

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
MINUTES FOR COMMISSION ON GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION
MEETING
OF
Thursday, July 22, 2010
At 11:45 a.m.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Chief Lansdowne at 11:45 a.m. The meeting was adjourned by Chief Lansdowne at 1:30 p.m.

WELCOME BY WELCOME BY COUNCILMAN CARL DEMAIO AND EPICENTER YOUTH:

Carl DeMaio welcomed the meeting and discussed the importance of funding and strategic planning with government agencies. He explained the significance of representing coordinated resources of non-profit, faith, private and government sector. He also advised to plan proper tactics for communities to prevent gang population in at-risk youth.

Jasmine Hernandez, a member of the Epicenter teen advisory council, expressed the importance of Epicenter because of its safe nature to keep youth away from gangs and drugs. She stated that it is a welcoming program that teens call home where activities for youth are included. She stated how the teen advisory council is a way for teens to express their ideas throughout the community and assists teens in developing leadership skills for adulthood, working together, and fulfill community service.

ROLL CALL:

Chief Lansdowne called the roll:

ATTENDANCE:

1. Commissioner Gore
2. Commissioner Yanov
3. Commissioner Cafferty
4. Commissioner Lozada
5. Commissioner Eldred
6. Commissioner A. Torres
7. Commissioner Sotelo
8. Commissioner Henderson
9. Commissioner Silverman
10. Commissioner Jenkins

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Chief Lansdowne asked for the approval of minutes from May 20, 2010. Motion to approve minutes was made by Commissioner Mark Cafferty and seconded by Commissioner Mack Jenkins.

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CURRENT INFORMATION SCAN (CIS)

a. Gang statistics- Chief Lansdowne & Lt. Jorge Duran

Thanked community partners, Probation, Parole, Cal-Grip, and Project Safe Neighborhoods for assisting to gather crime statistics. In the month of June there was no gang related homicide which is excellent considering the size for the city of San Diego. In 2009, there were 5 Gang related homicides in which is now approximately a decrease of 60%. There were 16 aggravated assaults in June. Last year, we had about 114 which is about 18% decrease. The aggravated assaults consisted of 3 shootings, 8 stabbings, and 5 other assaults. On the suppression side, 85 gang members were arrested last month; 60 adults, 15 mainly juveniles were charged violation of probation, and 13 were for parole violation. Six firearms were recovered from gang members last month.

b. Probation information- Chief Jenkins

The gang commission is a big part of success that works well with the county. The number of gang related homicides 205; 12 to 18 in 2006, 28 in 2007, 21 in 2008, and now we see 9 and now we're going to see the lowest in the last 20 years in the city of San Diego. San Diego is doing exceptionally well county wide and is one of the safest counties due to strong team collaboration.

c. Parole information- Alma Morales Gang Supervision Supervisor

The designee is Alma Morales who supervises gang suppression who gave scan of probation perspective. At the end of the fiscal year numbers were gathered for adult and juveniles. Adult average caseload of 420 with 9 officers and with juvenile GSU we gathered a caseload of 280 cases with average of 8 juvenile officers. For the year it was conducted a total 1788 field contacts and adult side and juvenile 1400 for a total of 3197. The total number of office contacts for both units consisted of 4,962. For forth waivers for residential it was conducted 3,670 and for UA's conducted 5,423. For the month of June it was conducted one operation in mid city that had 9 field contacts, 11 residential forth waivers, 2 arrest one for probation violation and other for juvenile detention order. Probation worked San Diego PD in Logan and Sherman Heights areas where there were 11 probationers both adult and juveniles. There were 13 residential forth waivers, 3 vehicle searches and 1 shot gun was seized. Two officers provided assistance with PD in Mid City on a robbery at 7/11. As a result an adult was taken into custody for robbing a liquor store.

