



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: October 22, 2013 REPORT NO: 13-094
ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
SUBJECT: Informational Report from the Commission on Gang Prevention & Intervention

REQUESTED ACTION:

This is an informational report. No action is required on the part of the Committee or the City Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ITEM BACKGROUND:

Since 2006, the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention has been serving as the official advisory body to the Mayor and the City Council on policy issues relating to gang prevention and intervention, as authorized by City of San Diego Ordinance Number O-19748 (May 14, 2008). Annually, the Commission presents an update of its work plan to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee regarding collaborative community initiatives to impact gang violence within the City of San Diego.

This report reflects the goals and status of the implementation of the community efforts anchored by the Commission's Strategic Action plan ("Accounting for Success") focus for 2012-2013. There are four areas of focus, which will be discussed further in the following section.

1. Employment (involving training, as well as placement)
2. Integration of services with other City, County, and nonprofit programs
3. Facilitation of youth activities
4. Collaborative accountability

DISCUSSION:

Employment

The Commission supported San Diego City Schools, Workforce Partnership, and the San Diego County Probation Department in proactively finding opportunities for collaboration and joint initiatives. More specifically:

- Chair Lozada worked on Pathways to Success with City Schools.
- Worked with the Mayor's office and the Youth Development Office on the successful application for the Aspen Institute's Opportunity Youth planning grant. (Focus is on youth aged 16-24 in Southeastern and Mid-City San Diego.)
- Supported the Connect2Careers work of Commissioner Callstrom of the Workforce Partnership.
- The Commission staff participates on the Youth Council and advocates for community-focused job training programs.
- Commissioner Dana Brown and Commission staff participated in the Mid-City Youth Job Fair.

Integration of Services

The Commission works with City departments, the County and community organizations to facilitate integration of services in the San Diego region. The following sections detail the specific initiatives that the Commission is working on at each level.

City Agencies

The Commission is working with the San Diego Police Department on a job fair called Career Crossroads to be held at Lincoln High School on December 5, 2013. Youth are exposed to job opportunities that require a high school diploma and some credentialing. The effort is to educate youth about good jobs not related to a college education. This effort was spearheaded by Detective Serrano in the Southeast Division, and it was successfully done at Morse High School earlier this fall. The Fire and Public Works Departments, as well as outside organizations such as the U.S. Navy, 10 News, and Rady Children's Hospital will continue their involvement and support of this initiative.

The Commission is also working with San Diego Unified Chief of Police Ruben Littlejohn and San Diego Police Chief William Lansdowne on a Safe Zone Ad Hoc Committee. The committee is meeting with school community groups at the Safe Passage sites where updated Safe School signage will be posted. Once Safe School Zone signs are posted, any person who commits a crime near the school or within the Safe School Zone is subject to increased penalties.

County Agencies

The Commission is actively involved with Live Well San Diego, San Diego County's long-term initiative to help all County residents become healthy, safe, and thriving. This County initiative facilitates collaboration among faith-based organizations, community advocates, and other agencies.

Since 2010, the Commission has participated on the Public Safety Subcommittee of Live Well San Diego. This Subcommittee includes representatives from the San Diego Health and Human Services Agency. This subcommittee supports the Safe Passage programs in:

- Bell Middle School
- Montgomery Middle School
- Horace Mann Crawford Safe Passage program collaborative which includes UPAC's Alliance for Community Empowerment program (ACE) and former Commissioner Eugene Johnson's volunteer corps
- Safe Routes to School program of Rady Children's Hospital in the Wilson-Clark Cluster in Mid-City San Diego

Trauma-informed care is an important aspect of serving our youth impacted by community violence. The Commission is co-sponsoring a resource fair with San Diego Unified School District in December, where the information gathered by the Trauma-Informed Ad Hoc Committee will be presented. The Ad Hoc Committee is working with San Diego County Department of Probation regarding trauma-informed practice and education. Chair Rosa Ana Lozada is working with Probation Director Gonzalo Mendez on a curriculum for Probation officers.

Community-Based Organizations

Working with San Diego Unified School District, the Commission is co-organizing a resource fair at Balboa Park for school counselors in December. The Commission is inviting community based non-profits to connect with school counselors and inform them of their services.

Facilitation of Youth Activities

The Commission researches and distributes grant funding information that supports youth activities. Over 65 funding opportunities were made available on the Commission's website and through e-mail to organizations serving youth.

The Executive Director and Chair of the Commission participated on the Opportunity Youth Pathway Initiative (Pathways) grant that was successfully selected as one of only 21 communities in the nation to receive these funds assisting youth ages 16-24 who are disconnected from education, training, and employment.

The Commission, in partnership with the District Attorney's office and San Diego Police Lt. Debbie Farrar, coordinates the work of interns and AmeriCorps volunteers to provide continued support to the Girls Only Club offered at the Encanto Boys and Girls Club and the Mid-City Youth Job Fair.

