THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

Minutes

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5pm by Chair Pastor Harry Cooper.

2. MEETING ATTENDANCE

Pastor Cooper
Victor Torres/ District 1
Mack Jenkins/SDCCP
Benny Benavidez/State Parole
Chief William Landsdowne
Fred Sotelo/District 2
Steve Eldred/TCE
Scott Silverman/STRIVE
Eugene Johnson
Danny Villarreal
Rosa Ana Lozada/ Harmonium

3. STAFF

Lynn Sharpe-Underwood, Executive Director
Evelyn Ramirez, Intern
Taryn Prosnitz, Intern
Stephanie Griffin, Intern

Chair Pastor Cooper: Welcomes new Commissioners Danny Villarreal and Rosa Ana Lozada.

- Community scans report by **Lt. Andrew Mills**.

End of the year statistics 2008 for Gang violence within the City:

Gang Homicide decreased by 25%,
Attempted homicides decreased 6%,
Beatings & assaults increased by 17%.
Shootings at occupied dwellings increased 61%,
Shootings in general decreased 27%, and drive by shootings decreased 42%.

San Diego Police along with other Law Enforcement Agencies organized a call-in, in late December: 45 young gang members attended. The effort was to explain that the community had Zero tolerance for gang violence. Resources were offered.

Chief Lansdowne: Recognized Caesar Solis: the Chief in charge of the Detective Bureau, and Robert Kanaski: the Chief in charge of the special operations and training process.

4. COMMUNITY COLLABORATION PRESENTATIONS

Executive Director Sharpe-Underwood: The mission of the Commission is to facilitate collaboration among group working on community issues. Tonight we have some of those groups presenting information. They are: Institute Public Strategies, Harmonium, Project Sage Passage, and Youth Voice.

Institute for Public Strategies/Kim Herbstritt: Our non-Profit agency has been in existence since 1992. We are an organization that is partially funded by the County of San Diego Alcohol and Drug Services. Our South San Diego Gang Coalition is part of our South Bay Community Change Project. We take an environmental prevention approach. We work with communities to clarify the underlying physical, social, economic and cultural factors that contribute to public health and safety problems.

We are working with agencies such as the Transit Authority, San Diego Police Department, the School District and community based organizations. We are doing community surveys to find out the community's perception of gang activity, and to see where the community activism and community readiness is to take on the issue.

We are working with the Gang Commission, John Minto and Lynn Underwood, on establishing a Safe passage program in the South area. We are surveying 3 schools and looking to focus at one school. Southwest High School, Southwest Middle, and Nestor Elementary are in the final stages of the survey. We are studying a two block radius around the schools to see what's going on in the area. We know there is a need to have gang services for those who have to travel through neighborhoods to reach such organizations as Turning the Hearts Center We are working together to establish a mobile unit to offer services in different areas.

Harmonium/Commissioner Rosa Ana Lozada: As a part of Harmonium's vision to respond to the growing need for juvenile diversion services in the community, an array of services have been developed for children, youth, and families. The Epicentre was specifically developed to offer structured activities for the community, leadership opportunities, and the all age venue. Working with the Commission on in Mira Mesa, we see potential opportunities such as: continuing to develop active interest and participation of community leaders as well as partnerships by involving the business community, further develop consistent information and data including police reports as well as community awareness, alternatives, and resources, increase knowledge and apply effective intervention strategies relevant to the community, and involve the community in Prevention and Intervention Activities.

Chair Pastor Cooper: Tasha Williamson from the Jacobs Family Foundation was not able to make it.

Youth Voice/Dana Brown: We are fairly new. We primarily are partners with law enforcement. Our program was launched in May 2008. We have two tiers --the Community Based

Organization's, which meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 2:30pm-5:00pm at the Midcity police station and include a wide variety of organizations. Our main focus is on youth, and a youth group. These youth are a blend of youth involved in community service, senior projects, gangs, probations, homeless, runaways, dropouts, and low GPA's. The youth group meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30pm-5:00pm at the police station with staff support and the leadership of Captain Lawrence McKinney. These youth are involved in a 28 week course curriculum that covers topics such as: personal development, mentoring, job shadowing, community service, and service learning. We are taking this opportunity to work with these youth to provide them with resources and provide them with relationships that are going to help them in life. Collaboration is crucial for an effective community to pull together to help the youth.

5. UPDATES

Kerry Sheldon: (LISC) We have been targeting specific neighborhoods in the Colina area to build up the resources and create an action plan to improve neighborhoods. Having community social events is a way to intervene within the neighborhoods and combat the violence and deter gangs from trying to take control. The community is very interested in having a Safe Passage Program at Crawford and Mann.

