



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention
Minutes

February 19, 2009
City Administration Building
Committee Closed Session Room
202 C Street, 12th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5pm by Chief Landsdowne he then welcomed everyone. Councilmember Todd Gloria, Deputy Sheriff Stephen Nosal and Deputy Sheriff Michael Spires from the Regional Gang Task Force were recognized for attending meeting as well.

Councilmember Todd Gloria, District 3: Councilmember Gloria discusses a main concern of his constituents, safety in neighborhoods. Council member Young is a leader of Gang Prevention and Suppression; this is Councilmember Gloria's top priority for his office as well. Courtney Thompson is staff member of Councilmember Gloria's office who will be working on issues regarding youth and will be working with the Commission and stakeholders.

2. MEETING ATTENDANCE

Benny Benavidez/State Parole
Chief Landsdowne/SDPD
Christopher Yanov/Reality Changers
Dr. Randolph Ward
Fred Sotelo/District 2
Pepe Cervantes/District 6
Kevin Henderson/TKF
Mack Jenkins/SDCCP
Mark Cafferty/SD Workforce Partnership
Rosa Ana Lozada/ Harmonium
Scott Silverman/STRIVE
Steve Eldred/TCE
Danny Villarreal

Staff:

Lynn Sharpe-Underwood, Executive Director
John Minto, Detective



3. MINUTES

Chief Landsdowne asked for approval of Minutes for November and January. The motion passed.

4. CURRENT INFORMATION SCAN

Gang Crime Stats:

Lt. Andrew Mills from SDPD presented a report on current statistics for January 2009 that involved the City of San Diego. A year-long undercover operation targeting the Mexican Mafia within the City of SD has come to an end. The Mexican Mafia had control over the drug-trade, taxing, and was involved with violence within the City of SD. These Latino gang members aspire to become members of the MA. There are approximately 170 members in the State of California; they have a hierarchy system which consists of key holders and foot soldiers that are used to commit "dirt". Bottom line is that by taking out these key holders, this breaks the communication chains, and gives an opportunity for such things as curfew sweeps to take place. There were 40 arrested on a variety of crimes in the City of San Diego, and 30 crimes were prevented.

STREET GANG UNIT CASE STATISTICS

**January Statistics
 2009**

Gang Crimes	Motivated	Involved
Murder	1	0
Attempt Murder	1	1
Aggravated (Gun)	1	3
Aggravated (other)	4	3
Robbery	5	5
Other crimes	3	4
Totals	15	16

Definitions:

Gang Motivated: a serious crime committed at the direction of, for the benefit or in association with an criminal street gang.

Gang Involved: any serious crime involving a gang member as a suspect or victim minus a clear motivation.

Citywide Arrests of Gang Members
 341
 Other Commands
 201
 Gang Unit
 140

Gang Documentation

Total Membership
 4,000

New Members
 44

Purged Members
 23



"Gangs, in cooperation with the FBI, just finished a project targeting the Mexican Mafia. The undercover operation prevented more than 30 violent crimes. In all more than 36 people were arrested. Numerous guns were seized during this operation."

January Quick Facts

There were 31 total cases this year compared to 42 in 2008 and 34 in 2007.

There were 4 shootings this year compared to 6.5 for the past two years.

11 cases will qualify for a gang enhancement, should the DA decide to issue the allegation.

Cases by area of the city:

Southern	10
Mid-City	8
Central	7
Southeast	5
Western	1

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Chair Pastor Cooper: Thanked Chief Lansdowne for sitting in and asked the Commission for the approval of Minutes from November meeting and January workshop. The report was moved by Chief Lansdowne and seconded by Dr. Randolph Ward. All were in favor.

Commissioner Henderson: Is there a target area that the Mexican Mafia favors or is it citywide?

Lt. Anderson Mills: The Mexican Mafia stretches from Bakersfield to southern California. There's a high concentration in Los Angeles, Orange County, San Bernardino, Riverside, and certainly San Diego.

Chair Pastor Cooper: Thanked Lt. Mills for report and introduced Commissioner Mack Jenkins from Probations.

