anything, or even an actress, or singer). I might even combine two of the three professions, and be an entertainment lawyer or something like that. All I know is that I want to do something that is related to those three careers. And of course, I'd like to lead a successful life, and not just financially either. But I'd like to do something that has a purpose or means something to someone. So this letter pretty much explains my current life and aspirations. I hope you enjoyed reading it, and that it gives you a good sense of why I want to be a part of the Oakland Youth Commission.

Sincerely,

Annie Takahashi

10/26/05

Dear Mayor or City Council,

My name is Diana Tran and I am eighteen years old. I'm currently attending Saint Mary's College of California. The area where I grew up symbolizes corruption of our social community. The first time I witnessed a gang fight that involved stabbing was during second grade. The first time I was harassed by a group of teenagers was in second grade also. There were many times where I've seen my neighbors or strangers get beaten in the middle of the street by their rivals or by their family members. The victims of this case started to rely on drugs, which they think are helping them cope with reality. There are elementary children that have already witnessed and experienced violence in their own lives. It's disturbing to know, because young children are living in innocence. Children know nothing of the world and for them to experience such a disaster is troubling. The neighborhood I was raised in was filled with violence, but I maintained isolated from the neighborhood corruption.

If I was appointed as one of the youth commissioners, I'll attempt to achieve as many of the goals in the process of youth improvement. Many of my experiences have correlation to the corruption of the youth community; therefore, I am able to relate to the proportion of youth who are currently experiencing the worst of the worst. There are numerous of people, including myself that can be portrayed to the youth as a model. When I say model, I mean someone who can be an example to the youth. A person that is able to turn ones misfortune experiences to become positive effect on their own lives. For instance, a very close friend of mines use to be understanding and determined on every subject, but after a while she relied on drugs to cope with the abuse that she receives from her family members. It breaks my heart to see her turn into an entirely different person and the fact that I never seen her sober ever since she started using the drug, which was a four years ago. Whenever I see her or talk to her, I become more aware and determined to work harder in school and be understanding among all people. I try my best to avoid judgment. I am interested in organizing events and meetings about improving the youth community. "To pull them out of the dark hole."

I have many goals to achieve in my lifetime. After I graduate from Saint Mary's College, majoring in business, I plan to attend graduate school to receive my Ph D. Moreover, I want my future profession to engage in non-profit humanitarian work. I always wanted to establish my own non-profit organization against poverty and youth corruption. I also plan to help build primary schools where it is most needed and open orphanages where abandoned children can be nurture properly. I will try my best in any way to prevent violence, prostitution, hunger, and drug usage in our society.

Sincerely,

Diana Tran

Rec'd 10/26/05 akt

Applicant's Signature: Diana Tran

Date: 10/24/05

Youth Advisory Commission

Application

Supplemental Questions

Why do you wish to serve as a member of the Youth Advisory Commission?	I grew up in a troubling neighborhood in Oakland where social issues have made me more determined then ever to contribute to the improvement of the community.
What experience do you have in youth issues?	I worked with Filipino Affirmative Action, The National Hip Hop Committee and East Bay Votes which are all associated on the improvement of the youth community.
What experience do you have on boards and/or commissions? (Don't worry if you don't have any!)	At this moment, I'm the assistant coordinator for the men's section at Saint Vincent De Paul's Homeless Dining Room located in West Oakland.
What organizations are you a member of?	I am a member of Saint Vincent De Paul's Homeless Dining Room and also a member of the National Hip Hop Committee.
What volunteer activities are you involved in?	I am currently involved in coordinating activities among volunteers at the Homeless Dining Room Center.
What other interests and hobbies do you have that may benefit this commission?	I am highly interested in painting, drawing, organizing events, engaging in community service, participating in discussions, voicing my opinion, attending any event, and very active. I like to work hard by keeping myself occupied with work.
How did you hear about the youth commission?	I heard about the position from my FAA Leader, Rosalie through the email that she has sent me.

Approximately how many hours do you have available to spend on Youth Advisory Commission Activities each month?	Max. is 10 hours.
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November 1, 2005

To The Mayor Jerry Brown and City Council

My history is very simple only because I am young. I am sixteen years old and currently attend Saint Joseph Notre Dame High School. I am African-American, Creole, and Dominican. Although I have such a mixture of races most people just think I am African-American because I am dark skinned. Many people also think that I should speak Spanish, but I do not speak Spanish fluently.

I attend a private school, but I have many friends that attend public schools in Oakland and they face problems that I have never even thought about. Such problems include the ratio of students to teachers, the skill of the teachers, violence in the schools, and the mentorship from the counselors is not very sufficient.

