

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(1)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT MEETING DATE: April 19, 2005

**TITLE: A Presentation from Pa'lante and Youth Creating Change**

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Community and Economic Development	<b>PUBLIC HEARING:</b> YES ___ NO <u>x</u>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> A. Resolution	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> James Harris 918-7319

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to honor a request from Laura Wenzel to make a presentation to the Board of Aldermen seeking support for Pa'lante and Youth Creating Change, non-profit agencies located at 110 W. Main Street in downtown Carrboro.

### INFORMATION

Pa'lante and Youth Creating Change, two high-quality organizations serving African-American and Hispanic youth, united under one roof in January 2005 to create a teen center, Club Neon, on Main Street in downtown Carrboro. This teen center fills an urgent need for a safe place where teens of different ethnic backgrounds can socialize, participate in community-building activities, and develop career and leadership skills. We are requesting support from the Town of Carrboro to keep Club Neon's doors open. Pa'lante, founded in June 2003, involves youth in integrating Orange County's (NC) immigrant and established populations through a free teen-produced Spanish-language magazine that helps parents integrate into the community, and a bilingual web site.

Youth Creating Change, organized in 1999 by a group of youth from various communities throughout Orange County, inspires youth to create positive change within their lives and communities through leadership training, economic development, and education/career planning, within the context of running a clothing store, Identity. Together, the programs serve about 40 youth ranging from 13 to 19, roughly 70% Hispanic and 30% African-American, and about 60% boys and 40% girls.

Club Neon is open after school from 4-7 p.m., as well as teacher workdays and school holidays. Activities include programs to improve race relations between African American and Hispanic youth, fun and educational projects that serve the community, and opportunities to improve academic performance. During spring break last month, the center featured programming all day, every day, so that the teens had an alternative to sitting at home watching television or hanging out on the street.

Since the center opened in January, new youth have begun frequenting it at the rate of about two per week. most of these youth do not have parental supervision at home because their parents work several jobs. The youth value the opportunity to have positive relationships with adults who care about them and their future. Among their most pressing needs are rent, multiple-line telephone service and high-speed Internet access. They wish to discuss opportunities to partner with the Town of Carrboro to provide services for this most disenfranchised, vulnerable, and important segment of our population.

Pa'lante and Youth Creating Change submitted a joint application to the Carrboro, Chapel Hill and Orange County Human Service Advisory Boards for funding in the 2005-06 Budget. This review process is underway. This applicant has an opportunity to present at the April 18, 2005 Human Service Board meeting. This request will be considered along with the other 44 applications as directed by the Board of Aldermen unless directed by the Board to do otherwise. The total amount of funding requested by agencies this year is \$200,863 and the total amount available for allocation is \$117,000.

During the 2004-05 budget year this collaborative received a \$1,000.00 allocation from the Human Service budget and transportation and free room rental from the Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

To be fair to all applicants in the human service funding process, the town staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution accepting the presentation from Pa'Lante and Youth Creating Change and referring the request to the Human Services Commission for review and consideration along with other funding requests.