




**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Inter-Departmental Correspondence**

**Superior Court**

**DATE:** Jan. 3, 2006  
**BOARD MEETING DATE:** Jan. 24, 2006  
**SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING:** N/A  
**VOTE REQUIRED:** No

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** John C. Fitton, Court Executive Officer   
**SUBJECT:** Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Youth Commission Appointment

**RECOMMENDATION:** Appoint John M. Liu to the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Youth Commission.

**VISION ALIGNMENT:**  
**Commitment:** People-Public Service Volunteerism.  
**Goal(s):** Work to assist youth.

**Performance Measure(s):**

Measure	FY 2004-05 Actual	FY 2005-06 Projected
N/A	N/A	N/A

**BACKGROUND:**  
For the efficient and effective statutory compliance of the review of juvenile operations in this county, the Court and the Board have agreed that the appointees by the Court to the Juvenile Justice Commission are appointed concurrently by the Board of Supervisors to the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Youth Commission.

**DISCUSSION:**  
With the recommendation of Juvenile Judge Marta S. Diaz, Presiding Judge George A. Miram has appointed: John M. Liu to the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Youth Commission for the term prescribed by law. This is a request that the Board of Supervisors appoint the above-listed commissioner to the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Youth Commission.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** N/A

**RECOMMENDED**  
  
**COUNTY MANAGER**



## Youth Development Initiative Youth Application

Name: John M. Liu  
Address: 168 Tobin Clark Drive, Hillsborough, CA. 94010  
Phone (home): (650) 341-8391 Phone (cell, other): cell (650) 773-2825  
Email Address: JML98@aol.com  
School: Menlo School Grade: 11 Age: 17  
Birth date: 10/11/87

What languages do you speak besides English, if any?

English is the only language I speak fluently, but I am learning Spanish in school.

Why are you interested in participating in the project(s):

The Youth Commission is the only opportunity that I am aware of for youths to have a voice in the San Mateo County Government, or in any branch of their local, state or federal government. Having studied U.S. History in school this year, it is also a unique and exciting opportunity for me to experience first-hand, "government for the people by the people."

My first choice is the Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board. While drugs and alcohol do apply to adults, the Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board is especially appealing to me because it affects so many teenagers - of all the boards, I can relate to these social issues the most. I think that while many adults realize that underage drinking and illegal drug use exist, they do not realize the prevalence of it in high school. They may not realize the disturbing ways in which these teenagers are able to get the alcohol and drugs or just how frequently teens use drugs and alcohol.

Volunteering as a Youth Commissioner in one of the projects will allow me to let the adults in government know just exactly what is occurring in our communities, to bring a teenager's perspective to the problem, and perhaps even to make suggestions for change.



**Please list your extracurricular activities and jobs:**

Varsity Baseball

Jazz Band

Neighborhood Math and Science Club (a math problem solving club in school)

Teaching Assistant at Gateway Program (summer school for underprivileged kids)

Adopt a School (getting schools to donate text books and sending them to underprivileged schools in third world countries)

Summer internship with California State Senator Jackie Speier

**What is unique about you?**

Being in the school's math club has taught me to think "outside the box." The problems we do weekly at club meetings and in math competitions are not every day math, but rather are special problems that require a different way of thinking. You don't have to know fancy Calculus to solve these problems. In fact, most problems require no more than basic Algebra I math. It's not how much one knows but how one uses what one knows to solve a problem. I have been doing this type of math since middle school and my experience has trained me to look at problems creatively and from different perspectives.

**What do you hope to bring to the group? What gifts can you share?**

I will bring to the group my enthusiasm and commitment. From my experiences with solving novel problems in the math club, I will bring my ability to look at problems creatively, as well as the patience and tenacity to stick with a problem and solve it. This is important because whatever problems or challenges our committee comes across more than likely won't be solved in one day. From my years in team sports, I will bring my ability to be a team player and also leadership qualities. (The pitcher is such a vital position on any baseball team that pitchers are naturally put in the position to be a leader; I have been the pitcher on my baseball team since fifth grade.) In other words, I've been an active leader for the last seven years, and I am not only used to being a leader, I am comfortable with it.

