



# City of Grover Beach

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Friday, May 11, 2012

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## **Grover Heights Elementary School Third Graders Take Over Grover Beach City Hall**

GROVER BEACH, CA — Approximately 60 third grade students took over Grover Beach City Hall on Wednesday morning, May 9, 2012. The students did not come to file a protest or to request a change in municipal laws, but were there as a part of a Students-in-Government program. Organized by third grade teacher Marge Whalley, and supported by teachers Sally Graybehl and Gary Gonzalez, the students spent the morning learning about local government and touring the Police and Fire Stations.

A part of the session was interactive, as five of the students were selected to serve as “City Council Members” tasked with identifying the City’s top three priorities. The “Council” was tasked with not only identifying the top priority issues, but also with narrowing the list to a single issue to be addressed with limited City resources. 8-year-old Mayor Kyleigh Kowalski led a spirited discussion on the issues with fellow Council Members C’Ena Aguilera, Ryu Guajardo, Ayumi Smallwood, and Tia Anthony.

The three issues identified by the Council included street repair, parks maintenance, and sidewalk repair. Following Council discussion, the Council took input from members of the audience and then selected parks maintenance as the top issue.

Welcoming the students to City Hall were City staff members Recreation Coordinator Nora O’Donnell, City Clerk/Executive Assistant Donna McMahon, Administrative Services Director Gayla Chapman, and City Manager Bob Perrault, as well as Council Member Phyllis Molnar. Following the tour at City Hall, the students received a tour of public safety facilities with Police Officer Nelida Aceves and Five Cities Fire Authority Captain Bart Pearson, Engineer Joey Silva, and Firefighter Jason Kennedy.



*Mayor Kyleigh Kowalski (center) listens to a point made by Council Member Ayumi Smallwood (left), while member of the public Blake Georgii (right) provides input.*

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