



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**SANTA BARBARA YOUTH COUNCIL**

**Monday**  
**January 12, 2026**  
**5:15 p.m.**

**Westside Neighborhood Center**  
**423 W. Victoria Street**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** General Public Comment is held at the beginning of the meeting, and public comments on items listed on the agenda will occur after the discussion of that item. The total amount of time for General Public Comment is 15 minutes. Each speaker will be given a total of 2 minutes to address the Santa Barara Youth Council. Pooling of time is not allowed during general public comment. Members of the public wishing to comment on a matter on the agenda must indicate that they would like to make a public comment prior to the conclusion of the discussion for the item.

**IN-PERSON PUBLIC COMMENT:** Members of the public wishing to make an in-person public comment must complete a "Request to Speak" form and submit it prior to the time Public Comment is taken up by the Youth Council.

**WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT:** Written public comment regarding items on the agenda or any matters not listed on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the Santa Barbara Youth Council, may be emailed to [NMorgan@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:NMorgan@SantaBarbaraCA.gov). All written public comments will be provided to Youth Councilmembers and will become part of the public record. Comments received no later than 24 hours before the meeting will be submitted to the Youth Councilmembers prior to the meeting.

**REPORTS:** Copies of reports relating to agenda items are available for review in the office of the Westside Neighborhood Center, 423 West Victoria Street or online at the City's website ([SantaBarbaraCA.gov/YouthCouncil](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/YouthCouncil)). Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Community Services Section after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the Westside Neighborhood Center located at 423 West Victoria Street, during normal business hours.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need auxiliary aids or services or staff assistance to attend or participate in this meeting, please contact Nicole Morgan, 805-897-2582. If possible, notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will usually enable the City to make reasonable arrangements. Specialized services, such as sign language interpretation or documents in Braille, may require additional lead time to arrange.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Nick Gaston called the meeting to order at 5:21 p.m.

## **ROLL CALL**

### **Youth Council Members**

Amelia Leonardi, present  
Bella Warmerdam, present  
Carlos Vazquez, present at 6:30 p.m.  
Carter Saunders, present  
Ellie Cogert, present  
Frida Hernandez Pulido, present  
Julia Kramer, present

Julia Probstel, absent  
Layla Llewellyn, absent  
Nicholas Gaston, present  
Piper McGinnis, present  
Rumi Jahangir-Arshad, excused  
Sindy Zavala, present  
Wyatt Wagner, present

### **Junior High Representatives**

None

### **Staff Present**

Nicole Morgan, Youth Council Advisor

### **Liaisons Present**

None

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **STAFF AND LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS**

Nicole Morgan welcomed new Youth Council members, Warmerdam, Cogert, Kramer, Probstel and McGinnis.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

### **1. Approval of the Minutes – For Action (Attachment)**

Recommendation: That the Youth Council waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Monday, December 15, 2025.

It was moved and seconded by Youth Council members Leonardi and Gaston respectively, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting Monday, December 15, 2025.

All in favor. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Teen Drug Awareness Survey and Presentation – For Action**

Recommendation: That the Youth Council discuss and approve receiving a presentation from the Santa Barbara Police Department and assist with completing an awareness survey.

It was moved and seconded by Youth Council members Jahangir-Arshad and Cogert respectively, to move forward with receiving the presentation and survey from the Santa Barbara Police Department.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Youth Council members requested that staff communicate specific questions to be incorporated in the presentation.

- What is the job title and role of the presentation team?
- How is the SBPD investigating and enforcing laws against local shops selling to minors? What is being done?
- What is considered a substance?
- Can SBYC aid in distributing the survey? Will there be a follow-up presentation after data is collected and used?

### **2. Harriet Miller Youth Leadership Award – For Action**

Recommendation: That the Youth Council discuss the application timeline for the 2025 Harriet Miller Youth Leadership Award and form a subcommittee of 3 to 4 members to review scholarship applications.

It was moved and seconded by Youth Council members Gaston and Cogert respectively, to form and approve the subcommittee members that will meet virtually on February 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Amelia Leonardi  
Wyatt Wagner  
Ellie Cogert  
Nick Gaston  
Julia Kramer

All in favor. Motion carried.

## **YOUTH MAKING CHANGE PLANNING**

### **1. Youth Making Change Event Planning – For Discussion**

Recommendation: That the Youth Council continue working in groups to plan the 2026 Youth Speak Out.

Members met in their topic groups to brainstorm table discussions and activities for the Youth Speak Out.

Anti-Discrimination

Carlos Vazquez  
Rumi Jahangir-Arshad  
Frida Hernandez Pulido  
Amelia Leonardi

Sustainability

Piper McGinnis  
Wyatt Wagner

Public Safety

Sindy Zavala  
Carter Saunders  
Bella Warmerdam

Mental Wellness

Julia Kramer  
Ellie Cogert  
Nick Gaston

**COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

**1. Youth Council Updates – For Discussion**

Recommendation: That each Youth Councilmember take up to two minutes to update the public on specific current issues or events.

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Next regular meeting:

**Westside Neighborhood Center  
423 W. Victoria Street  
Monday, February 2, 2026**