

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: October 26, 2011 REPORT NO. 11-146

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of November 2, 2011

SUBJECT: Informational Report from the San Diego Police Department
Regarding Juvenile Curfew Enforcement

SUMMARY

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

BACKGROUND

In recent years cities and localities across the country have expanded the use of youth curfews to address growing public concern about juvenile crime and violence. By reducing the number of youths on the street during certain hours, curfews lessen the number of circumstances in which crimes occur involving youths as the perpetrators or victims.

The San Diego Municipal Code (sections 58.0101 and 58.0102) established a juvenile curfew ordinance for youth under the age of 18 in the City of San Diego. Curfew hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. daily. Municipal Code section 58.0102 makes it unlawful for minors to be present in any public place or on the premises of any establishment within the City of San Diego during curfew hours except for an emergency, accompanied by an adult or attending a supervised school, religious or recreational activity.

A review of juvenile victimization revealed that 3.7% of violent crimes were occurring to youth in all communities throughout San Diego during curfew hours. This number dropped over 1% from last year.

As a result, the San Diego Police Department re-emphasized its commitment to enforcement of the curfew ordinance. From July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, police patrol commands conducted 46 curfew sweeps, resulting in 1,358 juvenile detentions. Of the 1,358 juveniles detained, 848 were sent to diversion programs. (Diversion is a court sanctioned, 4- 6 week course for non-violent offenders. If the juvenile successfully completes the course, no indication of the detention is indicated on the juvenile record.)

As the curfew sweeps continue to evolve, a new community based pilot project has started. The "Community Wrap Around" project is a volunteer driven initiative. The program will consist of community members with various backgrounds and expertise. The program is designed to target

“at risk” juveniles. A small group of community members from the program assess the “at risk” juvenile and their family. The group will identify goals and needs for the specific family. They will help provide or guide them to appropriate resources to meet their goals and needs.

PERSONNEL RESOURCES

The Police Department’s curfew sweep program has become a model for law enforcement agencies nationwide because of its use of community collaboration. In addition to the police officers who detain the juveniles in the field, there are more than 30 community based and faith based organizations, Child Welfare Services, Juvenile Probation, San Diego City Schools, military personnel and the City’s Gang Commission, who actively participate in the process. Volunteers are responsible for contacting parents, supervising male and female juveniles in segregated areas, setting youth up with diversion programs, and providing crisis intervention and resources to families. On any given curfew sweep, approximately 10-12 police officers and 40-60 volunteers participating in the curfew sweep program.

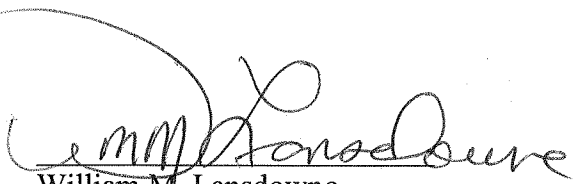
PUBLIC EDUCATION

Public education has taken place through the community based and faith based organizations who attend monthly sweeps. These partners pass information down through their churches and organizations about the risk to our youth. School personnel who participate in the curfew sweeps also meet with parents on site, then have the opportunity to work more closely with students and families who are at risk.

CONCLUSION

The San Diego Police Department’s monthly curfew sweeps have resulted in a reduction in crime against juvenile victims. The sweeps are truly a collaborative partnership between the police, community, and schools, with a central focus of protecting juveniles in our community.

Respectfully submitted,



William M. Lansdowne
Chief of Police

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