



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: YOUTH COUNCIL

FROM: Ralph Wright, Parks and Recreation Director

PREPARED BY: Amanda Morgan, Program Coordinator

MEETING DATE: January 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Blue Zone Policy Letter of Support

BACKGROUND:

During the regular meeting of the Youth Council on August 5th, 2025, a presentation was delivered by Reuben Gonzalez and Thomas Miranda about the Blue Zones Project. In the policy segment of the presentation, Thomas Miranda elaborated on four pivotal policies that the Blue Zone team is currently developing, with a particular emphasis on two significant initiatives regarding tobacco and alcohol.

The proposed tobacco policy aims to establish tobacco-free outdoor spaces, thereby promoting a healthier environment for the community. Additionally, it seeks to prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco and nicotine products, which are particularly appealing to young people and can have detrimental effects on their development and safety.

The alcohol policy advocates for the implementation of universal school-based alcohol prevention programs, designed to educate youth about the risks associated with alcohol consumption. It proposes the adoption of social host policies, which would hold adults accountable for providing alcohol to minors in their homes.

A letter of support for the Blue Zones project has been drafted, expressing strong endorsement for these initiatives. This letter stands as a testament to the commitment to youth welfare and safety and will ultimately be presented to the City Council for their approval. The Youth Council should discuss and modify the draft letter as per the Youth Council's direction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item

ALTERNATIVES:

Do not sign the letter of support

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Youth Council Letter of Support T_A Policies for BZ.docx](#)