



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: November 28, 2007 REPORT NO: 07-197
ATTENTION: Council President and Members of the City Council, City Council
Docket of December 4, 2007
SUBJECT: Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention Strategic Action
Plan for the City of San Diego

REQUESTED ACTION:

1. Accept the Strategic Action Plan and refer to PS&NS

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Accept the Strategic Action Plan and refer to PS&NS

SUMMARY

The Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention was tasked with making policy recommendations to the Mayor and City Council that would impact gang activity across the city. For the past twelve months, the Commission has listened to residents who have come forward to discuss their concerns and ideas for what they feel would work in their communities. (Listening Tours) The Commission has also researched what has been successful in other communities.

There are four components that provide the overall architecture to the Commission's recommended strategy.

1. Restore San Diego neighborhoods to pre-gang infested levels by reducing gang violence and activity throughout the City.
2. Facilitate total Community involvement through strategic guidance and leadership.
3. Prevent the growth of gang activity and violence in San Diego through multidimensional collaborative efforts.
4. Pursue necessary funding through multiple coordinated efforts.

There are five strategic action goals the Commission recommends to the Mayor and City Council to focus on over the next year:

Goal 1 Establish an effective coordinated collaboration process to impact gang activity citywide

Goal 2 Develop joint partnerships to help address the gang issues within the City of San Diego

Goal 3 Establish a data and research analysis process and research analysis to keep the Mayor, City Council and Commission aware of key gang trends and anti-gang research on an ongoing basis

Goal 4 Based on existing funding, build capacity in existing, effective and promising gang prevention and intervention programs/strategies on a neighborhood basis

Goal 5 Develop a sustainable funding strategy for the Strategic Action plan

There are also recommendations:

Organizational Issues

1. Celebrate youth.

The Commission recommends that the Mayor and City Council designate two youth currently serving on the City Wide Youth Council as liaisons to the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention.

2. Expand Commission membership to address re-entry.

The Commission recommends that the Mayor and City Council appoint the Chief District Administrator of the State of California Department of Corrections, Division of Adult Parole Operations and the District Attorney.

3. Balance Membership.

The Commission recommends that the Mayor and City Council balance the Commission's membership to better reflect the impact the gang issue has at all levels of the community.

Gang Documentation Issues

1. Parents need to know when their child is about to be documented as a gang member.

The Commission recommends that the City of San Diego Police Department research the Federal/state government guidelines regarding CAL Gangs allowing the department to notify parents when their child is about to be documented as a gang member.

2. Address Community Concerns about the criteria for documenting gangs.

The Commission recommends that the City Council request that San Diego Police Department Street Gang Unit review the way it uses the following criteria for documenting gangs.

3. Rehabilitated gang members should be able to get off Cal Gangs in three years.

The Commission recommends that the City Council establish a panel in collaboration with the District Attorney's office to hear petitions from documented gang members who claim to be rehabilitated to be removed from the CAL Gangs list after three years, not five years.

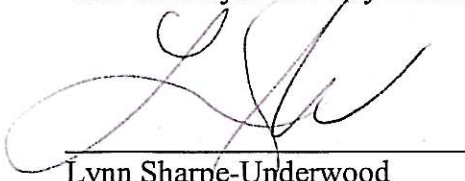
DISCUSSION

The Commission decided that the following key concepts should guide the City in its endeavor to respond to the gang issue in our community:

- A multidimensional gang strategy should address youth between the ages 12-24 who exhibit high-risk behaviors & gang involvement.
- Young people who would move up the ladder of gang membership and activity are those who commit intentional acts of violence or are arrested for gang related incidents.
- The impact of gang members' actions not only adversely affects their parents, siblings, and other family members but the whole community--including the victims of gang violence who must deal with the horror of losing a loved one and the agony of having to deal with a variety of agencies to get restitution and support.
- No single program will fix the gang problems in our community. A coordinated and collaborative effort with strong public leadership by the Mayor, City Council, and Chief of Police is key.
- A coordinated and organized effort among all City departments, other government and community agencies is required to see results that integrate prevention, intervention, and suppression.
- To be effective, all programs and services focused on gang prevention and intervention must be culturally competent, linguistically sensitive, and accessible to the entire community.

CONCLUSION

The Commission will work to assess the implementation and review of its strategic plan with the Mayor and City Council over the next months.



Lynn Sharpe-Underwood
Executive Director
Commission on Gang Prevention
& Intervention



Jill Olen
Deputy Chief Operating Office
Public Safety/Homeland Security