

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
MINUTES FOR COMMISSION ON GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION MEETING
OF
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010
AT 5:00 P.M.
GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
4487 OREGON STREET
SAN DIEGO, CA 92116

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pastor Harry Cooper at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Pastor Harry Cooper at 6:50 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chair Cooper called the roll:

ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING:

- (1) Commissioner Ward
 - (2) Commissioner Villarreal
 - (3) Commissioner Eldred
 - (4) Commissioner Jenkins
 - (5) Commissioner Lansdowne
 - (6) Commissioner Lozada
 - (7) Commissioner Sotelo
 - (8) Commissioner Torres
 - (9) Commissioner Gore
 - (10) Commissioner Yanov
 - (11) Commissioner Kowba
 - (12) Commissioner Cervantes
 - (13) Commissioner Johnson
 - (14) Commissioner Gallegos
 - (15) Commissioner Benavidez
- Chair- Pastor Cooper

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT/COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

Pastor Cooper explained that there will be a 3 minute time limit on dialogue.

First speaker was Jenee Littrell from Grossmont Union High School District Community. She talked about how they share data and history. An interagency agreement has been made with the Sheriff's Department, La Mesa Police Department, El Cajon Police Department, Probation Department, Child Welfare, and the East Region Sixth School District to legally allow information to be shared about at risk youth. Most recently they have been looking at students who have been identified as gang members. Departments are joining together to find ways at which early intervention could have taken place for those at risk youths.

Second speaker was Dylan Morales, a junior at Clairemont High School. He wanted to share his views on the affects and consequences of gang involvement on the community. He shared what he believes to be the three primary reasons why youth join gangs: lack of people who care, lack of safe

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environment, and not knowing the law. He also discussed the implementation of Street Law, a program led by Alex Simpson that teaches these youth about the law.

Third speaker was Calvin Clayton from the San Diego Urban League. He shared his training program worked with 28 youth at the Pacific Institute. The training cost \$300 per kid per week and was very successful. He believes it is the answer to reaching gang involved youth.

Last speaker was Tanya Gentry from the Sickle Cell Disease Association. She wanted to let the Commission know about the Sickle Cell Disease Association and that September is National Sickle Cell Awareness Month. She expressed her concern for young teens and how they need to receive support and inspiration. She requested resources to help with the youth who are suffering and feeling hopeless as a result of the disease. Pastor Cooper suggested that she contact Executive Director Lynn Sharpe-Underwood for information on resources and programs that may be able to help.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Pastor Cooper asked for the approval of Minutes from November 19, 2009 CGPI meeting. The motion was to approve the Minutes.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LANSDOWNE TO ADOPT. Second by Commissioner Benavidez. The motion passed unanimously.

CURRENT INFORMATION SCAN (CIS):

Gang Statistics

Lieutenant Duran reported that overall gang crime is down for the year. By December, there was one gag related homicide, where a young man was shot and killed. The total number of homicides for the year was 9, compared to 21 the previous year. There were 245 aggravated assaults, including one shooting, compared to 315 the previous year, with a 22% decline. There were 74 arrests for gang related crime: 29 were for probation violations, and 9 were for parole violations. In December, 6 fire-arms were recovered from gang members. This is the largest drop in crime since crime has been recorded in the City of San Diego (17.9%). A new gang intervention officer is now on board at the police station on a daily basis for at risk juveniles who are not yet documented. Diversion and curfew programs were noted for playing a role in the decrease in crime rates for juveniles.

Probation

Supervising Probation Officer Ken Andrews with the Special Observations Division for the San Diego Probation Department, shared that he felt the most successful avenues when it comes to gang prevention is finding people jobs and to get them out of gang areas to help to prevent gang involvement. He complimented the networking relationship with gang Officer Miles. Probation officers conducted 19 residential searches in November and 230 in December. This ensures the safety of the community. In January, a 380 hand gun was seized from a closet, and 5 arrests were made. An escapee from a work group was caught in less than 24 hours, before anything could happen in South San Diego. A total of 961 warrants were cleared as well.

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Parole Update

Chief Benavidez discussed the passage of Senate Bill 18, explaining the change in inmates' time credits in local county jails. This leads to a reduction in time served for certain low level inmates. A new category was created that places certain individuals on a non-supervised parole status (non-revocable parole). A risk instrument will be used to score individuals for this parole status. Parolees found in violation of the law or violation of parole, cannot have a hold placed on them, and cannot receive intermediate sanctions or narcotics testing. Violent and sex offenders will not be eligible for this type of parole. Incentive programs are being used by both probation and parole.

Linden Lewis, who is a parole agent 3, has been supervising sex offenders with satellites. Parole has been granted the access to activate GPS caseloads. Approximately 1600 sex offender cases are being supervised on GPS supervision. There will now be 50 gang caseloads throughout California. San Diego County will benefit from those gang caseloads, with a ratio of 20 gang members to one parole agent. The device used is a satellite transmitter and receiver with a cell phone inside with fibrotic lining to detect tampering. The transmitter was passed around for the Commissioners to look at it.

