THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

Minutes

Strive/Second Chance Building
6145 Imperial Ave
San Diego, CA 92114
Thursday November 20, 2008
5:00pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

Pastor Harry Cooper called the meeting to order at 5:45pm. General discussion took place while waiting for a quorum of Commissioners.

2. MEETING ATTENDANCE

Pastor Cooper
Victor Torres/ District 1
Mack Jenkins/SDCCP
Benny Benavidez/State Parole
Fred Sotelo/District 2
Chief Lansdowne/SDPD
Pepe Cervantes/District 6
Alicia De Leon Torres/District 5
Steve Eldred/TCE
Eugene Johnson/ District 7
Christopher Yanov/Reality Changers
Scott Silverman/STRIVE

3. STAFF

Lynn Sharpe-Underwood, Executive Director
John Minto, Detective
Evelyn Ramirez, Intern
Stephanie Griffin, Intern

4. Current Information Scan- Commissioner Chief Lansdowne

San Diego Police Lieutenant Andy Mills provided an overview of gang and crime statistics, which included a graphic. Over the past ten months, The City of San Diego experienced the following:

- Gang motivated murders have been down 33%
- Attempted murders are down 27%
- Assaults with deadly weapons are up 14% (includes feet and hands)
- Shootings at occupied vehicles are down 64%
- Robberies are up 29% (may be due to economic issues)
- Shootings are down 27%
- Stabbings are down 5%

- Beatings up 53%
- Gang membership is up 5% (3900)

In regard to gang membership, the Gang Unit Detectives are reviewing files and data of those documented as gang members in an attempt to re-evaluating their status and remove those individuals from the file that no longer qualify.

Lieutenant Mills: Distributed a zip code map of San Diego displaying areas experiencing gang-related issues. He noted there seemed to be an increased number of issues in areas with a concentration of individuals on probation. Lieutenant Mills then passed out a package of material covering the data the commission requested indicating the activity of individuals on probation, loitering, truancy, assault with a firearm, juvenile victims and juvenile arrests of 2007and 2008.

Pastor Cooper: Asked if there has been a change in the procedures for documenting gang members with no activity. Specifically referring to the 5-year documentation period, and if there has been a change in gang sets.

Lieutenant Mills said verification for documentation comes from Detectives from the Gang Unit and, the San Diego Police Department is now operating under a policy that includes taking a look at those who are documented, and make sure they still qualify. There has not been a change in gang sets, which there are 92 sets citywide. Most of the gangs have not been active.

Chief Lansdowne stated the statistics show the hard work of the department.

5. <u>Commission-Community Dialogue</u>

Meredith Foellmi: Harmonium works for the Epicenter in the Mira Mesa community. She spoke in regard to gang-related problems at the local high school, and how they problems filtered out into the community. Ms Foellmi asked for assistance with support to identify prevention and intervention strategies to better the community. UPAC, Mira Mesa High School, Harmonium, Overcoming gangs, Mira Mesa property managers, and Interns working with Commission stepped forward to work collaboratively to address issues. Based on discussions, a variety of community problems were indentified and they determined that more than entity is responsible. In hope and ask for assistance to engage other partners.

Detective Minto: said he wanted to make it clear to the Commissioners that the staff and interns at the Commission are part of the conversations at Harmonium to address the issues.

Maria Reese: representing the Webster Community asked if there are prevention and intervention programs at Lincoln High School. He concern is regard to fights at school, is raising questions to whether there are committees or staff from the school represented to see what's going on and what can be done at the school.

Chief Lansdowne: Mentioned Terry Grier is part of the Commission and asked Officer Rudy Tai to answer.

Lieutenant Rudy Tai: San Diego Police Officer Troy Owens is assigned to Lincoln High School working to support the school staff with recommendations for intervention and prevention programs.

Detective Minto said overcoming gangs and beyond, T.K.F., and Inner City Youth also participate at Lincoln with mediating the problems.

6. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Torres reported she attended the APHA conference, which recognized youth violence as a public health issue, and presented to the delegates work the commission is involved with. The discussion demonstrated the work the Commission is focusing upon in three geographic locations in San Diego.

