

Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention
Minutes of May Meeting
Price Charities
4305 University Avenue
San Diego, CA 92105
Thursday, May 17, 2012

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rosa Ana Lozada at 5:09 PM.

ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING

1. Commissioner Chief Lansdowne
2. Commissioner Dana Brown
3. Commissioner Danny Villareal
4. Commissioner Fred Sotelo
5. Commissioner Rosa Ana Lozada
6. Commissioner Sheriff William Gore
7. Commissioner Joyce Abrams
8. Commissioner Christopher Yanov
9. Commissioner DeLeon Torres
10. Commissioner Jose Cervantes

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no Public Comment slips.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Sheriff Gore to approve the March 15th minutes; Commissioner Chief Lansdowne seconded it. It passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM A

Executive Director Lynn Sharpe-Underwood wanted to make sure the Commissioners understood how each of the Action items related to the Work Plan. Each Action item is correlated back to the Work Plan. The Action item for the May meeting was to move forward with an updated Action Plan. The Commission established priorities to facilitate and initiate a Strategic Action Plan every 2 years. It is now time to begin working on the 3rd Strategic Action Plan. Resources for this plan will include community concerns, ideas collected from the Gang Prevention Summit, research done by the Children's Initiative, the Advancement Project in Los Angeles, the 13 Cities Network, SANDAG, and the Prevention Institute.

Recommended Action:

Establish an Ad Hoc Committee to report in July on a draft Action Plan.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Villareal.

Discussion: There was no discussion on the Action item.

The Action was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Lansdowne, and Commissioner Villareal were interested in participating. If others are interested in participating, they should let the committee know.

ACTION ITEM B

John Moffat (Vista Clinic) and Kurt Smith (Anti Gang Task Force) updated the Commission on the social media environment and how it relates to gangs. John Moffat described how the advent of technology changes the ways gangs recruit and communicate. Gangs use social media as a tool to identify talented youth in the community. Gangs then post original music videos by the recruited youth on YouTube in order to identify and recruit new members. There is a persistent presence of violence in the online community, which makes it difficult to differentiate gang related material from non-gang material. All material is available to anybody with access to the Internet. The posting of violent material on social media websites perpetuates fear in the community. Educating parents on technology is important so they can intervene. There is a large knowledge gap in the understanding of technology from the kids to the parents, which limits a parent's ability to monitor youth activity in the home and online.

Recommended Action:

Establish an Ad Hoc Committee to review and discuss strategies that facilitate an educational cooperative effort.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner DeLeon Torres.

Discussion: The educational cooperative effort is the focus for the Commission. The Ad Hoc Committee should be solution oriented. Social media can be used in positive manner and advocate policy change. Fostering community grassroots efforts is an important aspect of the efforts of the Commission.

The Action was passed unanimously.

Commissioners Brown, Yanov and Alicia De Leon Torres volunteered to be on the Ad Hoc Committee with subject matter experts Kurt Smith and Jon Moffat.

ACTION ITEM C

Providing summer employment opportunities is an important intervention for youth in the City. Youth employment is critical in a multipronged approach to gang prevention. The creation of a standalone summer jobs program is critical. Commissioner Buggs updated the Commission on the efforts of the Workforce Partnership. There is no stand-alone funding source for a summer jobs program in the City; however, the Partnership is committed to creating its own sustainable program. The Partnership is dedicating \$1 million of Workforce Investment Act funds to a summer jobs program. In order to receive funds, the youth must be willing to commit to a yearlong engagement, so these funds do not count as pure stand-alone funding for summer jobs programs. The Partnership has also been soliciting and putting out grants to fund the infrastructure to implement a summer jobs program. The biggest push is to convince private companies to participate. A summer jobs symposium will be held on June 19th, 2012 to provide youth with the information to look for jobs.

Recommended Action:

Recommend to the Mayor and City Council that they support the work and efforts of the Workforce Partnership. The Commission will write a letter of support

Motion was made by Commissioner Chief Lansdowne and seconded by Commissioner Yanov.

Discussion: There was no discussion on the Action Item.

The Action was passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

- **WRPP:** presented by Commissioner Dana Brown
 - WRPP focuses on integrated systems change and advocacy through resident engagement. It consists of 5 domains: (1) pre-school and school readiness, (2) restorative practice and restorative justice, (3) school climate, (4) youth leadership, and (5) wellness. The largest aspect of the program is the Resident Advisory Alliance. There is also a youth development component that includes youth ages 9 to 24.
 - Commissioner Brown introduced the Commission to a family from the Cherokee Point Neighborhood that is involved in the program. The family was involved in a program that taught youth about multiple intelligences. Youth led a parent workshop in which they taught attendees about multiple intelligences. The goal of the workshop was to improve parent-child communication at home.

