THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: April 5, 2011 REPORT NO: 11-050

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of April 13, 2011

SUBJECT: Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention - Six Month Update

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATIONAL REPORT. NO ACTION REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

On November 17, 2010, the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention reported to Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee that its Strategic Action plan was completed. The plan includes five goals and 12 initiates. This report provides a six month update.

The Commission has identified the following priorities this year:

1. Jobs (training and placement)
2. Supporting integration of services
3. Facilitating Youth Activities
4. Early intervention strategies

PRIORITY #1 - JOBS (TRAINING AND PLACEMENT)

The Commission established an Ad Hoc Health Information Technology Committee that included Commissioners and the following community members:

- Diane Strum (formerly of Kaiser Permanente)
- Veronica Ortega Welch, PhD Institute of Behavioral Studies at City College;
- Leslie Bruce, UC San Diego Extension;
- Margie Fritch, San Diego Mesa College;
- Sara Vaz, Gary & Mary West Foundation;

- Walter Lam, Alliance for African Assistance;
- Karim Bouris, MAAC Project,
- Youth from the CNC Youth Opportunity Employment Program
- Elizabeth Bustos, San Ysidro Health Clinic
- Paul Simms, Black Nurses Association

The focus of the committee is to introduce youth to the Committee and facilitate dialogue with training organizations (City college and others) and hard to serve youth. Youth involved in the Ad Hoc Committee include participants in the Coalition of Neighborhood Councils' Youth Opportunity Employment Program (YOEP), San Diego Job Corps and the MAAC Project. The Committee provided speakers who discussed a variety health and other technology careers. The youth provided the Committee with ideas and feedback about how social media (Facebook and Twitter) could be effectively used to contact them.

The Committee is now part of a collaboration led by Mr. Ed Abeyta, PhD, Director, K-16 Programs of the UC San Diego Extension. This collaboration includes the Workforce Partnerships' Youth Advisory Board, FabLab[1], and UCSD students from the engineering program. This larger collaboration will continue to work with the youth from the Ad Hoc Committee and a variety of other organizations in Southeastern San Diego on projects related to information technology.

PRIORITY #2 - SUPPORTING INTEGRATION OF SERVICES

The Commission established an AD Hoc Committee to study the Crime Free Multi Housing Program (CFMH). This program is a three part program for improving safety in multi housing complexes:

Phase one - Managers are educated by the San Diego Police Department (PD), County Probation and the Institute for Public Strategies (IPS) on how to: identify gang violence, criminal activity, build a positive partnership with the police, address tenants that engage in criminal activity, and improve resident screening practices.

Phase two of the CFMH program focuses on security, safety, and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). PD and the IPS conduct a site inspection with the apartment manager. The inspection is to teach managers how they can improve safety around their apartment communities including repairing broken locks, increased lighting and proper landscaping techniques to reduce blind spots and areas where criminal activity can thrive.

Phase three of the CFMH program involves resident participation. Working with the PD and the IPS, managers organize resident meetings to encourage an active role in their apartment communities, including a willingness to report crimes. As a result, residents become more active in their apartment communities, and their perception of their community is changed from a tone of fear to an overall feeling of safety and well being.

[1] Fab Lab programs offer experiences in design, science, engineering, electronics, computation, mathematics and the scientific method, through project-based learning, resulting in personal development and real-world skill attainment.

Southeastern and Mid-City Divisions of the PD have embraced the program and co-lead apartment manager workshops with the IPS. Southeastern Division's workshop was held November 10, 2010 and Mid City's was held January 19, 2011. Other police divisions are embarking on implementation. Central will hold a managers workshop April 13th.

Ad Hoc Committee members include: Assistant Chief Zimmerman, Commissioners Rosa Ana Lozada, Alicia DeLeon Torres, Sheriff William Gore (represented by Captain Patricia Duke), Chief Mack Jenkins (represented by Stacy Adams), Richard Preuss (Community Policing Coordinator, IPS) and City Attorney Jon Dwyer.

The Commission has encouraged the inclusion of County Probation, Community Based Organizations and San Diego City Schools in the training programs.