Commissioner Mack Jenkins: Introduced three probation officers from the Probations Gangs Suppression Unit; Officers Aaron Rhodes, Renee Cruz and Christie Farr. These probation officers gave a brief description and gave an updates on activities that occurred during the last quarter.

Probation Officer Aaron Rhodes: There are two suppression units one on Juvenile and other on adult side. Both efforts are the same to support probations mission statement and to assist probationer and hold them accountable for their court orders. These offenders are seen once a month at office and in the community. In addition, the 4th waiver is used a lot during search and seizure for accountability, with or without cause. Probation's focus is to have collaboration with other law enforcement agencies. There were about 8-9 probation officers working on the working teams for the MA operation. Approximately one case per month for operations on the Juvenile side, and one person's case load on the Adult side. There has been collaboration with other law enforcement agencies such as the Byrne Grant up North County (targeting gangs) and the Project Safe Neighborhood grant (targeting firearms in criminal history). There have been 1,095 drug tests, 970 field contacts, 13,000 plus office contacts, over 1000 residential 4th waiver searches, 1,400 non- traditional hours (nights and weekends), 18 operations with multi agencies, and \$18,000 confiscated during one of the 4th waiver searches. Furthermore, there are a total of 760 cases between two units and 40 from probation on each case load. On the Juvenile side, the juvenile has to be in some type of program, rehabilitation and prevention is the main focus.

Commissioner Dr. Randolph Ward: Will the Federal Stimulus package help with Probations?

Commissioner Mack Jenkins: From his understanding the State budget was agreed on today, although it's waiting for Governor to sign it. However, probation does not know how stimulus package will affect the State budget.

Commissioner Dr. Randolph Ward: Commended Probation on the work that they do along with the partnership with SD County Office of Education. The Star Program in Kearny Mesa has been a success because of this collaboration. SD County Office of Education and Probation staff have been working together to much success. There are ninety-one 17 year-olds who have

received their GEDs or diploma through this program, 41 (over 40%) are currently enrolled in community colleges or taking courses online. Discussed why probation and its partners should receive more funding.

Commissioner Mack Jenkins: In regards to the numbers Dr. Ward mentioned, of these kids that have been in custody in Juvenile Hall or Kearny Mesa, only two of them have gone back into the system ["reoffended"]. Helping these youth reach their academic goals is highly stressed. Discussed the recent "call-in" and asked the probation officers that were present to speak about the status of those youth that were brought in that evening.

Probation Officer Christine Farr: Brought in one youth to the "call-in" event. Unfortunately, the offender has since left his home and there is currently a warrant out for his arrest.

Probation Officer Aaron Rhodes: One right now is on the "hot sheet", which means he's on the juvenile detention seat. He was in a work readiness program, but didn't do so well. He has some "personal issues" to deal with.

Probation Officer Renee Cruz: Two of the four youth from caseload that were taken to the call-in are "on the line". If they receive another violation they will most likely go back into custody. However, one of the other youth was referred to STRIVE for job readiness training.

Commissioner Fred Sotelo: Since there have been over 1,000 drug tests conducted in the past year. How many of these youth tested positive for drugs?

Probation Officer Christine Farr: For juveniles who are on probation who test positive for drugs, the first time it happens probation does an informational report for the court, second time it is an arrestable offense. The juvenile is brought to the court and they look how severe the problem is, and what kind of treatment the youth needs, etc.

Probation Officer Aaron Rhodes: Clarified that after the first positive-tox screen they refer the juvenile to some type of program (i.e., attending meetings each week or an outpatient program).

Commissioner Fred Sotelo: With the juvenile that is worked with (on probation), especially those gang-involved, what is the role of My Space and the internet? I have heard from people in the field that much information is being sent online. Are you monitoring this? Is this affecting probation?

Probation Officer Aaron Rhodes: Yes, more often now if it becomes a problem, or if youth are using these sites to post gang pictures or photos of weapons what we're doing, [we] are getting a court order that restricts person to using computers for work or education-related use only.

Probation Officer Renee Cruz: We encounter the same issues on the adult probation side, if they see this type of stuff they "violate" them for it because it is considered gang paraphernalia and they're still violating their gang conditions. The courts are holding them accountable for

what they post online. Same thing with phones, we just download the photos and can use them as part of a violation later on. It doesn't mean they'll be violating [based on] just the one incident, but we add them up.

