

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 08/18/10

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Discussion

For Action

For Information

SUBJECT: Youth Council Endorsement of the Children's Bill of Rights for Merced County

PROPOSED MOTION(S): That the Youth Council endorse the Children's Bill of Rights for Merced County.

DISCUSSION: The Seventh Annual Merced County Children's Summit was held on March 23, 2010, with 320 community representatives in attendance. Attendees adopted the Children's Bill of Rights for Merced County. The Children's Bill of Rights is a vision of what all Merced County children need most to develop and thrive. The Bill, as developed by representatives from throughout the county, is a proclamation of the priority that is placed on caring for children in Merced County. It is anticipated that First 5 Merced County, together with other willing partners, will engage and inform communities about the Bill and sponsor events that aim to make this Bill a reality for Merced County's families.

On May 12, 2010, Mr. Brian Mimura, Executive Director of First 5 Merced County, provided a presentation on the Children's Bill of Rights. The Merced County Board of Supervisors, Merced City Council, Merced County Board of Education, Merced City School District, Family Wellness Council, Los Banos Unified School District, Planada Unified School District, and the Merced County Community Action Agency have all taken action to adopt the Bill. From that meeting, it was requested that a formal endorsement by the Merced County Youth Council be forthcoming.

ATTACHMENT(S): Children's Bill of Rights for Merced County

CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS FOR MERCED COUNTY

PROCLAIMING OUR ASPIRATIONS FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTY

KNOWLEDGEABLE AND PREPARED PARENTS AND PRIMARY CAREGIVERS

1. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO have parents and caregivers who are prepared and educated to become the “most important persons in the world” to their children.

STABLE AND NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS

2. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO have parents and caregivers who recognize and effectively fulfill their responsibilities for nurturing, loving, and supporting their children.

HOME ENVIRONMENTS THAT MAKE LEARNING A PRIORITY

3. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO live in stable home environments with routines that prioritize learning and optimal development, including regular healthy meals, enough sleep, support of learning, good hygiene, and plenty of physical activity.

RICH AND MEANINGFUL LIFE EXPERIENCES

4. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO participate in varied and meaningful enrichment experiences introducing them to the arts, nature, sciences, and cultures, which demonstrate life's beauty, richness, and human potential.

SAFETY AND FREEDOM FROM ABUSE AND VIOLENCE

5. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO live in homes free from mistreatment, abuse, and neglect, and in communities without violence, drug use, and gang influence.

A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

6. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO live and grow in a healthy environment with clean air and water, affordable healthy foods, and spaces safe for exploring, play, and physical activity.

QUALITY HEALTH CARE

7. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO affordable and accessible physical, dental, and mental health care, including early identification and timely services.

EXCEPTIONAL CARE, EDUCATION, AND GUIDANCE

8. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO high-quality care, education, and guidance--from their earliest years through young adulthood--that promote achievement, success in life, and a love for lifelong learning.

DREAM BIG!

9. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO be encouraged to “dream big”, to be challenged, and to live their lives with hope and inspiration.

THE COMMUNITY'S HIGHEST PRIORITY

10. ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO live in a community that demonstrates daily that all of its children are its #1 priority as evidenced through its commitment of time, money, effort, and unified support.