



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
REGULAR MEETING
SANTA BARBARA YOUTH COUNCIL

Monday
February 2, 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 Barbara 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. 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). 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

Carlos Vazquez called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Youth Council Members

Amelia Leonardi, absent
Bella Warmerdam, present
Carlos Vazquez, present
Carter Saunders, present
Ellie Cogert, present
Frida Hernandez Pulido, present
Julia Kramer, absent

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

Junior High Representatives

None

Staff Present

Nicole Morgan, Youth Council Advisor

Liaisons Present

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

STAFF AND LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Nicole Morgan – Congratulations to the SBYC for receiving funding from the Youth Making Change Grant.

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, January 12, 2026.

It was moved and seconded by Youth Council members Zavala and Gaston respectively, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting Monday, January 12, 2026.

All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Teen Drug Awareness Survey and Presentation – For Information

Recommendation: That the Youth Council receive a presentation from the Santa Barbara Police Department regarding Drug Awareness.

2. Youth Council Applicant Interview Dates – For Action

Recommendation: That the Youth Council approve the following dates for Youth Council applicant interviews for the Spring 2026 Recruitment cycle.

It was moved and seconded by Youth Council members Cogert and Gaston respectively, to approve the following Youth Council applicant interview schedule.

- Monday, March 16, 2026
- Monday, April 6, 2026
- Monday, April 20, 2026
- Monday, May 4, 2026

All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Presentation from Sustainability and Resilience – For Action

Recommendation: That the Youth Council brainstorm questions for the Sustainability and Resilience presentation on February 23, 2026.

The Youth Council brainstormed the following questions.

- Are there current projects or collaboration that involve the Sustainability & Resilience Department and teens?
- What does Sustainability & Resilience mean?
- Does the Department work with non-profits and groups to tackle topics like climate anxiety?
- What are current projects and next steps for the S&R Dept.?
- How does Santa Barbara compare to other cities?
- Does the Department receive support from other groups like the Community Environmental Council?
- Are there non-profit organizations for the Channel Islands? If so, do they work directly with the Department?
- Are there accessible and free water fountains downtown?
- How can we develop a similar outlook on minimizing waste and littering as other cultures?
- Is the department involved with the Bucket Brigade and building new trails and paths?
- Is there a Roomba for streets or machines that can assist with trash clean-up?
- Is there a reason why there is more of a focus on community clean-ups in more affluent parts of Santa Barbara vs lower-income areas?

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 – focus: ICE

Carlos Vazquez
Rumi Jahangir-Arshad
Frida Hernandez Pulido
Amelia Leonardi

Sustainability -focus: access to resources/climate anxiety

Piper McGinnis
Wyatt Wagner

Public Safety – focus: drug abuse

Sindy Zavala
Carter Saunders
Bella Warmerdam

Mental Wellness – focus: access to resources, general anxiety about current events

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 7:07 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Next special meeting:

**Westside Neighborhood Center
423 W. Victoria Street
Monday, February 23, 2026**