



JUST US 4 YOUTH
MENTOR | HEAL | DEVELOP

363 S. PARK AVE. SUITE 104, POMONA CA 91766

WWW.JU4Y.ORG | INFO@JU4Y.ORG

Just Us 4 Youth

July 25, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting

- I. **Call to Order** – Vice President Peter Hildalgo announced that President Greer would not be at today’s meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:02PM
- II. **Roll Call:** Josie Ramirez called the roll.

Present	Absent
Peter Hildalgo, Vice President Dr. Tina Solorzano, Secretary Kimberly Johnson Jose Rivera Aurora Suarez Artie Delgado Natalie Delgado Sarah Watson Mario Rodriguez – did not answer (was he absent?) Claudia Kidmy Anthony Canontese Staff Eric Vasquez, Executive Director Paul Hudak, Operations Manager Josie Rameriz, Non-Profit Apprentice Dana Garrett, TREE Supervisor Aaron DelaCruz, Creative Arts Lead Giovanni Ayala, ResQ Coordinator	Adrian Greer, President

- III. **Organization Mission Reminder** - Vice President Hildalgo reminded the Board that Just Us 4 Youth was nearly 10 years old with a mission of lifting at-promise youth in Pomona and surrounding cities with objectives to extend our programs statewide then nationwide. He reminded the Board that Just Us 4 Youth is not a faith-based organization.

Vice President Hildago announced the tragic deaths of two JU4Y clients. 17-year-old Jonathan Moran, a valued member of the JU4Y family, was visiting his parents in Sacramento and was fatally stuck by a car. He reported that a Gofundme account was set up by the family to help with funeral expenses. In addition, he reported that a pregnant STAY client recently lost her unborn baby’s father, a result of gang violence. Vice President asked for a moment of silence and extended thoughts and wishes to the families. Member N. Delgado requested more information on the STAY client. Director Vasquez indicated he would send the Board a Director’s Report shortly that will include information regarding



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the Moran Gofundme. He indicated Purpose Church was hosting a baby shower for the STAY client and encouraged Board members and staff to attend and to purchase items for baby Denzel Jr. who was due very soon. He indicated the information regarding the baby shower and baby registry will also be included in the Executive Director's Report. Vice President thanked Director Vasquez for his unwavering commitment to the youth of our community.

IV. **Public Comment** – There were no public comments.

V. **Consent Calendar.** A motion was made by member Rivera and seconded by member Kidmy to approve the consent calendar meeting minutes of **May x, 2022, June x, 2022 (need dates)** and Financial Statements of May 2022 and June 2022. The item passed unanimously.

VI. **Staff Communication:** J. Rivera announced that long serving Board member Ron Alexander has stepped down but wishes JU4Y continued success. Director Vasquez recapped the recently held Annual Strategic Planning Retreat focusing on the 12 adopted initiatives that will take JU4Y to 2024. The retreat addressed internal issues but also focused on two issues facing youth that included housing and transportation and a potential example of a solution to transportation was JU4Y e-bikes or e-scooters. Director Vasquez introduced and thanked D. Garrett, TREE Supervisor, for her continued support and asked her to report on the internal issues that arose and were addressed at the annual retreat. D. Garrett indicated that overall, the in-person retreat was a nice bonding opportunity for staff after being disconnected for the past several years. She detailed concerns shared at the retreat regarding staff lacking a relationship with the Board. She shared that some staff members felt there was lack of engagement between the Board and staff.

Director Vasquez indicated he was seeking ways to improve board-staff engagement and relationship building. He reported that weekly Director's reports were starting that would share information and focus on messages of inspiration. Discussion ensued at length, and it was agreed the Board would be extended an invitation to attend the next staff meeting and the Executive Director would continue to seek ways to engage Board members and staff. Vice President Hildalgo reminded staff that it was not the Board's role to direct staff but rather give direction to the Executive Director for him to know areas to address for him to develop and implement processes. He commended JU4Y for allowing staff to express their concerns.

D. Garret invited the Board to a PEP (parents empowering parents) Rally and Backpack/School Supplies Giveaway and resource fair on Saturday, July 30th in the courtyard of the Pomona Library from 11AM-2PM, hosted in part by Supervisor Solis and Assemblymember Rodriguez' offices.

VII. **Staff Communication** - Eye Opener Event. Aaron Delacruz reported that the 8-week eye opener photography program was nearing its close. He indicated that along with partners, Conceptual Art Therapy John and Mia Lee, a special Art Show, coinciding with the Pomona Art Walk would take place on August 13 at 5PM at the African American Alliance Cultural Center. The event is called 8 Weeks on



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the Phone. He also announced that student's framed matted photos would be available for purchase at the event. Mia Lee described the classroom successes, the joy of the ability through financial support to provide cameras to some students. She invited the Board to attend the event and thanked JU4Y for their support. Director Vasquez thanked the Board for the opportunity to invest into the arts.

Highlights of Gratitude. RJ+C partnered with Biola for participation in the Torrey Honors Program. JU4Y's Pomona Adult school graduate Saleena Bryant was a scholarship recipient, applying only two days after graduation. Director Vasquez shared photos of Ms. Bryant. He reported that JU4Y has partnered with Merchant McIntyre for federal grant development and thanked Board member Derek Torry for connecting JU4Y with Merchant McIntyre.

- VIII. **Discussion Calendar** – Director Vasquez requested the Board have a discussion on a policy for the public comment section of the Board agenda. Members discussed this matter at length and various options were considered. After discussion Director Vasquez was requested to develop a policy for the Board's and consideration regarding public comments for consideration at the next meeting.
- IX. Action Items – Adoption of Diversity and Inclusion Policy – this item was listed on the agenda but was not discussed.**
- X. **Meet & Greet** – Director Vasquez introduced and thanked ResQ coordinator staff member Giovanni Ayala for attending the meeting. He reminded the Board that nominations are underway for seats on the Board and that those interested should submit requests to the Nomination Committee made up of the President and Vice President.
- XI. **Board Member Communication** – Vice President Hildalgo thanked Paul Hudak his hard work. He stated he looked forward to new members to the JU4Y Board, bringing valuable resources and better reflecting the diversity of the community.
- XII. **JU4Y Reports & Updates** – There was no discussion or questions regarding staff report and program updates.
- XIII. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:15PM. The next meeting will be held on September 26, 2022 at 5PM.