

Agenda Item No. C-1

DATE SUBMITTED 09/23/2025
 SUBMITTED BY City Manager's office
 DATE ACTION REQUIRED 10/1/25

COUNCIL ACTION (X)
 PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED ()
 RESOLUTION ()
 ORDINANCE 1ST READING ()
 ORDINANCE 2ND READING ()
 CITY CLERK'S INITIALS ()

**IMPERIAL CITY COUNCIL
 AGENDA ITEM**

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION/ACTION: 1. Selection of Mayor for the Day.	
DEPARTMENT INVOLVED:	
BACKGROUND/SUMMARY: This opportunity was developed in collaboration with the Imperial Unified School District (IUSD). The district initiated an application process and has forwarded three (3) candidates for final selection by the City Council. Attached are the three (3) applications for review.	
FISCAL IMPACT: No fiscal impact	FINANCE INITIALS <u>JMS</u>
STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Select a Mayor for the Day	DEPT. INITIALS <u>DM.</u>
MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION: <i>make selections for mayor for a day</i>	CITY MANAGER'S INITIALS <u>OTM</u>
MOTION:	
SECONDED: AYES: NAYES: ABSENT:	APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> () REJECTED <input type="checkbox"/> () DISAPPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> () DEFERRED <input type="checkbox"/> () REFERRED TO:

Mayor for the Day Application/ Solicitud para Alcade por el día

The deadline to apply is Wednesday, September 17th, 2025 at 4 PM./ La fecha límite para aplicar es el miercoles 17 de septiembre de 2025 a las 4 PM.

1. Student First Name & Last Name/ *

Nombre y Apellido del Estudiante

■■■■

2. Grade Level/ Nivel de Grado *

⌵ Dropdown

6th

3. School/ Escuela *

⌵ Dropdown

Frank Wright

4. Why do you want to be the Mayor for the day?/ *

¿Por qué quiere ser Alcalde por el día?

I want to be mayor for the day to improve the state of the city, as many people have complained about things here, and want to make sure that there is nothing to complain about.

5. What advice would you give to your fellow classmates about being an active and engaged member of the community?/ *

¿Qué consejo le darías a tus compañeros de clase sobre ser un miembro activo y comprometido de la comunidad?

I would give the following advice to my fellow classmates to teach them how to be an active and engaged member of the community by, advising to pick up trash to make the valley nicer, try to be friendly to the people they interact with, and to attend to any type of social meetups. This advice would teach them to be more social, have more empathy, and be more active.

6. Write a short essay on one change you would make if you were Mayor for the city of Imperial./ *

Escribe un ensayo breve sobre un cambio que harías si fueras alcalde de la ciudad de Imperial.

If I was Mayor of Imperial, I would make many changes but, I have one that I want the most. Usually in the city when you look outside, there are many machines for construction and dirt fields. This makes it so people are less encouraged to exit their homes. I say we should let people go outside to a lovely looking city.

First, about the dirt, we should do something with that soil and add native plants! Native plants to our area would survive in our climate, and it would add more of a nice touch to Imperial. Although we can't do anything about the industrial buildings, we can do something about the things around them. Usually plants are colder than dirt when in the sun. This would improve the heat problem in the city by a small bit.

Second, the plants would also attract tourists, even if it's a small amount of tourists, there are still more people coming into the city. From the United States Environmental Protection Agency, plants also cool the atmosphere, meaning that going outside will be more bearable. San Diego has many plants, it has many visitors, and the climate is very nice. Whenever you go to San Diego there are always plants everywhere. We could take a page from San Diego's book and add more plants for a better city. It doesn't help that we have outdoor schools, by outdoor I mean having to walk outside for every class and having to go outside for recess. It doesn't help because it's so hot, even walking to class brings you to a puddle of sweat.

To conclude, having more plants in our city would make it look nicer, which would encourage people to go outside more, cool down our city, and attract visitors. This small change could make a big difference to how people live their lives in this city.

My parent/guardian is willing to sign a permission slip to excuse me from school and my parent *
will accompany me to all activities on that day./

Mi padre/tutor está dispuesto a firmar un permiso para justificar mi ausencia de la escuela y mis
padres me acompañarán a todas las actividades ese día.

Yes

This form was created inside of Imperial Unified School District.

