DATE ISSUED: REPORT NO:

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee Agenda of October 22, 2008

SUBJECT: WRITTEN ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION ON GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

REQUESTED ACTON

Accept the Annual report and send to the Mayor and full Council.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the report.

SUMMARY

The purpose of the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention is to:

1. Develop a strategic collaborative effort between various agencies who work with gang related issues.
2. 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.
3. Advocate, formulate, and recommend for adoption proactive gang policies, ordinances and guidelines.

The Municipal Code (Chapter 2, Article 6, Division 6, Division 19 Part I) directs the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention to provide a written annual report.

The following reports on the status of the Strategic Action Plan that the Commission has been implementing for the past year.

BACKGROUND

The Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention completed its Strategic Action Plan in November 2007. The City Council accepted the report and recommendations. The five major recommendations are:

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

Goal 2 Develop joint partnerships to help address the gang issues within the City of San Diego

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

Goal 4 Based on existing funding, build capacity in existing, effective and promising gang prevention and intervention programs/strategies on a neighborhood basis

Goal 5 Develop a sustainable funding strategy for the Strategic Action plan

The Commission has identified and taken steps to implement strategic actions under all five goals. Most implementation activity has occurred or has been initiated in the past six months and the collection of impact data is ongoing.

In taking these steps the Commission sees itself planting seeds, which may not bear fruit for 3-5 years. Some efforts such as interventions (working with San Diego Police on curfew sweeps –over 200 youth were detained) and suppression (law enforcement collaborations) efforts impact the crimes in areas. The clear message is the Commission, Law Enforcement, and the Community are serious about impacting gang activity in neighborhoods.

Initial effects of some of the prevention activities have been noteworthy. For instance under Goal 1, the Tariq Khamisa Foundation is part of the technical team working as part of the OJJDP funded coordinating collaborative. Their work at specific schools has impacted juvenile crime around the schools. Also under Goal 1, the employment action of working with the San Diego Workforce Partnership has helped 30 youth get their GED. A summer program initiated by Commissioner Henderson generated jobs for 40 youth.

The Commission also addressed several issues, which it felt were organizational, or policy issues. The attached chart explains at greater length what has been achieved and the direction the Commission will consider moving as a result.

<u>Organizational Issues</u>

a) Celebrate youth.
b) Expand Commission membership to address re-entry.
c) Balance Membership.

<u>Gang Documentation Issues</u>

a) Parents need to know when their child is about to be documented as a gang member.
b) Address Community Concerns about the criteria for documenting gangs.
c) Rehabilitated gang members should be able to get off CAL Gangs in three years.

During 2008, the Mayor and the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee supported the implementation of the recommendations and strategic actions. The Commission has reported regularly on steps being taken to actualize the recommendations. This report outlines those steps and discusses the current year's recommendations and work of the Commission.

DISCUSSION

The following gives an overview of each recommendation and its implementation. The Commission with the support of the Mayor and the City Council has been successful in implementing the recommendations. The attached Addendums A & B give more specific details on the Strategic Action of each Goal. These recommendations not completed at this time are in discussion with the appropriate departments or agencies.

Goal #1: Establish an effective coordinated collaboration process to impact gang activity citywide.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) funded the Commission via a grant, $200,000. The grant is called, "The San Diego Initiative" and provides funding for two years to coordinate and establish a collaborative initiative in a specific targeted area. The San Diego Initiative has an in school collaboration involving the San Diego Workforce Partnership, the Tariq Khamisa Foundation and the Commission.

Impact: Within several months, the collaboration was able to impact crimes around the targeted schools. Crimes were reduced 36% (See Addendum B). The Tariq Khamisa Foundation provided prevention services for over 4,000 youth.

The Initiative established a Curfew Sweep initiative in collaboration with the San Diego Police Department. The structure of the sweeps has garnered statewide attention, and is in the process of being implemented citywide. The sweeps include working with government agencies, community based organizations and faith-based organizations on site during the sweeps.

Impact: This initiative impacted 200 youth in the five-month period it was implemented.

Goal #2: Develop joint partnerships to help address the gang issues within the City of San Diego.