Regarding drug tests, what they test positive for and the number of times, determines whether they'll end up in treatment or back in custody. If it is marijuana, at the third test, they're going back to court or to a residential program, but usually with cocaine or meth by the second test they're going to a residential treatment program or to court. But if they come up with ecstasy, PCP or LSD, on the first test they're going back to jail (for adults), and if they're allowed to remain on probation they are going into a residential treatment program right after. With marijuana we usually allow up to three positive tests, but most of the other drugs after one or two tests they go to jail or to a treatment program.

Probation Officer Aaron Rhodes: On the juvenile side, basically for anything stronger than marijuana we have to take them into custody immediately or as soon as possible. If we get a positive for cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, we take them back into custody and try to get them back on track as soon as possible.

Commissioner Rosa Ana Lozada: What is the strategy for engaging the family in the rehabilitative process on the juvenile side?

Probation Officer Aaron Rhodes: On the juvenile side it is basically about getting the family involved and using wraparound services as much as possible. It is built into the court orders that the guardian/parent be held accountable for the minor's education, counseling --anything regarding his probation and rehabilitation. In our Breaking Cycles program there are various wraparound services after an individual is out of custody that involve the juvenile and one's parents. The parent/guardian meet with the counselors who then try to get them involved with the entire process, there are also parenting classes. In addition, Breaking Cycles does an ongoing parenting class that is about 9-10 sessions, where each class covers a different aspect of the probation supervision process and parenting. There are also presentations for parenting classes. Goal is to increase awareness regarding what to look for regarding gangs -tagging, paraphernalia, clothing, etc.

Commissioner Kevin Henderson: The first process of Breaking Cycles is the parent has to attend the first session which is usually on a Saturday. It's not mandatory, correct? Spoke to Senior Parole Officer Harrison and she said a concern is that it's hard to get parents out to the first session of the Breaking Cycles.

Probation Officer Aaron Rhodes: We can try to enforce that through the court orders but we can only do so much to hold parents accountable if they are unwilling to cooperate. We can encourage them and emphasize creating an environment where this minor can succeed. We can try to hold them accountable for the programs they're court- ordered to do (i.e. they're sometimes court-ordered to parenting classes).

Commissioner Fred Sotelo: What's the youngest you have in the youth gang piece of probation right now?

Probation Officer Aaron Rhodes: Youngest is probably 13 years-old. On any given caseload the average is 16, we get many 15 year-olds. We get 18 year-olds too and we can keep them beyond 18. It's rare that we get 13 and 14 year-olds because of our screening process –we try to get the highest-risk youth (i.e., most violent offenses, more extensive criminal history).

ACTION ITEM 1- COMMISSION WORKPLAN 2009

Commissioner Steve Eldred: Tonight's action item is to accept and implement the 2009 workplan and then along with any changes made it goes to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services committee for their review and action. Workplan is based on the 2008 workplan. Workplan based on Lynn Sharpe-Underwood's conversations with commissioners. Thanked Commissioner Lozada for her assistance with refining the workplan and taking out some of the detail. We do expect changes to occur to the workplan during the year, considering Obama's stimulus plan for example. Discussed the changes to the workplan. Changes to the vision for 2009. On page 2, goal 4, language has been clarified. On page 3, items 1.5 and 1.6 are new items. On page 4, 1.7 and 2.2 are also new items for the work plan. Page 5, changes to a phrase. If there are any recommendations, accept them as a hold.

Chair Pastor Cooper: Motion by Commissioner Ward to adopt the workplan as a whole. Motion seconded by Chief Landsdowne. Any discussion on the motion to accept the workplan as a whole?

Commissioner Rosa Ana Lozada: The accountability component is important. We should add a caveat about developing outcomes so we are living by this document and tracking the work we do and have a live document of the work done. I propose we form a subcommittee that takes a closer look at the outcomes and helps ensure we're on track.

Commissioner Yanov: Applauded the changes that were made to goal 4. If we focus on establishing a commission-certified index that promotes positive productive activities this will make other efforts and goals easier to accomplish. How will we measure the activities in goal 1? There has to be some kind of performance index as well to make sure we can judge how well we do, what's working and what's not.