Video pieces were available, but Pastor Cooper suggested it be put on the next agenda. Pastor Cooper clarified that there were two separate populations discussed, non revocable parolees and new gang caseload. They are two entirely different populations.

Agent Linden Lewis added that those with the device will be monitored 24 hours 7days a week.

Recidivism rates were brought up by several commissioners. Chief Benavidez reported that the reports which have been done so far show positive results of the application.

Commissioner Sotelo asked to know what the recidivism rates are like in other states who have implemented a similar program.

Chief Benavides explained that many other states do not have parole and that there is not any comparable data.

ACTION ITEM A: Report from the Ad Hoc Budget by Commissioner Rosa Ana Lozada.

In terms of concerns were budget cuts all over and causing panic. Initiatives such as Safe Passages Project Compassion and Curfew Sweeps have been moving in a positive direction, and everyone is impacted by the budget. Collaboration must be established with community, and law enforcement to make the budget work.

The recommended action was to continue to monitor the budget reconstruction process and request the ad hoc committee to report back in June with the committee's concerns and further request that Commission staff continue to actively pursue grants and other sources of funding to support the Commission's initiatives.

Pastor Cooper explained that June is a specific reporting time but it does not limit that report to June. It is open to change if something significant happens.

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MOVED BY COMMISSIONER Dr. Ward. Seconded by Commissioner Eldred. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM B: Report from Commissioner Villarreal and former Commissioner Conrad Harris concerning youth 19-27 who are not getting hired. They participate in work readiness training but are having problems.

There was a presentation from Commissioner Villarreal and former Commissioner Conrad Harris concerning the job situation for young men 19-27 years of age who are ex-offenders and former gang members.

Issues concerning this age group are that a lot of them do not know the value of work. They have had bad examples in their life. In order to implement a good example, it must be done on a consistent basis.

Conrad Harris thanked youth programs for helping to keep juveniles safe and thanked the Commission for all of their help and support.

The recommended action was to establish an ad hoc committee to work with the Workforce Partnership to develop strategies to address issues facing young men, ages 17 to 27, when they seek employment.

A motion was made for Commission staff to work with the San Diego Workforce Partnership to research and identify successful models and strategies used by other workforce development areas that engage and retain young men, ages 17 to 27, in jobs and request a status report on these efforts for the March meeting.

Commissioner Ward asked for more clarification about the actual plan for the recommended action. A suggestion was made as part of the motion to use all relevant agencies and the Mayor's Office as well as apprenticeship programs for creating jobs for youth.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER GALLEGOS. Seconded by Commissioner Eldred. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM C: Review of the UNITY network's "Bringing Multijurisdictional Prevention Approach to Scale in US Cities – *A National Urban Agenda for Preventing Violence Before it Occurs.*"

The recommended action was to establish an Ad Hoc committee to participate in the review of this document.

A motion was made to establish an ad hoc committee to participate in the review conversations nationally with UNITY member cities regarding this document and request the Committee to report to the Commission in March.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER TORRES. Seconded by DeLeon Torres.

Volunteers to populate the Ad Hoc Committee: Rosa Ana Lozada, Alicia DeLeon Torres, Steve Eldred, and Pastor Cooper will step in if needed

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ACTION ITEM D:

Commission invited to make a recommendation for the California Wellness Foundation's California Peace Prize and establish an ad hoc committee for nominations to the Mayor's Office. A motion was made to create an ad hoc committee to make a recommendation to the Mayor for the California Peace Prize.

Volunteers for Ad Hoc Committee: Rosa Ana Lozada, Jose Cervantes, Mack Jenkins

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER JENKINS. Seconded by Commissioner Victor Torres. The motion was passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEM 1:

Listening Tour update from USD Professor Ami Carpenter along with the USD and SDSU student team working with the Commission on this effort. Ami Carpenter explained that the team has a lot of data and further analysis will be completed shortly. Executive Director Lynn Sharpe-Underwood invited all commissioners to attend future Listening Tours. Pastor Cooper gave support from the Commission for the data collection and analysis of Listening Tour data.

Alicia DeLeon Torres emphasized the power that the Listening Tour can have for all members of the Commission and gives her support.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

- a. Curfew Sweeps- Spring Valley will be joining
- b. Collaborations Update
 - 1. Chief Lansdowne was thanked for the Crisis Intervention training
- c. OJJDP Report is out regarding funding and collaborations.
- d. Background sheet paper done by Dr. Nurge about what the state and federal governments will be looking for.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Cooper welcomed new Commissioners Gore and Kowba.

Commissioner Eldred informed the Commission about a new Children's Report Card, regarding increasing school attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pastor Cooper made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 P.M and it was approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Next regular meeting: Thursday March 18, 2010 @ 5:30pm

City Hall
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101