THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

Minutes

Thursday June 19, 2008
Price Charities Building
4305 University Avenue, Ste. 640

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:20pm by the Chair, Commissioner Pastor Cooper.

2. Attending the meeting was:

Pastor Cooper/Chair
Kevin Henderson/TKF
Scott Silverman/STRIVE
Eugene Johnson/Unity Tech
Benita Page/CHOICE
Fred Sotelo/TOLTEC
Chief Landsdowne
Steve Eldred/TCE
Christopher Yanov/Reality Changers
Gary Gallegos/SANDAG
Dr. Randy Ward
Bonnie Dumanis/District Attorney
Chief Mack Jenkins
Sheriff Bill Kolender
Benny Benavidez
Pepe Cervantes
Victor Torres

Staff:
Lynn Sharpe-Underwood
John Minto

Chairman Cooper introduced the new Commissioners, Bonnie Dumanis, Sheriff Bill Kolender, Benny Benavidez, Chief Mack Jenkins, and Pepe Cervantes, and the City Clerk administered the oath of office.

Chairman Cooper made opening remarks and welcomed the Commissioners.

Commission Eldred moved approval of the May 15, 2008 Minutes, and Commissioner Page made the second. The motion passed.

Action Item 1-

Chairman Cooper introduced Executive Director Lynn Sharpe-Underwood, and she provided the background on this item in order to establish a foundation for the action to be taken.

The Executive Director explained that City Heights employed a collaborative process to address the issue of truancy by conducting sweeps over the last four years, and research shows that collaborations with non-profit, community based organizations onsite expedites the involvement of youth and parents with diversion or intervention programs.

The Executive Director presented a document providing details of the Truancy/Curfew Sweep processes for discussion, and reported curfew sweeps have taken place in the Southeastern community of San Diego. Executive Director Sharpe-Underwood introduced the Police Captain, Tony McElroy from the Southeastern Division to talk about the sweeps. Captain McElroy said he watched the community based organizations onsite talk with the youth, and it has had a positive effect.

The Executive Director finished the report by highlighting the experiences of the sweeps in Southeastern and City Heights. She suggested the process of collaboration be used by the different police commands as a template for truancy and or curfew sweeps. The commissioners then discussed the issue.

Commissioner Kolender asked if there was any focus on the parents.

Captain Mc Elroy explained the CBO(s) are meeting with the children, and the parents to talk about the City of San Diego curfew ordinance, and the resources available to them.

John Minto explained one of the reasons for starting the program is City Heights was based on years of interviewing children. The convincing factor showed children cited or arrested go through the Juvenile Justice System, fall victim to psychological events that might ruin them for life. The idea of this program is to pick the children up for one of these violations, and return them to the staging location, contact their parents and have the parents come down also. Parents are in the process from the start. It is understood parents have to be part of the entire process.

Commissioners Dumanis and Kolender suggested the County of San Diego and every incorporated City within the county should be involved.

Commissioner Kolender volunteered to report out to the County Chiefs regarding the efforts to create the best practice county wide.

Chairman Cooper suggested a motion be made to continue dialogue and discussion on the particular motion.

Commissioner Lansdowne moved the Commission take the recommended action, and Commissioner Kolender made the second.

The Commission discussed the motion, and Commissioner Lansdowne amended his motion to state: 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. Commissioner Kolender agreed to the amendment.

Discussion occurred and the motion was voted upon. The Motion carried.

Action Item 2-

Executive Director Sharpe-Underwood explained this item was brought forward as a result of Proposition 63, and based on conversations with the county regarding the gang commissions input. Commissioner Steve Eldred helped craft the document, and references from the book, "Murders No Accident," a book on youth violence which described the types of organizations needed to make the collaborative successful. The document also addressed Youth Violence Prevention, Intervention and Social Policy. The document even contained quotes from a report from the Surgeon General.

Chairman Cooper called for a motion to submit the document to County Mental Health and accept the report and Commissioner Dumanis moved to accept the report. Commissioner Jenkins seconded the motion, and the motion carried with Commissioner Yanov voting "No."