Chair Pastor Cooper: Recognizes that all commissioners approved the workplan. We would entertain a motion to establish a subcommittee to observe outcomes.

Commissioner Rosa Ana Lozada: Makes a motion that a subcommittee be formed to ensure we're meeting the expectations of the plan.

Chair Pastor Cooper: Moved and seconded that we form a subcommittee to observe and make sure we implement what we say we're going to do.

Commissioner Ward: I need to understand the details of how this subcommittee will function. Is there someone on the commission that can explain this process? How do we get down to the details of that [tracking outcomes]? Requested clarity.

Chair Pastor Cooper: This becomes our roadmap [workplan]. As a subcommittee we're going to observe how we're implementing those things. Examine where we're strong, where we're lacking, in terms of carrying out the implementation.

Commissioner Ward: Expressed concerns about micromanaging regarding the workplan.

Chair Pastor Cooper: Assured Commissioner Ward that micromanagement will not happen, as "no one has time" to do that.

Executive Director Lynn Sharpe-Underwood: Pointed out that we're already in the process of tracking and being involved. It is really collecting information currently. We do this through CalGrip, for instance. We'll collect this information and bring it to the commission. One of these initiatives here is around sharing information. This entails commission involvement with those who've indicated they'd like to do that.

Commissioner Ward: Distinction though is monitoring and tracking and holding people accountable versus developing the measures ourselves. That's the cautionary note. If some of these measures fall under Commissioner Lansdowne's jurisdiction, for example, I am not going to go and tell his people what measures from this plan should be met.

Executive Director Lynn Sharpe-Underwood: Stressed that was not the intention.

Commissioner Ward: Said he didn't want to add/change the motion regarding a subcommittee, he just wanted clarification regarding outcomes and micromanaging

Commissioner Jenkins: I would like clarify that this subcommittee will determine what the specific outcome measure would be, or to more specifically define outcome measures that are presented in the plan.

Executive Director Lynn Sharpe-Underwood: I think identify and report is the issue. Is that clear saying *identify*?

Commissioner Ward: No.

Chair Pastor Cooper: Easiest thing would be to ask Commissioner Lozada.

Commissioner Rosa Ana Lozada: I noted there were not any outcome indicators. There needs to be some way of gauging how we're on track with the plan. The issue is not micromanaging, but accountability.

Commissioner Yanov: There are few specific numbers in the workplan. There is ambiguity in it.

Executive Director Lynn Sharpe-Underwood: In this particular instance this is the result of a grant. A commitment that PD has through the CalGrip grant. And this commission sits as an advisory board to that grant. So this is something that is already created as a result of that grant.

Commissioner Kevin Henderson: So the grantee will be providing the information and the commission will be gathering that information.

Executive Director Lynn Sharpe-Underwood: Correct.

Chair Pastor Cooper: There is a motion on the floor, so we need to speak for or against the motion.

Commissioner Sotelo: What would the subcommittee mean, how many people?

Executive Director Lynn Sharpe-Underwood: You guys would volunteer to work with me. 3 to 4 of you.

Commissioner Ward: What would this committee do?

Executive Director Lynn Sharpe-Underwood: Review any documentation that we're going to bring to the commission. For instance, the report for CalGrip, for Project Compassion.

Commissioner Ward: Isn't that what the commission does already?

Executive Director Lynn Sharpe-Underwood: Yes but this would give us more eyes and ears reviewing the information. And in a smaller group.

Commissioner Ward: So help me to clarify. 1.5 concerns increasing age-appropriate afterschool activities. A wide-open item. Someone gets tasked with that job, for example. Who would that be? So Workforce Partnership and probation would get tasked with that. So they'd have to come up with a measurable outcome that says whether or not it's a successful outcome. My point is we as the commission should ask whoever is tasked with this to come up with reasonable outcomes, in light of your reasonable conditions, resources, etc. And then we can look at it.

Chair Pastor Cooper: As a commission we want to see a partnership between these entities, and we're tasked with facilitating the partnerships.

Commissioner Ward: Emphasized that he does believe that we should have outcomes. But said we should be reasonable.