**Have you worked with a team or group before? Do you think you are/would be a good team player? What aspects of teamwork do you enjoy?**

I have had many opportunities to be part of a group: I've played soccer, basketball and baseball; I've worked in school (academic) team projects; I've worked in teams in various volunteer and fundraising projects. Because I have participated in different types of teams and



because I've done so for so long, I know how to be a good team player, and I definitely know the importance of team work. I love baseball and baseball is the ultimate team sport. Nearly every aspect of the game involves team work. While some may argue that a pitcher or a hitter can be so dominating as to win a game single-handedly, not even Barry Bonds can hit a home run every time he bats. The game of baseball is about doing the little things to help the team out, subtle things that don't get written up in the newspaper or make the highlight reel on ESPN.

What I love about teamwork is the support that teammates show for one another. It is good to know that you will always have the unconditional support of your teammates, which you will undoubtedly need. Baseball is a prime example of this. I know of nothing else in which *failing* seven out of ten times is considered successful (hitting .300, that is, getting a hit, on average, 30% of the times you bat, is a quantitative benchmark for successful hitting). So, when you don't get a hit one of those seven times, it's satisfying and comforting to see your teammates waiting for you with a fist pound (baseball's version of a handshake). I also love that being on a team creates strong bonds between teammates, one so strong that the notion of "giving the shirt off your back" actually applies. Before one game, the starting pitcher forgot his belt and his socks, which meant that he would not be able to pitch because he was out of uniform. So, a player on the bench took off his socks and belt right then and there and gave it to our nervous pitcher. In ten years, I doubt that I will remember the outcome of that game, but I undoubtedly will remember that selfless act.

How did you hear about these projects?

I heard about these projects from friends. I know a few people on the boards, and they told me that they enjoyed their time working with the commission, which made me want to be a part of the experience.

What is the MAXIMUM amount of time you would be able to commit during the 2005-06 school year (circle one)?

2 hours each week

4 hours each week

More than 4 hours each week

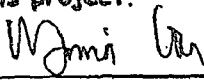
Are you able to stay involved over the summer? Yes No

Do you drive (this does not determine your eligibility)? Yes No

I understand that participation in each of these projects requires attendance at the meetings as scheduled by the Project Coordinator. If selected, I pledge to attend meetings and participate as an active team member in the project. I commit to these responsibilities.

Signed:  Date: 5/30/05

As a parent or guardian, I have read through the information about the program and support my child in applying for this project.

Parent/ Guardian Signature:  Date: 5/30/05

Which Board or Commissions are you interested in (mark all that apply):

Please indicate your preferences for joining the following projects by numbering them 1 or 2 (1 = highest preference, 2 = second preference). If you are only interested in one, please leave the space BLANK next to the project you are NOT interested in joining.

Non-Profit Board of Directors You can bring youth perspective to the organizations that serve youth and families throughout San Mateo County. Your input about issues such as drugs and alcohol, conflict resolution, and teen parenting is needed in order to strengthen the work of San Mateo County's community organizations.

San Mateo County Government You can have a voice in San Mateo County government about issues that effect youth by serving as a Youth Commissioner. The Board of Supervisors has created a place for you to advise Boards and Commissions such as the Commission on Disabilities, the Commission on the Status of Women, or the AIDS Program Advisory Committee.

Mental Health Advisory Board

Commission on Disabilities

AIDS Advisory Board

Commission on Aging

Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board  
Commission

Juvenile Justice

Criminal Justice Commission  
Commission

Parks and Recreation

EXPO Board

First Five Commission of SMCo

Commission on the Status of Women

Teen Pregnancy Coalition

Daily City Youth Health Center

Fatherhood Collaborative

Youth and Family Enrichment Services

TANF Board