



CITY OF SAN DIEGO
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER ANTHONY YOUNG



WEEKLY UPDATE DECEMBER 19, 2005

I am very sad in saying that two young lives have been ruined this holiday season as a result of senseless violence among our youth. 17 year old Marchannae Johnson was killed Sunday December 11, 2005 at the Bay Vista apartment complex. On Friday, December 16, a 15 year old boy was arrested and if all the evidence collected is viable, will be charged and prosecuted as an adult for her murder.

I commend and thank Dorothy Williams and the Bay Vista Tenants Association, Mayor Jerry Sanders , City Attorney Michael Aguirre, District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis, County Supervisor Greg Cox, Police Chief Lansdowne, Ricky Lassiter and Black Men United, Bishop McKinney and the St. Stephen Interdenominational Alliance, Bishop Roy Dixon, Barbara Howard and the Coalition of Neighborhood Councils, and the many other community leaders and community members who responded to my call to assemble at the Bay Vista Apartments on Monday December 12, 2005 and let the residents and community know that we would stand together and work together to end the gang violence in and around the apartment complex.

At the meeting a former gang member stated that "we can not expect this problem to be solved by City Hall. It takes all of us to help teach our kids." I agree, I can not solve this problem alone, however working together with the community; we can use resources from the City, County, and State to work with parents and the community to help teach our kids that violence is not the answer to resolving differences. A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. Our first step began with capturing the alleged shooter of Marchannae Johnson and ensuring the residents of Bay Vista Apartments are safe from any further youth violence. We will take many more steps in the upcoming weeks including holding management accountable for physical improvements at the complex designed to make residents safer, establishing a city-wide Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention, increasing police presence where needed, arresting and prosecuting those engaging in criminal behavior, **and supporting community programs and efforts designed to improve the quality of life of both youth and**

adults while also emphasizing a message to our youth that violence is not the answer to resolving differences!

As you know, the safety of our water and water system is at the very top of our priority list. From December 22, 2005 to January 19, 2006 the City's Water Department will treat our water with chlorine, instead of the combination of chlorine and ammonia (chloramines). Please do not panic, this is a common practice used periodically to maintain water quality.

You may notice a slight change in the taste and or smell of your tap water. People with special medical needs including pregnant women may want to consult their doctors to determine if they need to take any extra precautions. Please visit our website at www.sandiego.gov/water for more information or call Tedi Jackson at 527-3121 and/or Water Quality at (619) 668-3232.

The Holiday season is upon us and all of the City offices will be closed on Monday, December 26th and Monday January 2nd.

Various city departments will have other Holiday schedule changes including Community Service Centers, Development Services Permits and Plan Review, Libraries, Recreation Centers, Golf Courses and Lakes. Please contact Mona-Favorite Hill at (619) 527-3145 for information about the changes in San Diego City services for the Holiday period.

I want to join the community in wishing the founder and publisher of the Voice & Viewpoint, Dr. John Warren a happy 60th birthday. May you have 60 more years of providing news and commentary to the citizens of San Diego.

Congratulations to Cynthia Hammond, Harold Lamb, Aubrey Fay and Charles McPherson on their induction into the San Diego African American Musicians Heritage Foundation's Hall of Fame. Their contributions to the musical history of San Diego are commendable.

Congratulations to Thomas J. Graham for receiving the distinguished Senior of the Year Award from The San Diego Consistory # 91. I commend him for his outstanding service to the community and to seniors.

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season! My thanks go out to you for supporting me in my efforts to make this City and the 4th District a better place to live, work, and raise a family

Thank you for reading my E-mail Message for The Week. If you would like to receive this E-mail on a regular basis, please e-mail me at anthonyyoung@sandiego.gov.

.....