Discussion Item #1

1. Current Information Scan – Lt. Andy Mills provided the stats for the month of May:

May 2008

STREET GANG UNIT CASE STATISTICS

GANG CASES CURRENT MONTH

	TOTAL (Month)
187 (Homicide)	1
664/187 (Attempt Homicide)	0
245 (Assault with a Deadly Weapon)	25
246/247 (Shooting at a House/Vehicle)	0
211 (Robbery)	7
10851(Auto Theft)	6
OTHER (All other Crimes)	35
TOTAL	74

GANG CASES YEAR TO DATE

	TOTAL (2008)	Compare (2007)	Change (2007 to 2008)
187 (Homicide)	7	8	-1
664/187 (Attempt Homicide)	5	5	0
245 (Assault with a Deadly Weapon)	122	104	18
246/247 (Shooting at a House/Vehicle)	4	6	-2
211 (Robbery)	65	39	26
10851(Auto Theft)	26	29	-3
OTHER (All other Crimes)	200	181	19
TOTAL	429	372	57

GANG MEMBER DOCUMENTATION CURRENT MONTH

DOCUMENTED	40
PURGED	42
TOTAL POPULATION	3845

GANG MEMBER DOCUMENTATION YEAR TO DATE

DOCUMENTED	303	197	106
PURGED	161	171	-10
TOTAL POPULATION	3845	3645	200

Lt. Andy Mills reported there were positive statistics the past period. Such as, three less homicides, and shootings were down significantly. Robberies and assaults with deadly weapons were up. Lt. Mills then shared a map of juvenile crime and discussed the maps and what had happened over the past month with juveniles.

Lt. Mills introduced Officer Jason Scott as an addition to the Gang Suppression as a gang intervention officer. Officer Scott described some of his duties and accomplishments since being selected for the position.

Lt. Mills described the criteria for gang member documentation, and discussed the five-year documentation period. The only system currently in place to remove a person from the gang file is for the five-year time period to expire.

A discussion then ensued on statistics that were to be reported to the Commission. Sharpe-Underwood mentioned that some Commission members wanted the Juvenile statistics reported on a regular basis. Chief Jenkins wondered whether there should also be some probation reports as well. After discussion, it was moved that an Ad Hoc Committee would research and discuss statistics and what should be reported to the Commission.

Members of Ad hoc Committee: Christopher Yanov, Mack Jenkins, Bonnie Dumanis, Bill Kolender and Chief Lansdowne. Motion to create an Ad Hoc Data Committee: Moved by Mack Jenkins. Seconded by Steve Eldred. Vote: All were in favor

Commission-Community Dialogue:

Mshinda Nyofu of the Ujima Instituted discussed the Safe Streets Act (Runner Proposition)
Ujima Institute's Mission is to inspire personal and collective action for positive and social change. The Institute opposes the Runner Initiative which is on the November 4th 2008 ballot because they are incarcerating more and more young individuals. The Institute does not believe that some young people shouldn't be punished but they believe incarceration is overboard in the State of California. Further the Institute opposes the initiative because the state is bankrupt therefore we don't have the money or time for it.

Allen Anderson recently created a life skill training program; he and some residents are working with New Creation Church on a summer camp program which will be from July 21st to August 13th. His program also has a two year program for juniors and seniors to be able to have work experience by the time they graduate.

Andrew Chapman recently started a mentorship program to instill education, workmanship and life skills in the youth as well as training so when they get out of high school they are prepared for different jobs like banking, heating and air conditioning installation... Chapman and his colleagues have dedicated their lives to the youth in hope that they can make a difference.

7. Executive Director Report:
   Grants Information:
   - The Commission is assisting with the application of the Byrne Grant for $250,000. The partners are San Diego State University, The California Wellness Foundation, and the Choice program.
   - The focus of the grant is to create an outreach program in times of crisis.
   - The Commission applied for a grant from Project Safe Neighborhoods to expand the Safe Passage Program.
   - The Commission is working with Casa Familiar on a Weed & Seed grant.

Commissioner Kevin Henderson worked this summer with different schools and curfew sweeps. The youth who were picked up said it would be helpful to have a summer job to keep busy. Margie de Reiter from San Diego Workforce Partnership and Commissioner Scott Silverman from Second Chance STRIVE agreed to host a 3 day training for the youth, which is on June 26th, Many organizations are coming forward to collaborate with the work training and resume building.

Commissioner Henderson attended the Bay Area Regional Outreach Summit. He noted that San Francisco, Oakland, and Richmond have street outreach worker programs that are very successful.

8. Announcements-

9. Adjournment

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. An 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 (619-533-4874).