DISCUSSION:

Kevin Henderson discussed about controversy and misrepresentation with Gang Land episode with "Mitchy Slick". Kevin has been in contact with Mitchy who says that he was misrepresented in this episode and discussed his reasoning for doing episode was to escalate his rapping career. Media put improper information about the history of Lincoln Park from the past and nothing current. Now Mitchy is reaching out and apologizing to San Diego Police

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Department and anyone who felt disrespected through the footage. Through this video the director emphasized the importance of gang land ratings. The decision was then made to look into Lincoln Park history. This was a community concern because there were no positive clips publicized and Gang Land misrepresented and stirred up history of Lincoln Park.

Fred Sotelo thanked Commissioner Henderson for being pro active with a former gang member. Fred was concerned about how Mitchy would position his situation and past rivalry.

Kevin Henderson discussed that there were many concerns of the rivalry with Skyline and Lincoln Park. These rivalry individuals have come to the point where they have sat down and discussed the issues that have been going on.

ACTION AGENDA:

a. Draft strategic action workplan: Presented by Chris Yanov and Rose Ana Lozada:

The purpose of the 21 member commission on Gang prevention and intervention is to:

1. Develop a strategic collaborative effort between various agencies who work with gang related issues.
2. Make policy recommendations to the mayor and city council on issues of gang prevention, intervention, diversion and suppression methods, identify local, state and federal funding sources, and identify best practice efforts.
3. Advocate, formulae and recommend for adoption proactive gang policies, ordinances and guidelines.

There has been sponsoring many programs but haven't formulated policies. Even though gang homicides have been dropping it is important to put these plans into action.

Community Scan

In 2007 and 2009 there has been 67% drop in gang related homicides. Communities and agencies working together have gotten a foothold in decreasing gang violence. The decrease is the result of not only the San Diego police aggressive suppression efforts but also the efforts of the community and their involvement with the twice monthly collaborative curfew sweeps, the extended hours at the Recreation center on Fridays.

New Direction

The commission feels that the basic ingredients required for gang prevention and intervention include a wide variety of initiatives. This year the commission will focus on:

1. Jobs (training as well as placement)
2. Supporting integration of services
3. Facilitation youth activities
4. Early intervention strategies

The commission vision has been modified to supports its implantation strategy and goals. They are:

1. Pursue strategies to prevent the growth of gang activity and violence

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2. Facilitate community involvement through strategic guidance and leadership. (1,2,4)
3. Identify necessary funding to accomplish goals (to support 1-4)

The commission desires to reflect research strategies that demonstrate gang prevention violence. Preventing violence is a top-down (high level leadership)-bottom-up (community engagement) venture. In the middle, strong collaboration is supported by on-going attention from dedicated staffing.

Emerging trends & Challenges

1. Gang violence is sophisticated and the bad effects on gang involvement need to be reacted to rather than just focusing on reducing gang involved homicides.
2. The long term impact of early exposure to violence impacts our youth. Research shows that 75 to 93 percent of youth entering the juvenile justice system annually in this country are estimated to have experienced some degree of trauma.
3. The state and federal governments are funding collaboration of community based organizations or agencies.
4. Philanthropic organization and federal agencies are also specifically focusing on neighborhood based strategies.
5. There is an increase interest at many levels of government to only fund "evidenced bases" programs.
6. State and local governments and some philanthropic organization are having budget issues and are cutting funding to critical violence prevention programs. The average cost of a firearm related death is \$33,000. For gun related injuries total over \$300,000 for each occurrence. So it cost ten times more if the victim survives than dies.
7. Our 2010 listening tour also provided additional trends from the community perspective. It has reached over 120 students around the community. Gang prevention research underscores that prevention means addressing the following factors contributing to violence:
 - Lack of social opportunities
 - The degree of social disorganization present in a community
 - Poverty
 - Institutional racism
 - Deficiencies in social policies
 - Lack of or misdirected social controls

Protective police presence was identified as an important role in keeping neighborhoods safe. Respondents in Sherman Heights emphasized the importance of rapid police response to 911 calls. Youth respondents in Lincoln Park emphasized police presence as a factor in feeling safe walking to and from school. We want to make these communities feel safe.

