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**Office of Youth Development**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***Youth @ Council: Youth create a more hospitable Council experience for residents while learning important lessons about City government***

**Sacramento, California, March 8, 2010**—Starting Tuesday, March 9, as residents enter Council chambers prepared to speak in favor or against items on the agenda, they will experience a new level of hospitality never before experienced at Council meetings. As part of a new Office of Youth Development program called ***Youth @ Council***, youth volunteers from all corners of Sacramento will enhance the Council-going experience by answering residents' questions, directing them to appropriate meeting documents, and assisting City staff during Council meetings.

The goal of the ***Youth @ Council*** program is to introduce youth to the role of local government, Council procedures and protocols, and to highlight the countless ways youth can influence City policies and programs that impact youth.

Youth who are 13 – 17 years-of-age are eligible to participate in this new program. To participate, they must complete a basic application. Prior to volunteering at Council meetings, each youth is required to take part in a special orientation focused on youth civic engagement, the role of Mayor/Council, Council meeting protocols, and the role of Youth @ Council volunteers. The orientations will take place once a month.

The ***Youth @ Council*** program was developed by the Office of Youth Development, in collaboration with the Clerk's Offices and the nonprofit organization Sacramento ENRICHES. Each youth volunteer will have the opportunity to receive service credit hours, based on their school's policies.

Additional program information and applications can be found on the Office of Youth Development's website, <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Youth-Development/>; and Sacramento ENRICHES' website, [www.sacramentoenriches.org](http://www.sacramentoenriches.org).

Media-related inquiries can be forwarded to Hindolo Brima at (916) 622-8066.

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