Google Forms

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Nombre y Apellido del Estudiante

[Redacted]

2. Grade Level/ Nivel de Grado *

⌵ Dropdown

5th

3. School/ Escuela *

⌵ Dropdown

Ben Hulse

4. Why do you want to be the Mayor for the day?/ *

¿Por qué quiere ser Alcalde por el día?

I want to be the mayor for the day because if I am mayor I can make some changes in the city.

5. What advice would you give to your fellow classmates about being an active and engaged member of the community?/ *

¿Qué consejo le darías a tus compañeros de clase sobre ser un miembro activo y comprometido de la comunidad?

It's important to be active in your community because our community sometimes needs help, like removing graffiti to keep the city clean. Its important to take care of our city because it makes our city a safer place to live in.

6. Write a short essay on one change you would make if you were Mayor for the city of Imperial./ *

Escribe un ensayo breve sobre un cambio que harías si fueras alcalde de la ciudad de Imperial.

If I were mayor for the day, one thing I would do to change the city of Imperial would be to plant a community garden. I want to build a community garden because we can harvest the food we plant, and with the plants growing, it will make the air cleaner. This garden is important so we can learn to grow our own food and eat organic foods because they are better for you. The garden will make the city look nicer because of the plants that will grow in it. Most large scale fields produce one crop per season and in this garden we can grow multiple crops per season.

My parent/guardian is willing to sign a permission slip to excuse me from school and my parent will accompany me to all activities on that day./ *

Mi padre/tutor está dispuesto a firmar un permiso para justificar mi ausencia de la escuela y mis padres me acompañarán a todas las actividades ese día.

Yes

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██████████

2. Grade Level/ Nivel de Grado *

⌵ Dropdown

5th

3. School/ Escuela *

⌵ Dropdown

Cross

4. Why do you want to be the Mayor for the day?/ *

¿Por qué quiere ser Alcalde por el día?

I want to be mayor of the day so that I could get to meet many people and I would be able to know what it is like to be mayor. Also, I think that it would be a great experience. That is why I want to be mayor of the day.

5. What advice would you give to your fellow classmates about being an active and engaged member of the community?/ *

¿Qué consejo le darías a tus compañeros de clase sobre ser un miembro activo y comprometido de la comunidad?

You have to be willing to listen to other people's suggestions when they have advice you also have to listen carefully because it might be important. And you have to be good with people because you need to be nice and helpful if you are the mayor.

6. Write a short essay on one change you would make if you were Mayor for the city of Imperial./ *

Escribe un ensayo breve sobre un cambio que harías si fueras alcalde de la ciudad de Imperial.

If I were mayor of the day I would make more pools because during the summer it is very hot and some people don't have swimming pools in the backyards so I would focus on making more swimming pools.

My parent/guardian is willing to sign a permission slip to excuse me from school and my parent will accompany me to all activities on that day./ *

Mi padre/tutor está dispuesto a firmar un permiso para justificar mi ausencia de la escuela y mis padres me acompañarán a todas las actividades ese día.

Yes

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Google Forms

Submission for City of Imperial's Mayor for the Day

██████████ ██████████

Frank Wright Middle School- 7th grade

WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE THE MAYOR FOR THE DAY?

The opportunity of becoming Imperial's Mayor for the Day is a significant motivation that encourages my classmates and I to proactively participate in on-going community involvement events and potentially adopt future roles within public service. Being mayor for the day inspires me to directly assume a personal and continuous commitment to participate in community development efforts making our city a desired place for families to live in, while at the same time contributing to a city-wide environment that creates the opportunities and motivation for its residents to reach their ultimate potential as individuals and as collective members of the City of Imperial.

By providing opportunities to participate within our local government at a very early stage it allows us to comprehend how we as private citizens can assume a positive role in actively understanding how we can be involved in responding to both current and future challenges that our community may face. Being mayor for the day prepares tomorrow's role models that may one day provide leadership in moments of despair, empathy in moments of misunderstanding, and reassurance in moments of anxiety.

Becoming mayor for the day would be an additional personal achievement that includes being Cross Elementary only 4th grader elected to serve as the school's Publicity Director in 2023; being designated fifth grade class representative in 2024, selected as mayor of J.A. Biz Town (San Diego), while currently maintaining a GPA of 3.8.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR FELLOW CLASSMATES ABOUT BEING AN ACTIVE AND ENGAGED MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY?