Dr. Zirkle: (Mid City Anti-Violence Gang Task Force): We are a multi-agency collaboration with key stakeholders such as City Schools and the Police Department that began as a grass roots organization. The Mid City AVGTF continues to work on two state funded grants –one at Monroe Clark Middle school and the other at Hoover High School. Hoover High school is just initiating their grant: a community policing grant. Monroe Clark is working with their second five year grant. We continue to perform outreach education through community forums on gang prevention and intervention with the help of community partners, including SDPD and the San Diego Unfired School District.

We are continuing to conduct truancy sweeps throughout the year in the City Heights area, between 4 and 6 each year in conjunction with SDPD and Mid City police Department. The AVGTF is also involved with curfews sweeps with SDPD. The AVGTF began a truancy pilot program this year to decrease absenteeism, gang involvement, and gang violence and drop out rates. The program involves three social workers at 2 middle schools and one high school and have identified through "inclusion and exclusion data" identified certain students that met a certain criteria from the end of last years school year to participate in one-on-one meetings with the parents and the kids.

Early lessons learned were that the kids that were chose based on truancy and absenteeism data, 65% of them missed the first two weeks of the new school year. The AVGTF is conducting surveys with the parents to evaluate the home environment, parent stressor surveys and student stressor surveys are also being conducted with the help of the SDSU students in the school social work. We are also working on a Child exploitation prevention campaign that includes parent workshops, student assemblies, student involvement, and community and multi agency involvement/mobilization to spread awareness. The AVGTF aims to prevent crime, decrease gang involvement and to enable kids to be successful in school and life.

Chair Pastor Cooper: Thanked Dr. Zirkle, introduced Becky Phillpott from San Diego Unified School District.

Becky Phillpott: (Game On) The 9th grade intervention program initiated in the SD Unified School District whose number goal is to increase the graduation rate by addressing supporting factors such as attendance, and discipline. The program is targeted at 8th to 9th grade transitioning students. 10 to Succeed is not your traditional mentoring program, the school employee is the team leader for a group of young men who have been targeted and identified through a series of risk factors: low student achievement, poor attendance, and poor discipline record. The program is being conducted at Hoover, Morse, Madison and Lincoln is still under development. The team leader is not always a principal, and in all cases commits to meeting with the group once a week, but it is labor intensive and contact is made everyday. Looking for partners to work with the groups in the schools, such as speakers, or organizations, PD or probation to come and help these kids.

Chair Pastor Cooper: Thanked Becky, did anyone have any questions?

6. COMMISSION COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

Becky Phillpott: (10 to Succeed) We would like to thank the Commission in its involvement with 10 to Succeed. We have three sites for this effort: Morse, Hoover and Madison. We are also working on developing a proposal for the Safe Schools healthy student grant application. It's a combination of US Department of Education and Health Human Services, there's a required community component and police involvement. The deadline is March 05, 2009.

Commissioner Sotelo: I was very moved recently by my participation in an event where youth from the Inner City Youth diversion program were taken to see what it's really like in a prison. We spend $10 million a year putting youth in prison. I had the opportunity to see first hand an intervention that could make a difference in these young people's lives and save money. I believe some of these kids were actually deciding to go to prison. They were all fired up. Afterwards some kids broke down, I was humbled by the experience.

Danny Martinez: Our program is located in Spring Valley. It has been around for 8 years. We have just started collaborating with Inner City Youth. We are trying to attack the intervention perspective aggressively. We were participating for the first time in the Norco vision program. The kids get to put on prison garments, looked at fights, get a sack lunch, and discussed about the racial barriers. The kids today see Grand Theft Auto and MTV as games, prisons to them are real. We have to come with a hard approach. Inmates do skits and the walls have information. The inmates are always pushing education.

Lanae Gutierrez (Probation Officer, Star/Pal, and Advocates for at-risk youth): I work as a probation officer and also work with Star/Pal advocating for at risk youth. In addition, I work with ICY's diversion program. We've been working with SDPD Southeastern Division's diversion program for their curfew sweeps. Our program has a lot of parts that include violence prevention, discussing the court system, and we do virtual visits of juvenile hall. The prison visit

is another component and we will continue to incorporate this. We also partner with Turning the Hearts Center, Youth Voice, and others. Collaboration is important to us and we welcome others to work with us. I just want to mention that Dennis who was once a world champion skateboarder does powerful presentations around the county.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Sharpe-Underwood: Joint curfew sweep with Mid-City on January 23, 2009. ICY will be the leading orientation and gave an explanation about the curfew sweep process.

In collaboration with ICY explained how effective the program of going into the prisons and getting the first hand account from prisoners is for the youth of many San Diego School District youth. Their experiences serve as learning experience for the youth and have gotten positive feedback from it.

8. ANNOUCEMENTS

Executive Director Sharpe-Underwood: Youth Empowerment Summit will be serving 283 plus youth registered and in need of facilitators.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pastor Cooper: Made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Next regular meeting:
Televised Thursday February 19, 2008 @ 5pm
City Administration Building
City Council Committee Room
2020 C Street, 12th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101