

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

September 20, 2012

To: Commissioners
From: Lynn Sharpe Underwood
Executive Director

Item B: Develop a community involvement template for action for the City's response to gang violence in the future.

FOCUS for 2011-2012 (page 11): Support integration of services

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

Recommended Action

Establish a community action Ad Hoc Committee to report back in January on a draft Template for Action.

Background

The San Diego Compassion Project has responded to 65 homicides and tragedies in the past 4 years. As part of the response process, Compassion project member have outreached to the surrounding community. The group has attempted to serve not just the family but the community members who have been impacted by the violence in myriad ways. Partners in this effort have been San Diego Unified School principal and counselors, San Diego Probation and the San Diego Police Department.

The attached documents illustrate how Commissioners Dana Brown and Pastor Robinson along with many community advocates like Pastor Rene Colon, Tasha Williamson, Pastor Bowser, Charles Alexander and the Jacobs Center Project Safeway have been visionary in seeing that it's a block by block effort to impact the violence. Their work also shows the agencies that must be involved in the effort.

This process is grounded in the evidenced process first initiated by New York City's Harlem's Children Zone and now currently implemented in Los Angeles as the GRYD program (Gang Reduction and Youth Development-

<http://www.ci.la.ca.us/Mayor/villaraigosaplan/PublicSafety/gangreductionstrategy/index.html>)

Three years ago LA set up 16 areas of need and funded a wrap around service for the youth in "gryd" zones which included the Summer Nights program that had an employment component. Last year the Advancement Project in Los Angeles published the Community Safety Scorecard

(<http://www.advancementprojectca.org/?q=Scorecard>). This score card rated zip codes as safe based on a variety of risk and protective factors. The Advancement Project Scorecard research pointed out:

Action Item B
Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention
September 12, 2013

A high number of risk factors such as poverty and unemployment were correlated strongly to a lack of protective factors, inadequate school conditions and ultimately low levels of safety; examples of this can be found in practically every "least safe" ZIP code. Such concentrated disadvantage highlights the historic lack of investment for some parts of the City of Los Angeles...

It is evident from these findings that the scale and scope of community level risk factors is closely linked to a need for place-based comprehensive strategies to reduce violence. **Successful strategies** in communities graded "least safe" must encompass a comprehensive, **multisector, neighborhood-based approach** and include child development, economic development, and community development models that address the major underlying drivers of violence.

Conclusion

Presentations regarding three of the many efforts will be made by the following to underscore the need and the potential impact a template of action would have in the communities:

- Commissioner Dana Brown with Ricky McCoy Senior
- Commissioner Pastor Robinson (CAST)
- Pastor Bowser (Central Division's Safe Passage)

Recommendation: *Establish a community action Ad Hoc Committee to report back in January on a draft Template for Action.*