



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: November 3, 2010 REPORT NO. 10-148

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of November 17, 2010

SUBJECT: Strategic Action Plan 2011-2012 – Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

SUMMARY

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

BACKGROUND

The Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention provides annual status reports to the City Council and requests feedback on their activities, plans and strategies. In 2007, the Commission presented a Strategic Action Plan which was updated with a Workplan in 2008. Recently, that Workplan was updated and a new Strategic Action Plan was initiated. This report is a summary of that updated Strategic Action Plan.

The planning process is an important tool the Commission uses annual to focus on its mission such as facilitating collaborative initiatives within the community; identifying and considering critical changes and new research affecting the community, as well as assessing the impact of previous efforts.

The consensus of the Commission is that gang prevention really is a product of communities working together, agencies integrating services and multi-agency/cross-disciplinary conversations about providing comprehensive support within the community. Further, the Commission believes that the new direction outlined in this plan must go forward despite the current decrease in violence in our communities.

Research supports efforts geared toward making a difference early in a child's life:

“Serious delinquent behavior often starts with authority conflict behavior around age 7, moderately serious behavior at age 9.5 and serious delinquency at age 12. The average first contact with juvenile court is at age 14.5”.¹

¹ Washington State Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee's Policy Brief: "Community Based-Based Gang Prevention and Intervention (2008)

The Commission's vision has been modified for continued effectiveness and relevancy as well as to support its implementation strategy and goals. The 2009 vision was:

Reduce Gang Violence and empower communities through collaboration with city and county agencies.

The new vision is to:

1. Pursue strategies to prevent the growth of gang activity and violence in San Diego neighborhoods through multi-dimensional collaborative efforts.
2. Facilitate community involvement through strategic guidance and leadership.
3. Identify necessary funding to accomplish goals.

The goals are:

1. **Goal 1** Establish an effective, coordinated, collaboration process to impact gang activity citywide
2. **Goal 2** Develop joint partnerships to help address the gang issues within the City of San Diego
3. **Goal 3** Establish a data and research analysis process to keep the Mayor, City Council and Commission aware of key gang trends and anti-gang research on an ongoing basis
4. **Goal 4** Build capacity for existing, effective and promising gang prevention and intervention programs/strategies on a neighborhood basis with current funding level.
5. **Goal 5** Develop a sustainable funding strategy for implementation of the Strategic Action plan.

The Commission' goals reflect a researched strategy that demonstrates:

“Preventing violence is a top-down (**high-level leadership**)—bottom-up (**community engagement**) venture. In the middle, strong **collaboration** is supported by on-going attention from dedicated **staffing**.”²

SUMMARY OF STRATEGIES AND INITIATIVES

The Commission spent the last year learning from members of the community during a six month listening tour. More than 120 people participated in this process, with meetings in Logan Heights, City Heights, Skyline, Clairemont, Lincoln Park, San Ysidro, Golden Hill, Sherman Heights and East Mesa to express their ideas and concerns around gangs. The details of the findings of the Tour are in the attached report.

The report and research from the 13 California Cities Gang Prevention Network as well as the National Prevention Institute informed the conceptual discovery process which resulted in the identification of the following four primary focus areas for 2011-2012:

² Unity's Road Map: "Partnerships" page 1

1. Jobs (training as well as placement)
2. Supporting integration of services
3. Facilitating Youth Activities
4. Early intervention strategies

These areas offer both existing and fresh opportunities to address gang prevention/ intervention and correspond to the following goals and implementation initiatives of the Commission.

The highlights below illustrate the clarity of the organization's purpose when action items are directly connected to focus areas:

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

2011 New Direction:

(Priority Focus #1) Partner with the Housing Commission in educating and outreaching to community based organizations about the Section 3 Program.

(Priority Focus #1) Work with the District Attorney's Re-entry Roundtable on employment issues.

(Priority Focus #3) Collaborate on a five school Youth Resource week with City Schools and community organizations to facilitate a focus on attendance and social services that can help youth.

(Priority Focus #4) Broaden network to include new partners to work on prevention issues such as:

- First 5 Commission
- Commission on Family, Youth and Children
- Institute for Public Strategies' Gang Task Force
- Health and Human Services
- County Mental Health

Goal 2 - Develop a multi department partnership within the City Organization to focus on information sharing and training regarding gang issues within the community.

2011 New Direction

Set up briefings with departments and commissions to share information and concepts.

Work with the Southeastern Division and community organizations to discuss issues as part of a communication effort to build community relations.

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

2011 New Direction

(Priority Focus #4) Track the numbers of youth in diversion as a result of the Collaborative Curfew sweeps. (This data needs to be evaluated.)

Goal 4 - Identify capacity building funding sources for agencies and organizations with existing, effective and promising gang prevention and intervention programs/strategies that [they] can apply for on a neighborhood basis.

2011 New Direction

Educate organizations regarding grant opportunities. Facilitate information meetings and send out important materials to help small organizations understand the process to apply for funds such as Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Work with County Mental Health on Proposition 63 Funding for supporting the collaborative curfew sweeps.

Goal 5 - Make policy recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on issues of gang prevention, intervention, diversion and suppression methods, *identify* local, state and federal funding sources, and *identify* best practice efforts.

2011 New Direction

(Priority Focus #2) Monitor and research legislation that supports integration of services on both the federal and state levels through organizations like the 13 California Cities Gang Prevention Network and the Prevention Institute's national UNITY network.

Goal 6 - Develop a sustainable funding strategy for the Strategic Action plan.

2011 New Direction

Continue to support applications and outreach to organizations to build collaborations to apply for funds.

Partnerships are the Primary Key to Success

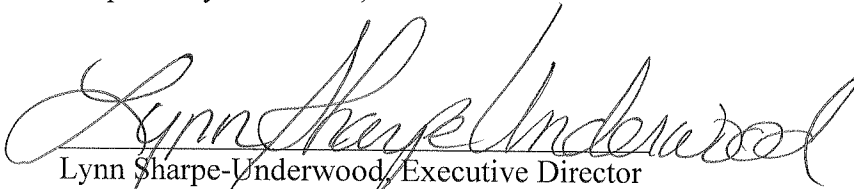
As the Commission embarks on its fifth year, it is evident that collaboration and community involvement are the key actions that impact violence in San Diego. Partnerships among the members of the Commission (the San Diego Police Department, San Diego Unified School District, County Probation, the District Attorney's office, San Diego Workforce Partnership, Parole, and county Office of Education along with the community organization members like Harmonium, Metro United, Reality Changers, Unity Tech, California Endowment, and Second Chance) and agencies/Departments such as the City Attorney's office, Park & Recreation Department, Housing Commission, County Health and Human Services, County Mental Health and the numerous community based organizations make it possible for the City to have a positive impact on gang related issues facing our communities.

COMMUNITY SCAN & IMPACT

The San Diego Police Department and community organizations continue to collaborate on curfew sweeps which have positively impacted youth violence in both the Mid City and Southeastern communities. Since July 2009, 929 youth in Mid-City and Southeastern have been detained; 681 of those have been assigned to diversion classes instead of being required to appear in court. More than 50 non profits and faith based partners have participated and supported the San Diego Police Department in this effort.

There have been three (3) gang related homicides between January and September 2010, compared to seven (7) during the same period in 2009.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lynn Sharpe-Underwood, Executive Director
Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

Approved:



Debra Fischle-Faulk
Director, Administration Department