

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

Thursday, November 29, 2007

War Memorial Building

3325 Zoo Drive (North end of the Zoo Parking Lot)

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:35p
  
2. Attending were:
  - Pastor Harry Cooper
  - Alicia DeLeon Torres
  - Steve Eldred
  - Kevin Henderson
  - Christopher Yanov
  - Larry Fitch
  - Fred Sotelo
  - Victor Torres
  - Benita Page

Staff:

  - Lynn Sharpe-Underwood
  - John Minto

Absent:

  - Chief Lansdowne
  - Gary Gallegos
  - Eugene Johnson
  - Dr. Carl Cohn
  - Conrad Harris
  
3. The Minutes of the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved unanimously.
  
4. Council President Pro Tem Anthony Young thanked the Commission for its work. He pointed out that the real work now begins in terms of the next year. He was excited about the opportunities for the Commission and the Council to work together. He pointed out that the work the Commission had accomplished was a template for other organizations statewide. He believes that the State implemented an advisory board mirroring the focus and work of the Commission.
  
5. Current Information Scan: Lt. Andrew Mills presented the following statistics:

GANG CASES CURRENT MONTH		GANG CASES YEAR TO DATE		
	TOTAL (Month)	TOTAL (2007)	Compare (2006)	Change (2006 to 2007)
187 (Homicide)	8	24	13	11
664/187 (Attempt Homicide)	3	15	10	5
245 (Assault with a Deadly Weapon)	25	222	194	28
246/247 (Shooting at a House/Vehicle)	2	22	19	3
211 (Robbery)	10	89	77	12
10851(Auto Theft)	3	58	49	9
OTHER (All other Crimes)	38	377	286	91
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>159</b>

He also announced the successful Parolee Meeting held in Chula Vista, that PD had received a \$400,000 Bureau of Justice Assistance grant and that a new Juvenile Services Officer was being hired for the Southeast area.

6. Discussion/Action Agenda:

- a. Meeting Dates and Structure of the Commission – Deputy City Attorney Mary Nuesca presented to the Commission that in January she will submit a resolution that adds the Sheriff, the District Attorney, the Parole Administrator, Region IV Inland District, the County School Superintendent but also clarified that the Chief of Police and the Probation Chief are standing positions as well as a change on required meetings would be included – the Commission would meet at least six times a year.

Discussion:

**Commissioner Yanov** was concerned that *new members automatically appointed by the position that they hold may not necessarily be interested in the Commission*; **Commissioner Eldred** stated his concern regarding law enforcement and non profits.

**Public Discussion**

Dr. Dana Nurge asked about including youth. Staff responded that it would be moving forward in the next year and that the youth involvement had not been forgotten.

**Commissioner Fitch** moved that the changes be accepted; **Commissioner Torres** seconded the motion and the changes were accepted unanimously

- b. A concern about gang activity in College Area by Eugene Johnson was tabled. Rev. Johnson was with a grieving family preparing for a funeral the next day.

c. Discussion – Workplan for 2008

**Commission Chair Cooper** reminded everyone the Commission will be monitoring the City's implementation of the Strategic Action plan; that we will continue to have meetings in the community particularly in the Southbay and that we need to empower the Hispanic community since 50% of the gangs in our community are Hispanic. The Commission must be more intentional in this effort. Pastor also feels that some of the County task forces and commissions should be met with in joint meetings: Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, the Commission on Children, Youth and Families.

**Public Input:**

Grover Diemert from Linda Vista felt we should strongly support street teams and include more victims of gang violence in our listening tours for the upcoming year.

**Commissioner Alicia Torres** stated that the Commission needs to invite more Asian input as the Commission outreaches next year. It is important also for the Commission to know who is getting the dollars to serve the community. Smaller agencies don't seem to be in the funding stream neither are they aware of the RFPs on a regular basis. Client satisfaction surveys count for the effectiveness of these organizations and their ability to be linguistically and culturally competent.

**Commissioner Eldred** reminded his fellow commissioners of the following goal in the Strategic Action plan:

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

Related Recommendations

1. *The Commission recommends that the Mayor and City Council strongly support the Commission's effort to set up coordinated efforts in specific communities to address the gang situation.*

**Strategic Actions**

**2.1** *Institutionalize within the City that every City department will include practices, partnerships and/or technology that will protect our youth and children.*

**2.2** *Establish formal agreements with government and community organizations (inclusive of Faith Based groups) that support the City's effort to effectively impact gang activity.*

**Commissioner Eldred** stated that we need to be more active about promoting this and perhaps when we can, ask each City Department to respond to us as to how they are accomplishing this. Commissioner Eldred suggested that we have a listening tour of City Departments.

**Commissioner Victor Torres** expressed his appreciation of the opportunity to meet with the Chair and Staff to discuss concerns about how to outreach to the Hispanic Community. He thinks the work of the Commission should include a joint summit with County officials.

**Commissioner Sotelo** stated that there must be discussion about funding in the future. There are few programs because there are is little money. Commissioner

Sotel also stated that he is working with a national Hispanic organization to get us on the agenda for their conference here in San Diego. He also wants us to hold a Commission meeting in South Bay this year.

### **Public Discussion**

**Gerald Crenshaw** stated that the Commission should be increasing the capacity of grass roots organizations who don't have the ability to write grants. He stated the Commission should scout out organizations and offer them help. The Commission needs to be more proactive about building capacity.

**Dr. Dorthy Zirkle** stated that the Commission is a good clearing house for dissemination of information and practices. She stated that the Commission can bring forward useful information for legislation and policy to help with changes in the community.

