

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the potential opportunity to be on the Youth Commission for the City of New Haven.

I am currently a student at Yale University studying architecture and history. My biggest passion in life is public service, and I believe this position would be a wonderful opportunity.

I am originally from Victorville, California. I have lived there all my life - New Haven is the only other place I have ever lived. Though my hometown and New Haven are separated by thousands of miles these cities are more alike than would seem, particularly with the youth. Education especially is an area that students all across the country interact with. As a student who was very involved in their school district, I understand how the education system works more than the typical person. I also recognize the problems that school districts face and I am eager to learn more about New Haven schools.

Education is not the only important factor when it comes to the youth. Overall economic and social conditions are crucial in childhood development. My hometown is a relatively poor city, and I have seen the effects of the economy on my peers. How can we expect students to do well in class when they show up to school hungry? What about the students who have to essentially raise themselves and their siblings? These are important questions that are often not thought about by school officials. Poverty goes hand in hand with other problems the youth face. Drug use and gang violence were prevalent issues in my school and I recognized where these issues were stemming from. There are so many different problems that the youth face and I feel that I can apply what I have already learned and experienced with new research to come up with breakthrough solutions to these serious issues.

I am super passionate about the potential work I would be doing in this commission. I would love the chance to learn more about New Haven as I consider it my second home. It is my firm belief that one of the keys to making this country a better place is to start with the youth. As the great Whitney Houston said, children are the future, and we must certainly teach them well and let them lead the way. I would hope I could use my position to make change and improve the lives of young people in the city. I am very dedicated to whatever task I set myself to, and I know I can bring forth a set of skills and ideas that will enrich this commission and the city as a whole.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my application.

Kyle Hovannesian