- **Leaders for Change:** presented by former Commissioner Kevin Henderson
 - Leaders for Change is focused on community involvement. The program works with community members and youth who have transitioned out of

- gang life. It partners at-risk youth with positive role models and connects the community with available resources.
- Kevin Henderson introduced the Commission to five youth who are currently participating in the program.
 - **Karen Youth:** presented by Dante Dauz, Alliance for Community Empowerment (ACE)
 - The Karen youth were forced out of Burma, and then forced into refugee camps in Thailand. About 4 or 5 years ago the United States absorbed some of these refugees, creating a new population in need of services. There are now multiple agencies working with Karen youth in the City. The Karen Youth program offers the youth outside mentorship on the weekends, as well as, substance abuse programs, gang prevention, and education. The program also incorporates resources to help youth with the acclimation process. There are about 30 youth currently involved in the program.
 - The Commission needs to pay attention to the Karen youth because they are starting to glorify gang behavior. There is no evidence of a Karen gang, but they are starting to associate with gang symbols. Therefore, this is a crucial time for the program, and a great opportunity for gang prevention efforts. Prevention and intervention efforts can focus on the youth who are still at-risk. Efforts will focus on youth who have dropped out of school in the past year.
 - Commissioner Brown suggested that gang prevention efforts targeted at Karen youth should be tackled as an immediate action item. It is important to facilitate a collaborative effort.
 - **Safe Passages:** presented by Commissioner Joyce Abrams and Sarah Lebov
 - Commissioner Abrams reported on the Safe Passages program at Montgomery Middle School in Linda Vista. The goal of the program is to make sure youth get to school safely and get home safely. The program teaches kids pedestrian safety, scooter safety, car safety, bike safety, and stranger awareness. There are about 6 meetings every school year. All cluster schools in the area are invited to attend these meetings. The prime goal of the last meeting was to complete a brochure dedicated to heightening awareness about safety. Safe Passages is a collaborative effort that includes school police officers, city police officers, city counsel representative, community members, students, and school personnel. One of the topics typically brought up in meetings is graffiti. Graffiti drains the school budget.
 - Sarah Lebov reported on the Safe Passages program at Bell Middle School and Horace Mann Middle School/Crawford High School. There are monthly meetings at Bell Middle School. Volunteers also participate in activities like trash clean up. Efforts at Horace Mann/Crawford Schools include volunteer patrols before and after school, lobbying school

administrators to get more involved, and a Safety Walk in June to recruit more volunteers.

- Safe Passages is waiting to see if it will get another grant to provide more funding. Commissioner Abrams does not know when Safe Passages will find out about additional funding. The final report on the previous \$1,000 grant is due in June. Hopefully, information on future funding will be acquired upon submission of the final report.

CURRENT INFORMATION SCAN

- *Gang Crime Statistics*-Commissioner Chief Lansdowne
 - The gang crime statistics are low for a city the size of San Diego.
 - Last year there were 39 homicides in the city of San Diego. Roughly half of those were gang related homicides.
 - Other cities the size of San Diego have approximately 200 to 300 homicides a year.
 - San Diego has 91 documented gangs, and 4, 264 documented gang members.
 - Dallas has 556 documented gangs, and 8,939 documented gang members.
 - Phoenix has 596 documented gangs, and over 15,000 documented gang members.
 - Los Angeles has over 45,000 documented gang members.
 - The most activity was reported on beat 441 in Southeastern Division.
 - Most of the high crime indicators are in the Southeast Division, Mid City Division, and some in the Southern Division.
 - There have been 5 gang related homicides year to date. Last year at this time there were 6 gang related homicides.
 - There have been 4 attempted homicides year to date. Last year at this time there was one attempted homicide.
 - There have been 54 assaults with a deadly weapon year to date. Last year at this time there were 50 assaults with a deadly weapon.
 - There have been 43 robberies year to date. Last year at this time there were 20 robberies.
 - Suppression:
 - Street gang unit has made 100 arrests
 - City side there have been 166 gang related arrests
 - 36 new gang members have been identified
 - 25 gang members have been purged
 - 3, 200 contacts were made
- *County Realignment*-Jason Rasch
 - There are 6,942 individuals on supervised probation. This number does not include adult warrants, which is approximately another several hundred.
 - 1,367 are juveniles
 - 4, 832 are adults

- 743 are post release offenders
- Countywide there are approximately 1,900 post release offenders. About half of these offenders reside in San Diego zip codes.
- The Unit has been involved in 19 high-risk offender and gang related operations.
 - 4 warrant sweeps
 - 6 truancy sweeps
 - 3 curfew sweeps
 - UC operation
 - 5 probation operations

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- Reminder of the July 19th, 2012 luncheon at SANDAG.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- All information provided in an e-mail sent out by Lynn Sharpe-Underwood

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.