In its advisory capacity, the Commission successfully supported the funding of the Park and Recreation Teen Program's extended nights.

Collaborative Accountability

Commission members are committed to accountability and assessing the effectiveness of collaborative efforts. The Commission uses the California Endowment's definition of *collaborative accountability* to guide its work:

Collaborative accountability differs from bureaucratic accountability both on what is assessed, and how it is assessed. Collaborative accountability is an assessment based on contribution, by driving strategic awareness throughout the system, and by connecting rewards and sanctions to these broader themes.

A survey was given to the Commissioners to evaluate the effectiveness of the work of the Commission. Using a group of questions developed by the California Endowment, the Commission was polled and a quorum responded. Overall, Commissioners responded that the sharing of information was one of the key advantages of the Commission. This is seen as important in understanding the roles and resources available when collaborating with other community groups. The multidisciplinary representation on the Commission was also seen as valuable in helping with informed decision-making and in making advisory recommendations to the Mayor and Council.

Commissioners surveyed want more staff for the Commission and broader outreach to the community. They would also like the Commission to engage in more region-specific initiatives and include the communities of Lemon Grove and North County.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

N/A

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CONTRACTING INFORMATION (if applicable):

N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

San Diego City Council adopted Ordinance O-2013-54 on January 8, 2013, which amended Section 26.1902 of the San Diego Municipal Code, in order to change membership and quorum requirements for the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

Door-to-Door Outreach

Commission members Bishop Bowser, Pastor Robinson and Dana Brown have been involved in direct community outreach. Working with former Assistant Chief Boyd Long and volunteers from various churches, Commission members targeted communities and walked door to door, passing out information on resources and programs. Focus is on neighborhoods of need, volunteers, San Diego Police officers making direct contact with residents, providing resources, and making caring connections. This summer, these efforts culminated in the following community events:

- 44th Street - after a year-long planning effort, a Community Fair was held in July to build peace and positive relationships. Over 300 community members were in attendance.
- South 35th Street - On August 17, 2013, the First Apostolic Church of San Diego held a community fair that included activities for children, choir performances, with the Fire Department and Police Department interacting with youth and families. The fair also featured a community food distribution, which benefitted 55 families. On September 20, 2013, they held a community-wide food distribution, following the success of the August event, with 160 families attending and receiving food packets.
- 55th Street - ongoing outreach to build positive relationships and provide information and resources.

Community Summit

The Commission is partnering with the following organizations and elected officials for a community summit at the Jacobs Center on Saturday, February 22, 2014:

- Jacobs Center
- San Diego District Attorney's Office
- Councilmember Myrtle Cole, District Four
- San Diego Unified School District

- SANDAG
- Workforce Partnership
- San Diego County Office of Education

The summit is entitled: “Community Violence Prevention Summit 2014 – Neighborhood Solutions: Moving from Conversation to Action.”

The summit is a city-wide and county-wide event. Subjects that will be covered include:

- Know Your Rights
- Trauma-informed practice
- Involving former gang members in prevention and intervention programs
- Compassion Project
- Safe Passage/Safe Routes to School
- Immigrant gangs

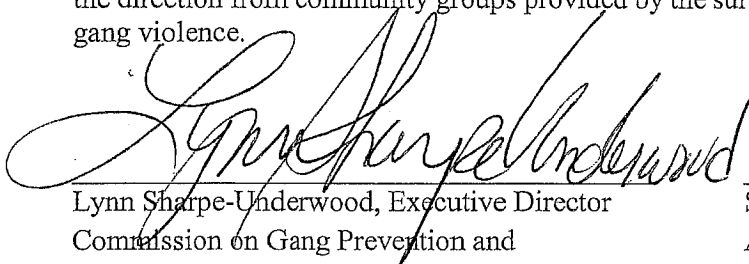
Prior to the summit, all Council District Appointees will survey their respective communities for ideas on these issues and other issues they feel need to be addressed. There will also be an electronic survey for interested community members to access. SANDAG is collaborating with the Commission on this survey. The other goal of the summit is to gather input for the Commission’s next Strategic Action Plan. SANDAG is working with Commission on this survey.

Members of the planning committee have committed to follow up with the working groups that are created at the summit to ensure action and follow-through. Also, a new Strategic Action Plan for the Commission will be completed using the information.

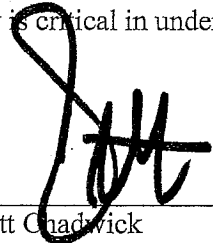
KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS:

Key stakeholders in this work plan are residents of, and visitors to, the City of San Diego, including local businesses.

The Commission’s projects and initiatives outlined above impact the entire city, wherever gang violence is a concern. The 2014 pre-summit survey will allow communities all across the city to voice their concerns about gang violence. The survey will help direct not only strategies recommended by the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention, but inform the San Diego Police Department and other agencies as to what each San Diego community feels are important initiatives and focuses. In this way, the direction from community groups provided by the survey is critical in understanding and impacting gang violence.



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