

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO**  
**Commission on Gang Prevention and**  
**Intervention**

**Minutes**

June 16th, 2007

Civic Center Plaza, Conference Room 400

1. Call was called to order at 9:00 am

2. Attending were:

Pastor Harry Cooper  
Scott Silverman  
Larry Fitch  
Benita Page  
Dr. Carl Cohn  
Alicia De Leon Torres  
Kevin Henderson  
Steve Eldred  
Lynn Sharpe Underwood

*Absent:*

Conrad Harris  
Victor Gallegos  
Chief Lansdowne  
Eugene Johnson  
Christopher Yanov

3. The Minutes were reviewed and accepted for May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

4. Community Scan was not available for this meeting

5. Discussion on Recommendations

Jennifer Adams Brooks facilitated the discussion regarding recommendations to be considered.

Dr. Carl Cohn expressed interest in current gang violence and activity in other cities that are the same in size and population as San Diego. (I.e. Phoenix, AZ).

Commissioner De Leon Torres mentioned that many felt there was a need for more youth to have been part of the May 10<sup>th</sup> event and to be part of the Commission.

Commissioner Page mentioned that she heard from many participants at the May 10<sup>th</sup> event that a resource directory would be helpful.

Commissioner Henderson stated there was a need for jobs in specific communities to help youth and young adults to be gainfully employed.

Executive Director Sharpe-Underwood mentioned that victims of gang violence and activity in various communities feel that they don't have a "place" to turn to for help. Several Listening Tour events underscored this.

Executive Director Sharpe-Underwood reported that the Safe Passage Project at Gompers Charter School and Montgomery School has been proven to be helpful. Principal Ton feels like he has resources he didn't have before.

Commissioner Fitch suggested that the commission review programs that work with at-risk youth and adults; and see how effective they are in helping them reintegrate back into their communities successfully.

Commissioner Silverman asked about the goals for the Gang Commission and what is expected for the Gang Commission to accomplish. He was provided with the Municipal Code and the work plan.

Commissioners agreed that youth need to be part of the commission. Discussion ensued among the Commissioners about the number. Pastor Cooper suggested that preferably two youth that could relay the concerns of their communities and engage in dialogue.

Commissioner Page thought it might be a good idea to recommend that the City create a Youth Advisory Board that is specifically engaged in gang problem solving.

Commissioner DeLeon Torres feels that these youths need to come from the listening tour areas: Mid-City, Golden Hill, Linda Vista, Mira Mesa, and Southeastern. Pastor Cooper felt that a Southbay representative would also be needed.

Pastor Harry Cooper expressed that membership of the Gang Commission should be diverse and representative of the community. He would like to see more Hispanics on the Commission.

Kevin Henderson discussed how law enforcement agencies document gang members. He feels that the process of how gang members are being documented needs to be reviewed and possibly revised. e.g. how can gang members get off the list and what gets former gang members back on the list)

Jennifer Adams Brooks and Executive Director Sharpe-Underwood explained that from the Commission's conversation a draft of the discussion would be developed and then the Commission would review and vote on it.

#### 6. Community Dialogue

Pamela Perkins spoke regarding a need for parent focused programs. She felt this kind of programming needs to be part of special events sponsored by the Commission.

Victor Torres expressed concerns about documentation and the impact it has on former gang members' lives and pointed out that there is a system that law enforcement use in various states to keep track of documented gang members and their activity even after they are taken off the list at five years.

#### 7. Executive Director

- a. OJJDP Grant that is due on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- b. The strategies goals will be discussed on the July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting.

#### 8. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm