



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER ANTHONY YOUNG**



***HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORTS AND WEEKLY UPDATE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2005***

The San Diego community continues to reach out and assist over 750 families that have relocated to San Diego either temporarily or permanently from the states and cities ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. The Red Cross, Catholic Charities, Urban League, Salvation Army, St Stephens Interdenominational Alliance's Faith Based Resettlement Project, Jewish Family Services, Neighborhood House Association, Tony Young's 21st Century Community Initiative and many other agencies are collaborating together to sponsor families, provide housing, counseling, and other services needed to meet the short term and long term needs of over 1,400 individuals and children that make up the families displaced by Hurricane Katrina and residing in San Diego. **There is a strong possibility that we will be receiving an additional 600-1500 families within days!**

The Family Assistance Center at 4579 Mission Gorge Place remains the primary place in San Diego for evacuees to access the many services they need and register for future benefits they will receive from FEMA. The hours are now Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Red Cross's Disaster Action Teams will address any emergencies arising during the time the Center is closed.

An Unmet Needs Committee is being established by my office to provide goods and services to Hurricane Katrina Evacuees residing in San Diego that demonstrate an immediate need for the kind of assistance that will stabilize their lives in order to obtain short term and long term goals which lead to relocating in San Diego, returning to their place of origin, or relocating outside of San Diego County. I will be allocating \$50,000 towards the work of this committee.

Committee Members will consists of decision making representatives from various organizations and agencies that have the authority to authorize and commit resources and assistance expeditiously with minimum delay. The committee's membership is also open

to agencies/organizations that have raised funds to assist Hurricane Katrina evacuees who are currently residing in San Diego.

On Friday September 23, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.the Red Cross will be conducting an orientation and training session for volunteers at New Creation Church, 3115 Altadena Avenue. If we continue to receive evacuees in large numbers, I can not emphasize enough the need for volunteers to assist these unfortunate families.

On Wednesday, September 21st I will be requesting the City council's Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee to support my efforts to establish a Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention. There are over 3,750 documented gang members in the City of San Diego. Gangs accounted for 35% of homicides. There have been over 1,549 gang member arrests. **These statistics indicate that there is a gang problem throughout the City of San Diego and if we want to prevent the problem from growing to the proportions that are now in Los Angeles (over 65,000 gang members); we must make gang prevention and intervention one of the primary focuses of this City.**

The Commission will be an official advisory body to the Mayor, City Council, & City Manager. It will assist in developing strategic, coordinated, and collaborative efforts to curtail gang activity and its negative impact on the City.

A broad-based membership that includes representation from the faith based community, employment sector, education, parents, community, and law enforcement, will make recommendations regarding prevention, intervention, and diversion from gangs and gang related activities.

Your support of my efforts is appreciated.

Thanks for reading my E-mail Message for The Week. If you would like to receive this E-mail on a regular basis, please e-mail me at anthonyyoung@sandiego.gov