THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: March 26, 2008 REPORT NO. 08-047

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of April 2, 2008

SUBJECT: Informational Report from the San Diego Police Department
Regarding the Graffiti Strike Force

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

The Graffiti Strike Force (GSF) continues to deal effectively with the significant problem of graffiti, and graffiti related crimes, in San Diego. The documentation of "Emerging Gangs," was recently reinstated with the promotion of a GSF officer to detective. Even more recently, a GST officer was selected for a newly approved position as a Juvenile Services Officer to work as the Gang Intervention Officer (GIO). These three task-oriented assignments fall within the GSF command.

GSF

GSF handled eight hundred twenty-eight (828) documented cases in the seven (7) months of this fiscal year (see attached spreadsheet). Two hundred forty-five of those were felony cases. The cases run the gamut from street related gang cases through tag-bangers, tagging crews, to "oners," who are graffiti vandals who claim no association to any group. There are in excess of three hundred (300) tagging crews operating in the City, naturally some more active than others. In the same seven-month period, GSF personnel made two hundred thirty (230) arrests, including sixty-five (65) documented gang members.

GSF officers continually liaison with Area Commands throughout the city and are called out frequently to assist with crime cases and in custody arrests. GSF officers provide the Department with a point of contact for the various neighborhood groups and City Council groups. Training and education is provided upon request.

The Street Gang Unit (SGU) detectives that work various gang sets routinely call on GSF personnel for assistance. Graffiti cases have directly led to identification of shooting and murder suspects. Currently, a threat against a Central Division officer was made via graffiti. It read, "187 Johnson," and there was a moniker. GSF personnel were able to identify the suspect and the case is being pursued.

As a result of some tagging groups engaging in violent crimes, GSF has begun the process of documenting these groups as street gangs. Detective Harberth is assigned this task and has made significant strides. He has documented three tagging groups as meeting State guidelines for being street gangs. He has handled several violent gang-related crimes in his first few months of being a detective. He routinely assists the other gang detectives when requested. He is in the process of documenting additional groups as gangs.

GIO Gang Intervention Officer

In an effort to intervene in the recruiting process of juveniles into street gangs, the Department created a Gang Intervention Officer position to handle referrals from GST and Area Commands of juveniles who are at risk of joining street gangs. Officer Jason Scott is assigned to this position. He works with a wide variety of Community Based Organizations (CBO) and other resources to build a network for successful intervention of young people in high-risk environments. He is currently working with two individuals who were referred to him by a gang detective.

Respectfully submitted,

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Public Safety/Homeland Security

SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT GRAFFITI STRIKE FORCE FY 07/08 STATISTICS

STATISTICS	JULY	AUG	SEPT	Quarter total	OCT	NOV	DEC	Quarter total	JAN	FEB	MAR	Quarter total	APR	MAY	JUNE	Quarter total	2007 TOTAL
FELONY CRIME CASES	44	29	43	116	32	38	30	100	29			29				0	245
MISDEMEANOR CRIME CASES	75	78	89	242	92	67	92	251	90			90				0	583
CRIME CASE CANCELLATIONS	21	20	31	72	44	52	33	129	29			29				0	230
FELONY ARRESTS	10	8	24	42	11	11	25	47	15			15				0	104
MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS	19	20	25	64	20	16	11	47	15			15				0	126
DOCUMENTED GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED	7	7	25	39	4	5	13	22	4			4				0	65
NEW GANG MEMBERS DOCUMENTED	5	3	6	14	3	1	5	9	3			3				0	26
GUNS/WEAPONS RECOVERED	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0			0				0	1
SEARCH/ARREST WARRANTS SERVED	0	2	3	5	0	2	2	4	3			3				0	12