PRESS RELEASE

Councilmember Soria and Council President Baines seek to establish Fresno Youth Commission at June 4th Council Meeting

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRESNO — Councilmember Esmeralda Soria and Council President Oliver Baines will bring forward a city ordinance for a council vote to establish the Fresno Youth Commission during the June 4th Council Meeting at City Hall. "The goal of the Commission is to bring our young people to the decision-making table on issues under the jurisdiction of the City of Fresno where they can serve in an advisory role to the City Council. Through their role they will help create positive change for the youth of Fresno. The commission structure will also provide an opportunity for young people in our city to engage in the local government process." With the adoption of the ordinance, young people will have their voices heard in City affairs and issues of special concern to youth, including crime prevention, jobs for youth, health and wellness, accessible public transportation, recreational facilities and open space.

Yammilette Rodriguez with the Youth Leadership Institute of Central Valley supports the forming of the Youth Commission and stated "This body will offer solutions, advice, and ideas to leaders at City Hall and gives youth a space to advocate for services and programs for themselves and their peers."

The Fresno Youth Commission will be comprised of young people from throughout the city ages 15-22 years old. Commissioners will be appointed by each Councilmember and the Mayor. The Commission is expected to develop and maintain an annual strategic plan and work on youth outreach as well as bring forth their concerns to local government officials.

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