Commissioner Jenkins: I would be inclined to be a part of the subcommittee if it is going to further clarify and define the outcomes.

Commissioner Ward: So my idea is that this subcommittee would not work alone, but in conjunction with the organizations/parties responsible for carrying out these initiatives. We could ask these entities, what do you think is reasonable?

Commissioner Yanov: I would see it as a mechanism to determine whether we are making a difference.

Chair Pastor Cooper: Requested that the comments and dialogue right now be about the proposed motion [regarding a subcommittee to discuss outcome tracking].

Commissioner Eldred: For the motion with appreciation for Dr. Ward and Chief Jenkins the clarifications of the intent. I just wanted to point out to Dr. Ward example of 1.5 of increasing the age appropriate after-school activities for youth, if we look at this strategic action plan matrix under goal number one there's nothing that addresses that. We need Commissioners working with staff and with the partners identified in the plan to come up with what that means and how we're going to get to that point.

Commissioner Fred Sotelo: With that being said and if this goes forward and approves I will be the first volunteer to be on that committee. With it being taken that what were going to do is have some depth of discussion on the outcome. I will sit on it.

Commissioner Henderson: I would like to volunteer to sit on the subcommittee as well. There has to be more discussion about this workplan.

Chair Pastor Cooper: Is there a call to questions? All in favor call into question saying "I", all oppose saying "nay". The "I's" have it. All in favor of the motion respond with saying "I". All oppose "nay". The "I's" have it. For those willing to volunteer for the subcommittee contact myself of Lynn.

Commissioner Rosa Ana Lozada: Feel this is a mission and vision directed Commission. We can come with more specific measures, tools, and outcomes like that. All of these components and ultimate goals eventually lead to an improvement. It's just the matter of capturing the work that's done maybe not being so minutia about it. I do like the reasonable perspective and the accountability.

Action Item 2- San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP)

Nancy Chiquiti (Leader of SDOP) is a faith-based community group which consists of 27 churches of many different denominations. Also associated with People Improving Communities through Organizing (PICO) California and PICO National; PICO represents 41,000 families. In talking with communities here in San Diego, main concern was youth. One particular church buried 4 teenagers in a two month period. Have been holding task force meetings within past year. Would like to propose a youth initiative pilot program, focusing not only on kids in trouble but also prevention efforts.

Chief Kanaski: What makes this program innovative is the amount of partnerships and collaborations we have on putting this whole idea together. SDOP had a youth summit in November 2008; the outcome was that we needed to work with the families. From that we need to create successful programs, not necessarily a crime prevention program, not a gang prevention program, it's a youth success program. We wanted to measure the outcomes that show success to the program. Wanted to target a small area in the South Eastern community, communities involved within this program is: Stockton, Memorial, Mountainview, Southcrest, Chollas View, Lincoln Park, and Valencia Park. This area has elementary, middle schools, and high schools. We plan to take the stakeholders in that general area for what we call our large executive committees and to design the type of goals and objectives we wanted to meet. We had one large working committee in the beginning to decide what avenues to take. First meeting involved the San Diego Unified School District, the Community Action Partnership, Parks and Recreations, CGPI, California Endowment, Parker Foundation, SD County Probation, Workforce Partnership, Project Safe Neighborhoods, Social Advocates for Youth, SD Health and Human Services, San Diego Unified School District Police, and Jacobs Center, with SDOP as the driving force and SDPD as the driving force. We decided that a roadmap needed to be set up, a developed vision statement. Vision was to commit to create opportunities where youth and their families would increase high school graduates with long term education and employment goals. Decreasing number of students' absenteeism. The idea was to not look at the program as a crime related program, but to take a look it as an enrichment program. Looking at what's really going to make the youth successful and in today's world --that's education. It's not designed to increase the juveniles going to school; it's also designed to find out why the student isn't successful. Is it a family health problem, a mental health issue, is it a social issue, or is it some other issue that needs to be addressed? If it were to be address, we would have more of a success rate of an individual of becoming a successful citizen within the community. Mission is to improve quality of the youth services to children and families of our target areas through the development and implementations of preventative measures, early intervention programs appropriate enforcement, and vocational and career training opportunities. Processing of developing baseline in this target area and three working committees we have designed: Education committee, Youth enrichment committee, and Law enforcement committee. Designed to develop workplan and work strategies with not only objectives and goals but measured outcomes of where we want to reach within certain period of time. Goal to begin this summer, keep youth active and interested. Second goal is to get developed by next school year (September). Increase attendance, increase college and work readiness, increase children's access to health care, increase health insurance enrollment and tension, decrease in dropout rates, and decrease in youth-related crimes. Overall goal is to see juveniles working towards becoming successful adults and having the positive tools to do that. Last component would be family, see what the barriers are and what issues they are dealing with.

