

MOTION

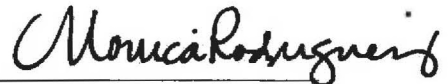
Youth comprise nearly one-third of the City's population (1.3 million), yet their voices and experiences are often underrepresented in political decision-making. Youth Advisory Councils can play an important role in educating, engaging and empowering youth to participate in City government. They also offer students the opportunity to discuss community issues and find ways to translate their passion into action.

Mayor Tom Bradley was instrumental in creating the City's Youth Advisory Council (The Council) in 1974. The Council taught young people about local government and offered young leaders a voice in City Hall. The Council met monthly to learn about city issues, engaged elected officials and made policy recommendations to the Los Angeles City Council. This early introduction to politics not only inspired generations of political activism, but also empowered young leaders to push for change in their communities. Exposing young people to the role of government can inspire service to their community as evidenced by the alumni of the program. Former Councilmembers Wendy Gruel and Tom LaBonge served on the Youth Advisory Council as did current Councilmembers Mark Ridley-Thomas and Paul Koretz.

Olivia Mitchell, a member of Mayor Bradley's staff and city treasure, was critical to the success of the Youth Advisory Council. She oversaw the Youth Advisory Council and mentored thousands of youth and civic leaders, including Tom LaBonge. Mitchell also served as the first director of the City of Los Angeles Commission for Children, Youth and Their Families in 1995.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, with assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, be directed to create the Olivia Mitchell Youth Council, which will include one male and one female young person per council district who will serve one year terms.

PRESENTED BY:



MONICA RODRIGUEZ

Councilwoman, 7th District


MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

Councilmember, 10th District


PAUL KORETZ

Councilmember, 5th District

FEB 10 2007

SECONDED BY:

