THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: July 20, 2007 REPORT NO: 07-131

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of July 25, 2007

SUBJECT: Informational Report from the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATIONAL REPORT. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

In February 2007, Council President Pro Tem Anthony Young invited the Gang Commission Staff and Deputy City Attorney Makini Hammond to join him in a meeting with Aisha Martin Walton, Chief, California Community Relations Service, Office of the Attorney General Crime and Violence Prevention Center.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss implementing the State's Safe Passage Program at Gompers Charter Middle School (GCMS) and Montgomery Middle School. The objective of the program is to create a multi-agency enforcement partnership to provide safety from gang-related crimes students on specific streets, at bus stops and on bus lines immediately around the school one hour after dismissal or before school.

GCMS and Montgomery Middle School had indicated to the City Attorney and the Gang Commission that they wanted to participate in the Safe Passage Program because of gang problems around their school. The Gang Commission voted to support the effort to bring the program to the schools. Council President Pro Tem Young wrote a letter to support the requests of the two schools. Deputy City Attorney Makini Hammond organized the first Safe Passage meetings at the two schools. Gompers High School was included in the early meetings but because the school will be closing and all students will be going to Lincoln High School, the Gompers High School participation in the meetings stopped but the Assistant principal there was still involved in communicating information to Gompers Middle School staff. UJIMA Institute, a community advocacy group, had also been

working on making the area safe around Gompers Middle School and High School students. Members of that organization also became involved in the process.

The State Attorney General's office agreed to facilitate the Safe Passage Program at two middle schools for 12-18 months. The first meetings were held in March 2007. The meetings are held monthly at each school. Chief Martin Walton and her staff facilitate the meetings. Attendees at the meeting include representatives from community organizations (UJIMA and Parents Groups) as well the following agencies:

City Attorney's Office' Drug Abatement Response Team (DART): *to address gang problem properties/locations that may contribute to the unsafe passage for children.*

School Staff: *to be adult presence, take pictures; provide information to law enforcement and school police.*

Metropolitan Transit: *to address safety issues on buses and trolleys.*

Park and Recreation: *to be an adult presence in the park as well as provide information about after school incidents and link with school efforts to identify youth who are problems.*

Fire Department: *to offer visible presence during time children are going to and from school.*

City School Police: *to monitor the perimeter of the school 1 hour after school and at hot spots and to provide monthly citation reports at the meetings.*

San Diego Police Department: *to monitor the perimeter of the school and to provide crime reports at each meeting.*

Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention: *to link resources to schools.*

Probation: *to provide presence or support when appropriate*

San Diego County Office of Education: *to provide support/link with appropriate organizations as well information*

DISCUSSION

The Attorney General's office suggested that each school do a survey of students. The principals agreed and the questions asked were about school safety and what the students perceived were the issues around the school (A Detailed Report is attached).

431 students were surveyed at Montgomery Middle School. Of those students, 216 were 8th graders, 95 were 7th graders and 120 were 6th graders.

Montgomery Students who Walked or Rode the Bus to or From School
That felt either Somewhat Unsafe or Not all Safe

	8th Graders	7th Graders	6th Graders
To School	45%	44%	45%
From School	49 %	51%	40%

413 students were surveyed at GCMS. Of those students, 34 were 9th graders, 91 were 8th graders, 247 were 7th graders and 41 were 6th graders.

GCMS Students who Walked or Rode the Bus to or From School
That felt either Somewhat Unsafe or Not all Safe

	9th Graders	8th Graders	7th Graders	6th Graders
To School	32%	31%	44%	41%
From School	44%	42%	51%	46%

Students also reported that there were gang members at their school and in the neighborhood near their school.

Gompers Students and Gangs

	9th Graders	8th Graders	7th Graders	6th Graders
Reported that there were Gang members at their school	59%%	57%	44%	44%
Reported there were Gang members in the neighborhoods near their school	71%	70%	51%	77%

Montgomery Students and Gangs

	8th Graders	7th Graders	6th Graders
Reported that there were Gang members at their school	**43%**	**61%**	**52%**
Reported that there were Gang members in the neighborhoods near their school	**61%**	**73%**	**61%**

All of the surveyed students indicated that parks were unsafe when questioned about the top unsafe or dangerous places around the schools. At GCMS, 7th graders rated the streets as the # 1 unsafe area. Montgomery students rated the parks as the #1 unsafe place near their schools.

A list has been developed at each school as to the areas near the school that the youth feel are unsafe. This list is updated every month. Nuisance properties are reviewed every month as well. For instance, an ice cream vendor no longer parks in front of Montgomery Middle School attracting groups of youth and was a place for recruitment by gang members.

FOLLOW UP

The Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention will request with the Attorney General's office to expand the program to more schools. There are 11 such programs in Los Angeles. Over half of the schools have seen an improved sense of safety since implementing the program.

The Southeastern workgroup that met at the May 10th forum: Community Solutions, has met several times since and chosen to focus on the 47th Street Corridor as a Safe Passage project. Some members of this group are also part of the GCMS Safe Passage project.

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Safe Passage

at

Gompers Charter Middle School
and Montgomery Middle School

Commission on Gang Prevention
and
Intervention

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Mission Statement:

- To provide and sustain safe passage of students to and from school by deterring harassment, gang and criminal activity within the immediate perimeter of the campus and at bus stops. Primary hours of the program are one hour before and after school.

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School Profiles:

- Gompers Middle School
- (A charter school)
  - Student census: 680
  - Demographics:
    - 67% Hispanic
    - 30% African American
    - 2% Asian
    - 1% Other
  - 9 Active Gangs
  - Traditional School Calendar
  - Attendance Rate: 93.2%
- Montgomery Middle School
  - Student Census: 652
  - Demographics:
    - 49% Hispanic
    - 19% Indochinese
    - 11% African American
    - 11% White
    - 5% Filipino
    - 3% Asian
  - 4 Active Gangs
  - Year round school
  - Attendance Rate: 95%

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Multi-agency Collaboration:

- City Attorney's DART
- School Staff
- San Diego Fire Department
- Park and Recreation
- Probation
- San Diego Police Department
- Metropolitan Transit System
- School Police
- Commission On Gang Prevention and Intervention

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Gompers Charter Middle School Hot Spots as of June 14th:

- Ice Cream Trucks and Hilltop & 47th
- Ice Cream Truck in front of School
- 4500 Block on Hilltop (cemetery)
- 47th & Market

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Montgomery Middle School Hotspots as of June 14th:

- Pedro's Produce and Taco Shop
- Dunlop and West Dunlop
- 7000 Levant(Pink Apartments)
- Jack in the Box @ Linda Vista
- Recreation Center (LV 13 hangout)

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Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention:

- Expand to other schools
- Support other community based efforts

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