

**METROPOLITAN EDUCATION COMMISSION
YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL/TUCSON TEEN CONGRESS (YAC/TTC)
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2015
PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM,
101 N. STONE AVE., TUCSON, ARIZONA
MEETINGS MINUTES**

Members Present: Maggie Zheng, David Ojeda, Roberto Diaz=Brown, Jazmin Nunez, Arnoldo Martinez, Leshawn Bowen, Ki Huang, Madeline Zheng, Angel Alcorcha, Patrick Derrig, Kyle Hetherington, Ana Mendoza, Nia Moran.

Non-Members Present: Ward 5 Council Member Richard Fimbres, Mark Kerr, Javier Herrera, Ed Nossem.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER – DAVID OJEDA

Meeting called to order at 6:05 P.M.

2.0 ROLL CALL – DAVID OJEDA

Roll was called; a quorum of members was present.

3.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – DAVID OJEDA

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all attendees.

4.0 APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 4, 2015 MEETING MINUTES – DAVID OJEDA

Motion to approve November 4, 2015 minutes: Leshawn Bowen

Second: Maggie Zheng

Minutes approved unanimously.

5.0 WARD 5 CITY COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARD FIMBRES

Ward 5 City Council member Richard Fimbres thanked the YAC/TTC for inviting him to attend the meeting. Mr. Fimbres is a graduate of Tucson High School; was an MEC Commissioner for 7 years; has served on the Tucson City Council since 2009. He, along with his wife Mary, also founded League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Youth Leadership Conference & Career Fair in 1988. The Conference has hosted over 1,200 middle & high school students from across Pima County every year at Pima Community College's West Campus. The MEC and the YAC/TTC has partnered with the LULAC Conference for 25 years.

Council Member Fimbres discussed the fiscal climate of the City – in 2007 the economy started its downturn, and in 2009 the recession started; in 2009 the City had a \$33.5 million budget deficit. The deficit has increased since the state legislature filed suit against the Public Safety Pension Fund. The City needs to reverse the trends, and work to keep companies like Raytheon and the Davis-Monthan Air Force base here as economic engines in the community. Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista also enhances the Southern Arizona economy.

Council member Fimbres asked the youth group what challenges they face. Some that were mentioned are that Tucson doesn't seem prepared for what the world will throw at it; that the quality of schools and education in Tucson is not comparable with some other parts of the country; public transportation issues; lack of school library resources and technology; and deteriorating school infrastructure. Mr. Fimbres urged the students to vote once they are of age (can register at age 17 ½); to encourage their peers and parents to become involved in the political process; and to write letters to elected officials. He recommended writing to Juan Ciscomani, the Director of the Governor's Southern Arizona Office.

6.0 LULAC WORKSHOPS AND THEME DISCUSSION – JAVIER HERRERA

Javier Herrera solicited ideas for the LULAC Youth leadership Conference & Career Fair Workshops. The suggestions from the students were: Financial Literacy (MEC Commissioner Luis Manjarrez has offered to conduct this workshop; College Financial Aid (RCAC and maybe others); Civic Engagement/Political Awareness/Voting 101; Fine Arts Career Options; Public Speaking; Networking/Communications; Sexual Health/Education/STD Awareness; Fundraising for Schools; Steps After High School for Non-College Attendees/Sabbaticals; resume Writing/Employment Searches; Life on College Campus – Mistake Avoidance; Extracurricular Activities In and Out of School; STEM Workshop – Specific Disciplines in STEM; and College Presentations (U of A, ASU, etc.) These suggestions will be brought to the LULAC Planning Committee for consideration.

7.0 YAC/TTC RECRUITMENT- DAVID OJEDA

YAC/TTC members have been recruiting fellow students via word of mouth at their schools. Social media will be vetted and approved by Paul Lovelis before being allowed to be sent out generally. Ed Nossem will send the YAC/TTC application to contacts at Tucson High School in order to get some of their students to join.

8.0 PIMA COUNTY LIBRARY – KENDRA DAVEY

No action.

9.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ed Nossem announced that Ward 1 Council Member Regina Romero is expected to attend the December 2nd YAC/TTC meeting and asked that members attend the meeting.

10.0 CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No action.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion to approve: Maggie Zheng
Second: Kyle Hetherington
Motion carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m