Building on our Successes: New Direction

As previously stated the commission has identified these four primary focuses for 2011-2012

1. Jobs (training as well as placement)
2. Supporting integration of services

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3. Facilitation youth activities
4. Early intervention strategies

The four focus areas correspond to the following goals and implementation initiatives of the commission.

1. Establish an effective, coordinated, collaboration process to impact gang activity citywide.

District attorney office-JJ Anderson discussed about the re-entry on gang's process and solutions. He also conversed about collaborating with organizations to specifically focus on employment for juveniles to keep them out of jail. Suggested to make reports to show progress on how it pertains to re-entry on gangs and identifiers.

Chief Lansdowne mentioned the re-entry program is the only program in the state.

2. Develop a multi department partnership within the city organization to focus on information sharing and training regarding gang issues within the community.

2011 direction

Set up briefings with departments and commissions to share information and concepts. Work with the Southeastern divisions and community organizations to discuss issues as part of a communication effort to build community relations.

Rosa Ana Lozada discussed on Southeastern division with San Diego PD and community organizations to discuss issues as apart of communication effort as a part of community relations. There are core teams with McElroy that's in charge of Southeastern division. They are looking for curriculum to be post approved it will be done in a nontraditional way on issues that have happen within cultural competency.

1. Establish a data and research analysis process to keep the mayor, city council and commission aware of key gang trends and anti gang research on an ongoing basis.
2. Identify capacity building, funding sources for agencies and organizations with existing, effective and promising gang prevention and intervention programs strategies that they can apply for on a neighborhood basis.
3. Make policy recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on issues of gang prevention, intervention, diversion, and suppression methods, identify local, state and federal funding sources, and identify best practice efforts.

Lynn Sharpe Underwood mentioned the unity network in the 13 cities and discussed about a web conference call with the feds on evaluation on what they were looking for in grants. They are going to be looking in how organizations are collaborating and strengthen those who have best practices in evidence base.

1. Develop a sustainable funding strategy for the strategic action plan.

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2. Have the proper ingredients to prevent gangs and continue to support applications and outreach to organization to build collaborations to apply for funds.

Conclusion

As the commission embarks on its fifth year of working in the community, it is evident that collaboration and community involvement are the key actions that impact violence in San Diego. Partnerships among the members of the commission and organizations make it possible for the city to impact the gang related issues facing our communities.

Rosa Ana Lozada discussed how Listening tours have been valuable among the perspective of communities and residents.

Scott Silverman commented in regards to the term field testing and evidence base outcomes. Working together as a group has and have more open discussion and learning tools to use best practices within the community.

Recommended Action: accept the draft of the AD Hoc Committee have made along with suggestion from other commissioners and request a final presented on September 14th.

Chief Lansdowne accepted the draft. It's prepared to present it on September 14, 2010 and then goes to council in October 2010.

Motion accepted by Commissioner Mack Jenkins and seconded by Commissioner Scott Silverman.

DISCUSSION:

Chief Lansdowne commented the difficulties on budget time and trying to manage budgets with government. There are numerous cut backs and many services have been hampered. The community needs to continue to come together with long term strategic plans and look for new ways to solve issues. Thanked everyone for the votes.

Steve Eldred thanked everyone who was a part of the gang commission meeting. He emphasized to look for opportunities to support youth in leadership. He felt that it was important to have programs like Epicenter and Harmonium.

Chris Yanov stated that there are ample of organizations who are dedicated to doing this all the time. The reality of unemployment is for more worse than what is reported. Across the country there is about 3.5 million job opening in the nation and 17 to 18 million people who are unemployed. In San Diego has a high unreported rate of unemployment. Recovery is not going to happen overnight and its going to take years for more jobs to come back into the community. Suggested to plan on putting some individuals on short term employment opportunities that allow them to do work as opposed to not having any type of jobs.

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Keith Roslan from Parole conversed about the gang GPS around San Diego county which is a satellite tractor in order to monitor parolees. What this does for the community is that it deters a lot of the criminal activity. It doesn't prevent crime but it tracks what they do in which deters their actions. They also provide mental health counseling for individuals when they are released from prison. This will help them have guidance to get their lives back on track.

