



Office of Youth Development

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Sacramento to present 14-year-old Erika Sims with the city's first ever *Youth of the Month Award*

Sacramento, California, May 11, 2009—The City of Sacramento will recognize Erika Sims as the first recipient of the ***City of Sacramento Youth of the Month Award***. Erika is a 14-year-old student at Leroy F. Greene Middle School who was selected for the award because of her commitment to volunteerism and the countless hours she has spent serving her community. The presentation of the YOM Award will take place this **Tuesday (May 12th) at 6 p.m.**, during the Council Meeting. Erika and her family will be on-hand.

“Throughout this city, there are remarkable young people who volunteer, work tirelessly to make something of themselves, or serve those in need. These youth deserve to be recognized and the Youth of the Month Award is a great way to recognize them,” said Mayor Kevin Johnson. “I encourage residents to nominate deserving youth for this award each month so that their deeds can be appreciated by the entire city.”

YOM was established by the Office of Youth Development to recognize youth whose deeds, contributions, or accomplishments provide a positive example for other youth or residents of the City of Sacramento. The initiative's goal is to provide youth with meaningful forms of recognition in ways that nurture and reinforce positive youth behaviors.

Individuals, groups, and organizations can nominate any youth who resides in the City of Sacramento and is between 12 – 18 years-of-age. Nomination forms are available on the Office of Youth Development's website: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/Youth-Development/> Nominations are reviewed by the Youth Commission, whose members are responsible for selecting one deserving youth each month.

YOM Award recipients will be recognized by Council, receive a \$200 award, and be guests of honor at a year-end reception hosted by members of the Council.

The Office of Youth Development is partnering with Nehemiah Foundation and Fox40 to maximize the initiative's effectiveness. Nehemiah Foundation is providing funds to cover each month's \$200 award, and Fox40 is providing free promotional support as well as featuring each award recipient on its Fox40 Live program.

Media inquiries can be forwarded to Hindolo Brima, Media and Communications Specialist for the Office of Youth Development, at (916) 808-5972.

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