The Commission established collaboration with the City of San Diego Library Department, San Diego Police Department, San Diego County Metropolitan Transit Board, and the City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department, which resulted in the establishment of a multi-agency technical team. The team is now working on various projects. As an example, truancy issues surfaced as one of the items for discussion.

Impact: These department staff members will attend "Anti- Gang" training this fall.

The Commission established a partnership with Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), and the County's Juvenile Justice Task Force.

Impact: The Commission is now a conduit of information for a variety of community-based organizations.

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.

The grant from the California Wellness Foundation ($225,000 for three years) provides funds to help accomplish this goal.

Benchmarks include:

- Development of a resource guide.
  The guide will be posted on the Commission's website in November. A hard copy is available.
- Interns through the California Wellness Grant have been attending meetings gathering information on a neighborhood basis and are monitoring information regarding gang trends in neighborhoods.
- The Commission regularly posts research and distributes to Commissioners.
- An ad hoc committee comprising the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), San Diego County Probation, and the San Diego Police Department have developed a comprehensive effort on data analysis as well.

Goal #4: Based on existing funding, build capacity in existing, effective, promising gang prevention and intervention program/strategies on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood basis.

The City of San Diego awarded the Commission a $75,000 Community Development Block Grant to accomplish this goal.

Goal #5: Develop a sustainable funding strategy for the Strategic Action plan.

The Mayor and the City Council are committed to the Commission and its efforts. Discussions are on going as to the best strategy for accomplishing this goal. Funds raised from one philanthropic source (The California Wellness Foundation) and and 2 public sources (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency

Prevention/OJJDP and California Gang Resistance Intervention Program/CALGRIP) help provide short-term sustainability for plan implementation. The Commission has and will continue to receive assistance from the California 13-Cities Gang Prevention Network on ideas for funding and numerous other elements of plan implementation.

FOLLOW UP

The Commission has used the Strategic Action Plan to identify additional Strategic Actions that are aligned with the original five goals.

For instance under Goal 1 (**Establish an effective coordinated collaboration process to impact gang activity citywide.**) the following truancy/curfew process was recommended:

> **The Commission recommends a collaborative truancy/curfew process be used based on best practices, and further recommends the City of San Diego collaborate with the County of San Diego to create a county wide policy based on the same practice.**
>
> San Diego Police Department's Southeast Division and the Mid-City Division have implemented such a procedure. More than 130 youth have been served by numerous organizations.

Under Goal 2 (**Develop joint partnerships to help address the gang issues within the City of San Diego.**) the following recommendation was forwarded to County Mental Health:

> **Forward the recommended concepts with comments to the County Mental Health Agency's project staff:**
>
> Under First responder services, the community recommends that mobile teams be created; perhaps Mental Health staff should also be part of community suppression activities like Truancy and Curfew Sweeps where youth and families are engaged and services are invited to outreach to families with a multitude of physical and emotional issues that need to be addressed.
>
> *Status:* The County Mental Health Department has developed a project called Community Violence and is submitting the concept to the state as part of their Proposition 63 service request. It will be heard before the Board of Supervisors on November 18th.

The Commission recommends to the Mayor and City Council and will communicate to other funding agencies, local foundations, the City's CDBG funding office as well as seeking funds to use the following areas of focus as guidelines for funding anti-gang

programs for youth 9-17 years old and their families within the City of San Diego in the coming year:

1. Truancy intervention and prevention/Curfew support
2. GED/High School diploma attainment
3. Employment/work skills development (including Summer employment strategies)
4. Parent education and Family support (Including Gang Violence Victim Assistance)
5. Collaboration as a necessary strategy to better serve the communities in the City of San Diego

CONCLUSION

On November 20th, the Commission will finalize its focus for 2009 at a Strategy Retreat. Some of the areas the Commission will be working on are a Youth Summit, investigating Victim's Family issues, and working to hold a joint summit with the North County Gang Commission in the year to come.

Lynn Sharpe-Underwood
Executive Director
Commission on Gang Prevention
& Intervention

Jill Olen
Deputy Chief Operating Office
Public Safety/Homeland Security