Kevin Henderson commented and asked about non revoke parole.

Keith Roslan responded and stated that non revoke parole is for offenders that are considered low level offender. Doesn't mean that the individual is not a high risk offender and will not commit a crime. They haven't committed a serious enough crime to be a high risk offender. If they do commit a crime than they give up their rights for a fourth way procedure and police officer can search their house any time day or night.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Commissioner Scott Silverman and his colleagues(Keith, Patricia, Ricky and Christian) presented information about the JOLT program with Second Chance.

The Juvenile Options and lifelong transitions (JOLT) is an organization that has helped individuals get back to work with prison re-entry program. This program wants to aim to try to get people at a younger age in order to prevent them from going into long term incarceration. Juvenile Justice Piece has taken 3 years and has worked with law enforcement, probation department, and workforce partnership. The Goal is to find a way through relationship 9 months on inside 6 months on outside for mentoring opportunities. The JOLT program doesn't just work with at risk youth but also working with holistic approach with the families and supporters. The idea of prevention and intervention has been used as a tool with this program.

- Keith-program manager discussed multiple part of the JOLT program. It serves youth 16-21 years old. Currently serve 140 youth which are both apart of workforce partnership youthful offender unit. Out of those 140 members 75 are incarcerated and the other 75 are in the community. This program provide case management outlook that provide guidance to the youth.
- Christian-group facilitator counselor discussed the idea of the inside institution has proven to be effective. The JOLT program comes together with the school system and assess on transitional plans. It provides individual, family and group counseling on daily a basis.
- Ricky, transitional advocate, works with the workforce piece that does transition and exit hearings. Everyone in the youth seeks to work. Keeping close relationship is one of the keys to success. The JOLT program provides job readiness which is paid internships and job shadowing.
- Patricia, a CBT coordinator, does mentoring and rapid engagement reassessment which touches base with youth members on what their goals are and initiates their service plan. They go over the essential steps for them to reach their goals. Housing is offered for those who are not safe to go back to their home.

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- B. Paula Ingram of the Children initiative will present on the children Report Card
(A local nonprofit organization)

Discussed the report card on children and families that covered issues of health, safety, economics, access to services, education, and quality of life. The children report card is used to provide data snap shot of how children and families are doing. It is compared to state and national levels. In 2005 and 2006 it was asked to take report card to a new level as a tool for policy change and budget implications. Provide best practices nationally recognized in best practices in prevention and intervention. School attendance indicator looks at those who have more than 10 percent of school day which is almost a month of school which leads to kids to drop out. To prevent need more after school program and employment to keep children out of trouble. A total of 10% middle and high school youth are missing too much school. Substance abuse indicator shows that between 2007 and 2009 that are reporting substance use. Juvenile crime has been overall good and having been dropping for misdemeanor but an uptick for felony arrest. For the report card the number of crimes peaked from the hours of 3 and 6 right after school. These are the hours that are concerning for youth for this reason it is recommended to have more after school programs and jobs to keep youth busy and out of trouble.

- C. Lt. Duran will do presentation on the CAL grip grant Statistics.

The California state gang prevention has extended funding for recreation centers. It has had a good effect and had been broken up into prevention (parks and rec.), intervention (Metro united), and suppression (curfew sweep). Project safe neighborhood assisted funding of 43, 000 to further support programming. Duran also displayed a hot spot map in San Diego that demonstrated the number of gang crimes in central division and field interviews. Red spot are the ones who showed to have high numbers and have suppression in those areas. Lynn mentioned that there over 3,200 visits to recreation center from June 2009 to June 2010. The majority of the youth are male and activities consists hip hop, baseball, girls basketball league. The types of services are enrollment into programs in the community, case management, and referrals. In 2008, in central division they had 66 gang related crime and in 2009 it got dropped to 56. There has been decrease in gang related violence.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Lynn Sharpe Underwood commented on the constructive work from the community outreach piece in terms of workforce partnership.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Gang prevention summit September 14th, 2010

Meeting was adjourned at 1:30p.m.