I would advise my fellow classmates that our future is being created at this very moment; that our tomorrow is a direct result of the decisions being taken today. I would advise my classmates that we can choose to close our eyes and stand idly by while we wait to someday inherit a world constructed without our involvement or participation; or, we can choose to actively assume a role today contributing to shape our tomorrow by understanding and participating in the actions adopted by our elected officials that will govern our adult life.

We can either assume our responsibility of participating in the future of our community or resign ourselves to simply accept a future that ignores our potential contributions.

Our hopes and dreams, which includes our concerns and fears, demand a voice that needs to be heard, a voice that refuses to be silenced. We request an outlet that allows our opinions to be expressed and considered within the process that shapes our reality.

Our value within our community today should not be simply relegated to a future potential awakening that is only recognized when we reach adulthood, but more importantly, we should

be valued as a current community component who tomorrow will be required to live and thrive within the confines of today's actions.

One day we will inherit this community. The good and the bad of the past will be our reality, in order to be prepared for that moment we need to gain the experience that inspires involvement, understanding, and responsibility for all current and future generations.

WRITE A SHORT ESSAY ON ONE CHANGE YOU WOULD MAKE IF YOU WERE MAYOR FOR THE CITY OF IMPERIAL?

The change I propose would be to institutionalize an on-going year round effort to motivate and inspire student involvement within our local government and community.

I would hope that we could build upon the mayor for the day model developing a student leadership academy program coordinated under the Imperial City Council and city-wide schools that would seek two fundamental objectives:

1. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** of students in local government as a result of providing a comprehensive insight into our local government structure, its departments and responsibilities, the role of the city council, the election process, the process of adopting local city actions, the development of the city budget, related brown act provisions, public comment participation, private citizen rights, the observance of our constitutional rights: working concepts of democracy in action, the right to free speech, to assemble, and petition, and the freedom of information act:
 - Meet with city council members and department heads receiving information on each ones role;
 - Visit city council chambers and understanding its structure, the process for public meetings, and the legal requirements of public agendas;
 - Attend a city council meeting to experience democracy in the making;

2. **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MINI-CITY COUNCIL MODELS** in each participating middle school and high school throughout the City of Imperial:
 - Each individual school mini-council will be made up of three elected student representatives and serve one year renewable terms;
 - Each school mini-council will elect a president with each representative serving an equal period as president within the school year;
 - Each school mini-council will work in coordination with their student school council to promote student awareness of local government and participation within community events;
 - Each school mini-council will coordinate with the City's Manager's Office to promote student volunteers in community enhancement activities;

- Each school's mini-council will collect information on student's concerns, opinions, and recommendations for city council consideration submitted at a scheduled city council meeting on a quarterly basis;
- Each school mini-council will edit a newsletter, blog, or web-page to inform students of city council actions and community activities;

The objective of the student leadership academy is to provide all interested students with an effective introduction and understanding of local government functions and responsibilities, promoting community involvement, understanding, and support of local government authorities.

Each mini-council will pursue four primary goals:

1. **WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT**.- Create and promote within their schools an effective understanding of local government operations resulting in an increased participation and understanding of community actions;
2. **EXPRESSING OPINIONS AND CONCERNS**.- Operate within their schools to uncover students opinions and , concerns within their immediate community and convey these in a formal, professional, and constructive manner before Imperial City Council Members.
3. **PROMOTE STUDENT AWARENESS** of community issues and needs resulting in increased community involvement and participation.
4. **COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT** Projects that directly contribute to marketing a positive and progressive image of our developing community capable of increasing our visibility and visitors, while strengthening our economic and investment sources.

The overall objective of this project is to develop constructive on-going communication between local students and their local government officials identifying perceived issues and concerns that students may be facing.

Additionally, each mini-council will coordinate efforts with the City of Imperial to promote student participation in city-wide enhancement projects, such as beautification efforts (city parks, street, and abandoned lot clean-up, painting projects, community event participation) for which each participant will receive official recognition for volunteering their time and efforts;

The project focuses upon promoting student involvement within their communities emphasizing outreach and team building efforts while allowing students to identify personally with their community and strengthen our sense of pride towards our city.

Currently, mayor for the day focuses on benefitting one person, (the person selected as mayor for the day and only for one-day out of the year); the change I propose potentially expands these benefits to all interested students throughout the City of Imperial year round.