Commissioner Torres: Thanked interns from the commission.

Intern Evelyn Ramirez said she is working in the Linda Vista and Mira Mesa communities of San Diego, and is excited at the chance to address the problems facing the communities.

Interns Stephanie Griffin and **Sol Lopez** are working in District 8.

Pepe Cervantes thanked Evelyn for her work with the Linda Vista Soccer Cup.

7. MINUTES

Chair Pastor Cooper asked for approval of Minutes for September 18, 2008 and Notes for Workshop on October 16, 2008. The motion passed.

8. Discussion/ Action Items

Action Item 1- Safe Passage has been a successful initiative of the Commission for 2 years. With the demise of the Community Relations office of the Attorney General, the Commission staff has developed a process to continue the project in San Diego.

Recommended Action: Accept the process as outlined by staff

Action Taken: Reach out to schools who have asked for support with this program. Motioned to accept process as described by Victor Torres, and seconded by Eugene Johnson. The motion passed.

Discussion (see below):

Detective Minto explained the ongoing efforts of the program for the last 18 months in Linda Vista and 2 other schools. State budget cuts have eliminated the support to programs from schools and organizations. The Commission Staff and Interns like to facilitate the Safe Passage programs for San Diego communities, and want support from the commission. Funding includes

staff time from the collaborative partners, which include school police and City Attorney time. There is discussion in the communities to create a Safe Passage Coordinator, which could possibly be funded by 501c3 or grant funding mechanism.

Safe Passage would be establishing the Commission as the facilitator, creating capacity for collaboration, which encompasses a goal of the strategic action plan.

Action Item 2- Review and discuss the current goals and initiatives- Commissioner Steve Eldred and National League of Cities, *Andrew Moore*

Recommended Action: Vote on what enhancements or expansions of goals need to be made for the coming year

Action Taken: Approve and move forward with goals draft with Commissioners recommendations until next year with necessary adjustments and wording made known by commissioners

Discussion (see below):

Commissioner Eldred: Need to look at Strategic Action plan to see if we need clarifications or additions and verifications. The Matrix includes existing goals and strategies and through interviews from the commissioners added features to goals.

Goal #1: 4 Commissioners made comments

Commissioner DeLeon Torres: Because many programs have same goals and same evaluations, through community evaluations, adjustments can be made to the plan. This idea can be applied to all goals.

Commissioner Yanov: Idea to establish a certified index of best practices that local organizations could use and encourage schools to use our resource list by zip codes and have English teachers incorporate community issues to writing assignments for knowledge of outside activity.

Goal #2:

Commissioner Yanov: Is language of goal specific enough? What are the partnerships going to be? Should a targeted area be included?

Executive Director Sharpe-Underwood: Within San Diego, a group called City Team has partnerships with OJJDP, Park and Recreation, Traffic, Libraries, which meets at the end of each month. The staff would be more than happy to outline more specifically who the partners are in the plan, and has even wanted to add waste management to the list.

Commissioner Eldred and Andrew Moore: Add more city departments to continue to build the City Team.

Goal 4:

Commissioner Yanov: Positive promotion programs rather than simply prevention and intervention where create understanding of what problem is. Suppression or prevention programs say that there is an expectation of gang affiliation, which is a wrong idea to create.

The Commissioners discussed Commissioner Yanov's idea of changing the traditional terms of prevention and intervention to terms surrounding the idea of positive promotion. Suggestions were made, however no terms were agreed upon.

Pastor Cooper: Lynn should receive all draft additions at least a week before next meeting so the Commissioners can have finalized draft ready. Language sensitivity is the issue at hand for the strategic action plan.

9. Executive Director's Report

Lynn: Grant Update information is in packet and interns are working on adding area updates to information.

10. Announcements

Youth Empowerment Summit: January 30, 2009 at the War Memorial

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Next regular meeting:

No meeting in December

Thursday January 15, 2009 @ 5pm
Price Charities Building
4305 University Avenue, Suite 640
San Diego, CA 92105