In my community, violence is a factor for youth. I observe the options for youth in my community and trouble seems to be the only alternative route. There are no positive surroundings or things to do for the youth after school and on the weekends. I feel that if there are more positive outlets and opportunities in the community, then the youth would take advantage of them because when one leads then more will follow.

I would be a great addition to the commission because I have served on it one time before so I know most of the whereabouts of the commission and I could pass the knowledge on to the new commissioners.

I want to be a psychiatrist when I get older. After high school I want to attend Clark Atlanta University and Morehouse Medical School. The Youth Commission is a great way to get involved in a positive way in my community to help provide outreach to other youth.

Thank You,

Patrick Sean Weston

rec'd 11/1/05 akf

Loften Gray
B-09-06

Letter of Intent

1. Born and raised in East Oakland. Father passed at 2 and my Mother works. I live with my Grandma Laron who isn't big on activities, but she loves me like the flowers. Born and raised in East Oakland so you know I went to OUSD. From the 1st at my summer stills and my "Ability to work properly" well let's say I score a 470 - the SATs. I have dreams as wide as the Universe and faith that is like the Sun.

2. ~~A~~ There is money, but no Corbett. People don't Corbett themselves enough to prioritize.

3. Most people (especially African Americans) don't love themselves and from a lack of love comes a lack of care. They want see their grandkids.

4. There is a long list of issues such as No Jobs, Love education, No financial education, No will, No Parents, No Mentors, etc.

5. ~~A~~ ~~Support~~ Build an African American Job Center
Support the current organizations

6. I am a beautiful person who wants change.

7. I'm attending a well known college for small to study.

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

RESOLUTION APPOINTING EDWARD BARAONA, GLENDA FROST, MALCOLM GAINES, CRAIG GENTRY, KATRINA GILBERT, BREANNE CAMILLE GLADNEY, CONNIE IP, OLIVIA LAU, ROCIO MOLINA, JASMINE MOORE, ANDY NGUYEN, RICKEY MICHEAL ROBINSON, RENATO ROCHA, LEXUS MONAE STROMAS, ANNIE TAKAHASHI, DIANA TRAN, PATRICK SEAN WESTON, AND LAFIEA GARY AS MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 10545 C.M.S. creates the Youth Advisory Commission, whose members are nominated by the Mayor and approved by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 11869 C.M.S. specifies that members of the Youth Advisory Commission are to serve two year terms, and appointments to fill a term of office are only to be for the remainder of that term; and

RESOLVED, that by the nomination of the Mayor Jerry Brown the following individuals are hereby appointed to the term set forth below:

Edward Baraona, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning June 30, 2004 and ending June 30, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Samantha Lee.

Glenda Frost, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning June 30, 2004 and ending June 30, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Monica Bogans.

Malcolm Gaines, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning June 30, 2004 and ending June 30, 2006, filling position formerly held by Amber Cox.

Craig Gentry, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning June 30, 2004 and ending June 30, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Eduardo Garcia.

Katrina Gilbert, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning June 30, 2004 and ending June 30, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Audarius Goins.

Breanne Camille Gladney, as Commissioner, to the term beginning June 30, 2004 and ending June 30, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Rhonda Goodwin.

Connie Ip, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning June 30, 2004 and ending June 30, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Symantha Victoria Murdock

Olivia Lau, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning June 30, 2004 and ending June 30, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Alasha Raynor.

Rocio Molina, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning June 30, 2004 and ending June 30, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Joshua Rose.

Jasmine Moore, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning June 30, 2004 and ending June 30, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Kimberly Steele.

Andy Nguyen, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning June 30, 2004 and ending June 30, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Kimberly Wong.

Rickey Michael Robinson, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning June 30, 2004 and ending June 30, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Samuel Styles.

Renato Rocha, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning June 30, 2004 and ending June 30, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Sophia Mey.

Lexus Monae Stromas, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning June 30, 2005 and ending June 30, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Belaynesh Legesse.

Annie Takahashi, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning November 2, 2004 and ending November 2, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Ricky Marshall.

Diana Tran, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning November 2, 2004 and ending November 2, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Marquis Ransom.

Patrick Sean Weston, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning November 2, 2004 and ending November 2, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Alexis Smith.

Lafiea Gary, as Commissioner, to serve the term beginning November 30, 2004 and ending November 30, 2006, filling a position formerly held by Shamelia McClain.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

**AYES- BRUNNER, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, BROOKS, REID, CHANG, AND PRESIDENT DE LA
FUENTE**

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

ATTEST:

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California