

DATE ISSUED: September 16, 2005

REPORT NO. 05-192

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of September 21, 2005

SUBJECT: Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

SUMMARY

Issue – Should the City Council direct the City Manager to establish a Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention?

Manager's Recommendation(s) – Authorize the City Manager to establish a Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention.

Fiscal Impact – There is no fiscal impact to the City of San Diego. The proposed Commission is an official advisory body to the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager on policy issues relating to gang prevention and intervention. Board members will serve without compensation.

BACKGROUND

The presence of gangs in our community affects everyone. In 2004, there were over 3,750 documented gang members living in the City of San Diego. Gangs accounted for 35% of all homicides. Enforcement efforts by the Police Department accounted for 1,549 arrests, the confiscation of 99 firearms, 170 vehicles impounded, and the seizure of over \$650,000.00 in cash. Additional efforts with State Parole and the County Probation Department resulted in 365 searches and 334 violations last year.

In January to June 2005, the City experienced a 6.9% decrease in gang-related crimes from the same period in 2004. Eight of the 23 homicides through June of this year were attributed to gangs, an 11.1% decrease from 2004. There were 110 gang-related attempt

homicides and assaults, a 17.3% decrease from the previous year. The Police Department has continued enforcement and suppression efforts, arresting 1,816 individuals to date for gang related crimes, far surpassing 2004 arrest statistics. From 2002 to 2004, half of all youths booked into Juvenile Hall report they have gang affiliations. On a regional basis, youth under 18 represent 13% of our 2004 population, but 22% of this group end up as homicide victims. In the City of San Diego, 32% of youth gun crimes occurred in the Central, Mid-City and Southeastern areas of our community.

The Police Department has engaged in proactive enforcement operations, utilized gang injunctions and informants, and participated in several gang-related multi-agency state and federal task forces. The major focus has been on proactive enforcement and crime suppression strategies along with collaboration with community groups. Although there have been several attempts to develop and maintain community-based problem solving groups, there has not been focused support from the City Council for a citywide strategy to address gang violence. The community has offered mentoring programs, after-school activities, faith-based efforts, work force training, family and educational support on a program-by-program basis.

DISCUSSION

The development of a Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention will provide an official advisory body to the Mayor, City Council, and the City Manager, for the purpose of defining policy issues relating to gang prevention and intervention. The Commission's vision will be to develop a more strategic, coordinated, and collaborative effort between the city, law enforcement agencies, social service providers, and the general public with the objective of significantly curtailing gang involvement, and its negative impact, in the City of San Diego.

The Commission will make recommendations concerning gang prevention, intervention, diversion, and suppression methods; identify local, state, and federal funding sources; and address other gang-related policy matters. This includes assessing the problem, identifying the target areas and population, developing a strategic plan, identifying local, state, and federal funding sources, and setting goals with measurable objectives. The Commission will oversee and guide the work of collaborating agencies, support creation of intervention teams, remove barriers and promote policies, facilitate community capacity building and support on-going monitoring of efforts.

The Commission will consist of 17 members who will serve without compensation. Board members will be appointed by the Mayor, confirmed by the City Council, and will be residents of the City of San Diego, unless a conscious exception is determined per Council Policy 000-13. The Mayor will appoint eight members, one each from a list of at least two nominations submitted by each Councilmember to represent his or her district. Additionally, the Mayor will appoint one at-large member; one member from the field of K-12 education; one member from a faith-based community organization working on gang issues; one member from the field of law enforcement; one member from the field of public health; one member from the San Diego Association of Governments; one

member who shall be a Social Service Administrator; one member from the Workforce Partnership; and one member who will be a reformed ex-gang member. Vacancies will be filled in the same manner.

Members will serve two-year terms, and each member will serve until a successor is duly appointed and confirmed. No member will serve more than two consecutive terms. Initial members will be appointed such that the terms of not more than nine members will expire in any year so as to allow the board to be staggered. For the initial appointments, nine members will be appointed to an initial term that will expire July 1, 2006, and eight members will be appointed to an initial term that will expire July 1, 2007.

Initial appointments less than the full term of two years will be allowed to serve two full terms. The expiration date of all terms shall be July 1. Any vacancy will be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term. Vacancy appointment recommendations will come from the original recommending body. Any vacancy replacements will be eligible to serve the remaining term of the vacant position and two full terms.

The Board will adopt rules consistent with the law for the governing of its business and procedures. The Board will meet on a quarterly basis, at a minimum. The position of Executive Director of the Commission will be established and appointed by the City Manager. The Director will be a management assistant to the City Manager. The City Manager will provide appropriate staff support from departments directly involved in gang-related matters.

Once established, the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention will be assigned the following duties and functions:

- a. Meet on a monthly basis and set an attendance policy for Commissioners
- b. Make policy recommendations to the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager on issues of gang prevention, intervention, diversion, and suppression methods; identify local, state and federal funding sources; and identify national best practice efforts.
- c. Form subcommittees to analyze critical issues of gang involvement.
- d. Network with other boards, agencies, and community residents on gang related issues.
- e. Promote a strong sense of community through gang solutions.

- f. Act as a general information resource on gang issues within the City.
- g. Advocate, formulate, and recommend for adoption proactive gang policies, ordinances, and guidelines.
- h. Present no less than quarterly reports to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee of the City Council.
- i. Hold a minimum of four meetings per year in various Districts of the City.
- j. Provide a written report annually on the status of the Commission and its activities to the Mayor and City Council.
- k. Perform such further duties as may hereafter be delegated to the Commission by resolution of the City Council.

The proposal to establish a Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention within the City of San Diego will provide a framework for convening a problem-solving network capable of advancing sound gang-related policy and programs. This concept is strongly supported by the San Diego Police Department and the San Diego Association of Governments.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Lansdowne
Chief of Police

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City Manager

EWELL/LANSDOWNE/jcl