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City Praises YAC Commitment and Support



Perris City Councilmembers, administrators and guests listen to presentations during the recent Youth Advisory Committee appreciation luncheon: (front row) City Councilwoman Rita Rogers, Assistant City Manager Darren Madkin, City Councilwoman Tonya Burke and her daughter, Jaylyn, a member of the YAC. (Back row) Mayor Michael Vargas with his daughter, Brittany; Perris City Manager Richard Belmudez and City Councilman Malcolm Corona.

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The City of Perris gave a huge shout-out to members of the Youth Advisory Committee, thanking the teenagers for their hundreds of hours of volunteer work and support of community events throughout the last year.

Perris Mayor Michael Vargas and City Councilmembers Tonya Burke, Malcolm Corona and Rita Rogers took part in a celebratory luncheon, each praising the YAC for improving the lives of City residents by their commitment and community spirit.

City Manager Richard Belmudez led a group of municipal administrators who also attended the luncheon.

YAC members donated 248 hours of volunteer time in the last year, organized events like monthly "open mic nights" and anti-bullying and distracted-driving symposiums and supported major Perris events like the health fair, Rods & Rails festival and municipal parades.

"Our YAC members are great assets to our community," Vargas said. "Their contributions to our City are very valuable. It's great to say thank you for all they've done to make an impact on our City."

Burke, whose daughter, Jaylyn, is a YAC member, called the contributions of the teenage volunteers "tremendously significant" to Perris.

"The creation of the YAC is one of the best things that's happened to our City," Burke said. "To be able to contribute to the development of our future leaders is very important. Our YAC members will be our future doctors and lawyers and who knows, maybe president of the United States."

Corona echoed such sentiments.

"It is important to appreciate and to show support for our youth who are contributing so much to our City," Corona said.



Outgoing YAC member Viviana Pavon-Cortés, who is heading off to Northern Arizona University, receives a laundry basket and other necessities for college during the recent appreciation luncheon.

Rogers said she is glad to support members of the youth advisory committee for the "wonderful things they are doing for our City."

"They have become an integral part of our City and they are doing great work on behalf of Perris," she said.

Youth Advisory Committee members must be:

- 13 to 18 years of age
- Meet minimum grade point averages
- Be able to meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month
- Be available to work on special YAC projects which includes meeting on weekends and/or after school, work City events as needed on weekends, and attend special functions within Perris and at other City locations
- Attend and successfully complete mandatory professional development classes

Applications for the 2018-2019 academic year are anticipated to be available starting February 1, 2018 and will be due May 1, 2018.



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