



December 14, 2010

To whom this may concern:

I highly recommend Michael Yi for the Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Commission Internship. Michael has served as a member of the Coalition of Youth Advocates (COYA), an anti-tobacco coalition, since September of 2009. He has held two officer positions, including Secretary for the 2009-2010 year and President for the current year. During his time with COYA, Michael has set a pristine example for his peers. He has set a standard of leadership, commitment, and encouragement that fellow coalition members strive to emulate.

Michael's commitment to the health and well-being of his environment and community is evident through the many COYA projects he has participated in. For instance, he has played an integral role in the Smoke-Free Parks and Beaches law, changes to the Tobacco Retailer Licensing law, and the Carpinteria Comprehensive Secondhand Smoke policy. Michael personally met with Supervisor Farr to emphasize the importance of clean, smoke-free parks and beaches. Furthermore, Michael gathered numerous petition signatures to gain support for the above policies. He attended public hearings to show support for community health issues.

The role that Michael plays in COYA is one of great leadership. He is always eager to take the lead on new projects. Michael consistently exhibits a positive and encouraging attitude, which sets the tone for every COYA event. He is committed as he always completes any assignment on-time and to the best of his ability. For example, he was recently given the task to attend the Carpinteria Avocado Festival to collect surveys and educate the public on secondhand smoke. This festival was on the night of an important Friday night high school football game. Even so, Michael devoted his time to the cause and even stayed later than we initially asked.

Michael Yi is a shining example of a young leader. I am confident that his advocacy, commitment, optimistic attitude, and determination would be an asset to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Whitney Hawkins", written over a horizontal line. A long arrow points to the right from the end of the signature.

**Whitney Hawkins**

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