Commissioner Henderson: The concern is as we continue to provide these programs in these areas (Southeast SD), the sustainability is unknown.

Chief Kanaski: The idea is to have program to be long-term and try to develop a sustainability program.

Commissioner Eldred: The California Endowment has provided support to SDOP for the main reason of sustainability. Focus is what we can do on existing resources and how it can be beneficial.

Chair Pastor Cooper: Thanked SDOP presenters and moved on to Item 1 on information regarding summer youth initiative San Diego Workforce Partnership.

Action Item 1- San Diego Workforce Partnership

Commissioner Mark Cafferty recalled 3 meetings ago when Commissioner Henderson raised issue about jobs for youth. At the time I had commented that we were looking for additional support from the City of San Diego to support a national effort to spearhead the U.S. conference of Mayors to try to keep summer youth employment in the emerging stimulus package. It was just being talked about at the time. Got support from Mayor Sander's office as well as Councilmember Young's office and a letter that he wrote a great deal work referencing this committee. As this stimulus package was getting signed into this law one of the things that didn't get stripped out of it was keeping summer youth workforce. From the \$800 billion bill that was signed, roughly \$4 billion dollars will flow nationally, dedicated to public workforce efforts. They wanted to get these monies out through existing formulas. Monies would go out to the states --although the states cannot take it--, then will flow down to local governments. San Diego will be receiving \$6-7 million dollars of these funds. Margie de Ruyter and her team have analyzed youth workforce programs and were able to decide what programs worked and which ones did not. Roughly 3,000 youth may be able to work this summer. This money will be for ages 14-24, the age limit did move up. In addition, these jobs have to be in the public sector such as the community based and non-profit organizations.

Commissioner Ward: Seen these programs have success and sometimes not so successful. When one allows a youth to collect a check but without earning it, this gives this individual as negative work ethic that sticks with them. Please choose these youth carefully we don't want this be seen as a handout.

Commissioner Mark Cafferty: We don't want our youth to be in a type of program that may not be beneficial. Overall emphasis is high quality, with the partners that were selecting. With the community based organizations that are doing the grass roots work with young people and making sure there is a true readiness program embedded into the preparation.

Commissioner Mack Jenkins: Will youth on probation be excluded from participating in this program?

Commissioner Mark Cafferty: My understanding is yes they will not be excluded.

Commissioner Kevin Henderson: I'm excited to hear about this because we have been really hard on giving our youth an opportunity. These jobs for these youth will impact these kids positively.

Commissioner Dr. Ward: What are the guidelines when choosing these students? Perhaps there could be some type of incentive for these youth.

Commissioner Kevin Henderson: In the state of California the grade point average for one to maintain at least has to be a 2.5 grade point average or higher, including the minimum age limit.

Commissioner Mark Cafferty: San Diego Workforce Partnership doesn't do direct services; usually receives funding and gets it out to community based organizations and/or school districts.

Commissioner Mack Jenkins: Supports the youth workforce program that will be implemented this summer.

Commissioner Mark Cafferty: Support we can get from everyone, positive message to community and youth. How might SD sustain a program like this and how can we have numbers of 3,000 to 30,000 in the future? These are a few things we may consider.

Commissioner Fred Sotelo: Is there a preference on low-income youth that apply for these summer jobs?

Commissioner Mark Cafferty: The eligibility is for youth who live in these low income areas.

5. ANNOUCEMENTS

Chair Pastor Cooper thanked community and discussed about the collaboration efforts and the process of what is being displayed.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pastor Cooper made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 P.M., seconded unanimously and was approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Next regular meeting: Thursday April 16, 2009 @ 5pm
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