



**Councilmember Henry T. Perea**  
*Representing The Seventh District*

## MEMO

To: Council President Blong Xiong  
Council Members

From: Henry T. Perea, Councilmember

Date: March 4, 2008

Re: Request the City Council direct staff to work with various youth groups to establish a Fresno City Council Youth Advisory Board.

---

It is important that we allow the youth of our City a voice in their future. It is for this reason that I request the City Council direct staff to establish a Fresno City Council Youth Advisory Board.

The Board will serve as a link between the City Council and the youth of Fresno to identify issues that pertain to them. They will communicate their concerns to the City Council and suggest possible City Council action to be taken. I envision the Board working directly with the City Council to suggest agenda items and propose City programs, activities, ordinances and amendments as well as working with the entire community to facilitate better communication and planning on a variety of issues affecting the youth of Fresno.

In Reno, NV a Youth City Council made up of young residents ages 14-18 help plan city wide activities and provide input to the City Council on youth oriented issues. The Mill Creek, WA Youth Advisory Board has participated as volunteers with the City's Public Works Department and for various charity organizations such as Parents Night Out and Special Olympics as well as providing input on various city issues such as their strong support of a skate park at the Mill Creek Sports Park. In Alameda, CA the 11 person Youth Advisory Commission made up of residents between the ages of 14 and 20 review and make recommendations about municipal matters affecting youth to the Mayor, City Council and other Alameda commissions. These three groups are just a small example of the growing importance of Youth Advisory Groups to municipal governments and how such a group could serve the City of Fresno.

The Youth Advisory Board will help to create new leadership in our community, develop good citizens and train youth for future civic responsibility. I believe it is important to listen to our youth when creating laws that will affect their lives. We are determining the future of Fresno and it is time that we listen to the young adults who will one day lead in our place. I feel this is a wonderful opportunity for the youth of Fresno to become more involved in City government and to see how they can make a difference. Again, I respectfully request the City Council direct staff to work with various youth groups to establish a Fresno City Council Youth Advisory Board.