The response from the apartment managers has been positive. Managers representing 38 apartment complexes have completed 8 hours of CFMH classroom training. Managers from 18 apartment communities have completed the CPTED inspections. Resident meetings have been held at Sea Breeze Gardens in Southeastern Division and at President John Adams Manor in Mid-City Division.

The Commission supports this program throughout the City as a strategy to impact the reduction of gangs and crime in our City.

A new Ad Hoc Committee comprised of Commissioners Rosa Ana Lozada and Scott Silverman, Chair Pastor Cooper and Assistant Chief Zimmerman will work on tracking the impact of the Crime Free Multi Housing Program on calls for service. A report will be submitted to the Commission in July, 2011.

PRIORTY #3 - FACILITATING YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- The Commission continues to support **Madison High School's 10 to Succeed Program**. The Commission's Ad Hoc Committee facilitated a connection between Madison High and Mental Health Systems, Inc. Mental Health Systems, Inc. has a free leadership training program entitled iLEAD-Empowering Youth to End Peer Abuse program. The youth will receive training April 14, 2011. The goal of the training is to empower youth to recognize that they are the answer to ending peer abuse, whether they are the bully, victim, or bystander. The training consists of reviewing facts, providing clarity about roles, responsibilities and reporting. It also teaches a new way of perceiving others, honoring values, beliefs, and differences of all human beings.

- The **Girls only Program** at the Encanto Boys and Girls Club led by Lt. Debra Farrar and facilitated by Rahsaan Brown (Commission staff), has served over 50 young women during this time. The weekly curriculum is composed of lessons that promote self-esteem, develop life skills, and inspire positive motivation. Members of the collaborative are:

My Community Huddle
Alliance for Community Empowerment (ACE)
Tariq Khamisa Foundation
Jacobs Center (Project Safeway)
Encanto Boys and Girls Club

- The Commission is a partner in the Mid City Peace Promotion Momentum Team. One of the subcommittees is **Youth Leadership**. This is a collaboration involving:

  San Diego State University students
  Legal Aid
  H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Educate, Inc.)
  Genero Crenshaw Consulting
  Overcoming Gangs & Beyond

  The group has designed a curriculum to develop leadership skills of youth, ages 11-17 who reside in the Cherokee Point neighborhood of City Heights. The focus is to develop leaders who will impact policy and systems change through civic advocacy and strong partnerships with their communities. The goal is to encourage youth to become vested stakeholders and strong assets of human/social capital in this target area.

PRIORTY #4 - EARLY INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

- The Commission has broadened its network of partners in this arena of prevention. For the past six months the Commission has been working with the County's Building Healthy Communities. A report by the Ad Hoc Committee assigned to work with Health and Human Services Staff will outline where the County's Health and Human Services and the Commission converge in terms of initiatives and programs. The report will be presented at the May, 2011 Commission meeting.

- An Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Commissioners Scott Silverman and Rosa Ana Lozada will be meeting with County staff on primary prevention strategies. The effort will include a meeting with First 5 Commission and the Commission on Family, Youth and Children.

OTHER COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES
Safe Start San Diego 2011 Conference

On March 18, 2011, the County of San Diego held a comprehensive conference, for organizations funded by both Health and Human Services and County Mental Health, on educating and supporting children and families impacted by violence. The Commission was asked to participate by providing information on its collaborative initiatives – Safe Passage at Montgomery, the Collaborative Curfew Sweeps and Crime Free Multi Housing. Ms. Aimee Urbana from Montgomery Middle School, Capt. Tony McElroy and Mr. Richard Preuss from

Institute for Public Strategies were speakers. Over 250 professionals attended representing over 25 agencies and organizations.

CALGrip Grant

The San Diego Police Department received $369,300 to continue its partnership with the City's Park and Recreation Department, SANDAG, County Health and Human Services, the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention and Metro United Methodist Ministries. Park and Recreation will have an extended hour teen program during the summer months at the following centers:

- Mountain View
- Encanto
- City Heights Recreation Center
- Memorial
- Southcrest

The impact of this program has been a 37% reduction of gang activity around the Recreation centers.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Commission's involvement and support of community initiatives is an important part of the continued decrease in gang violence in our City. To date there has only been one gang homicide and no juvenile gang related homicides.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Sharpe Underwood, Executive Director
Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

Approved: Debra Fischle-Faulk
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