An Ad Hoc Committee to bring back the workplan was established:

Pastor Cooper,  
Commissioner Victor Torres,  
Commissioner Christopher Yanov,  
Commissioner Aliecia Torres  
and Commissioner Henderson

#### **d. Reports to the Commission**

-Meeting organized by Kevin Henderson and Conrad Harris – Commissioner Henderson reported that about 15 men from the Southeast Community met with him and Commissioner Conrad. They discussed the gang situation and many of the gentlemen invited were original gangsters (Ogs) and knew the young gang members within their community. Commissioner Henderson felt the meeting was productive. The level of frustration and concern moved the conversation to how could and who would begin talking to these youth on a regular basis. Commissioner Henderson will keep the Commission aware of the conversations and results. He thanked the Commission for helping him secure the Price Charities Conference Room.

-California Cities Gang Prevention Network – Commission Chair Cooper, the Commission's technical Advisor Dr. Dana Nurge and staff attended the Advisory meeting of the Network. Policy concepts were discussed and ideas were shared. There is strong support for Street teams and for strategies like San Bernardino's.

-California Wellness Foundation Violence Prevention Conference: The conference was well attended. At this conference was more sharing of ideas. There was important information about SB81 distributed and discussions about programs that work and the need for evaluation to assess this.

#### **7. Partnership Reports:**

a. Community Updates:

Linda Vista: Grover Diemert pointed out that there is a Parent Patrol developing as result of the Commission's Safe Passage Program at Montgomery Middle School; he also pointed out that gangs in Linda Vista are now becoming more mixed ethnically; he also stated that he thinks that Parks need to be more responsive to their neighborhoods. He also called on the Commission to establish Street teams and pointed out the need for them. He asked for some expertise from the Commission in setting up one in Linda Vista

Mira Mesa: Commissioner Alicia Torres stated that the collaborative there is growing and that San Diego Police Department is very supportive of the effort. The next meeting will be at Mira Mesa High School.

- b. **Mid-City Anti Violence Task Force:** Dr. Zirkle discussed the history of the City Heights Anti Violence Task Force. She stated that she works with City Heights Price Charities and is the Chair of the City Heights Anti Violence Task Force. She said the organization works with grass roots organizations as well as Price Charities. Ten years ago City Heights was in a state of emergency. Students at Hoover High School speak 38 languages. The Task Force started with four people and now includes 25 people including San Diego Police, School Police and School Administration. The Schools are the cornerstone of the effort in stopping youth from joining gangs. Truancy, mental health, Child welfare services and other organizations are part of the discussion.

The Task Force has secured grants for truancy sweeps and parent patrols. The Task Force has a radio system across schools to connect them so they can discuss issues as relates to safety and truancy. They also have a camera system (Fairmont and University) with light duty officers monitoring the cameras and stopping crime in some areas. She also pointed out that the Task Force had been able to acquire a \$500,000 grant that allowed some curriculum enhancements and school based activities for prevention. This will all be evaluated. Dr. Zirkle invited the commission to have a joint meeting with the City Heights Anti-violence Task Force.

## 8. Executive Director Report:

- OJJDP Coordinating Assistance Grant progress: Organizing meetings have continued. Tariq Khamisa Foundation did receive its \$700,000 grant; CHOICE is placing two more Americorps in the area for supervision; San Diego Police Department is working on putting a special Juvenile Services person in the area. Our next meeting is January 11, 2008.
- CALgrip update :  
The City of San Diego will be applying for \$500,000. The Police Department will be the lead with partners including Park and Recreation, the San Diego Workforce Partnership and the Gang Commission. CBOs in the community can apply for \$200,000. So far at Metro United and Turning the Hearts are the only two local organizations applying for these funds.
- Money coming to the County for Gang Prevention and Intervention:

**San Diego Workforce Partnership** is soliciting proposals from qualified organizations to direct federal Department of Labor (DOL) Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Title I Youth funds toward workforce services to WIA eligible, low-income youth age 14 – 16. Specifically, these funds will be used for the planning and implementation of a comprehensive approach to a school-based, gang prevention program at/with Oceanside High School in Oceanside or Morse High School in the southeastern region of San Diego. Due date is December 10, 2007.

**Senate Bill 81(Along with AB 191)** is the state's response to the problematical CYA. It is a realignment reform measure that will shift non-violent juvenile offenders from state-run facilities (DJJ) to county control. The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) will accept only those youth committing "adult crimes." San Diego County has been proactive in preparing for this change. The County formed a planning committee who met to create a DJJ Plan.

9. Commission-Community Dialogue (Speakers Slips are available for this at the door)

10. Announcements: Gang Commission will have a workshop on December 20<sup>th</sup> @ San Diego Workforce Partnership.

11. Adjournment was at 7 p.m.

**Public Comment on an Agenda Item:** If you wish to address the Commission on an item on today's agenda, please complete a speaker form (on the table near The door) and give it to the Commission's secretary before the Commission hears the agenda item. You will be called at the time the item is heard.

**Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda:** You may address the Commission on any matter not listed on today's agenda at the end of the meeting. During Commission-Community Dialogue. Complete a speaker form and give it to the Commission's Executive Secretary. However, California's open meeting laws do not permit the Commission to discuss or take any action on the matter at today's meeting. At its discretion, the Commission may refer the matter to staff or committee.

Individual's= comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. At the discretion of the Chair, if a large number of people wish to speak on the same item, comments may be limited to a set period of time per item. The information contained in this agenda is available in alternative format. To request an agenda in Braille, large print, or cassette, or to request a sign language or oral interpreter for the meeting, call the Commission office at least five (5) working days prior to meeting.(619-236-5936)