

Youth Empowerment Day

January 9, 2016

Presented by Council President Pro Tem Marti Emerald

WHEREAS, Youth Empowerment was founded by Arthur Soriano, Gaby Soriano, Robert Ontiveros, and Juan Valderrama as an innovative, grassroots approach to diverting youth from the juvenile justice system to positive youth development and has had success in changing the mentality of youth and families throughout City Heights; AND

WHEREAS, Youth Empowerment is led by positive adult mentors who help facilitate adolescent development by involving youth in neighborhood projects with their peers; AND

WHEREAS, Youth Empowerment helps strengthen family by involving family members of youth in supportive and social networks in order to decrease isolation and increase social support; AND

WHEREAS, Youth Empowerment meets every Sunday at Teralta Park for activities, sports, one-on-one mentoring, and family engagement opportunities; AND

WHEREAS, through community fundraising and donations, Youth Empowerment is able to orchestrate trips for youth to places they've never been before, provide food for their community barbeques, and provide sports equipment for their weekly activities; AND

WHEREAS, Youth Empowerment's members are becoming young leaders by leading other youth in a positive direction, going to school, and complying with their probation; AND

WHEREAS, Youth Empowerment is celebrating their one year anniversary of helping youth turn their lives around by building their leadership skills and making a difference in their community; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby declare January 9, 2016, to be "Youth Empowerment Day" in the City of San Diego.