

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO**  
**Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention**  
**Minutes**

Thursday, September 20, 2007

5 p.m.

Tubman Chavez

415 N. Euclid Avenue

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:25p.m.

2. Attending the Meeting:

Pastor Harry Cooper  
Steve Eldred  
Christopher Yanov  
Benita Page  
Dr. Carl Cohn  
Kevin Henderson  
Conrad Harris  
Larry Fitch  
Eugene Johnson

Staff Present:

Lynn Sharpe-Underwood

Absent:

Alicia DeLeon Torres  
Chief Lansdowne  
Gary Gallegos

3. Minutes for July 19<sup>th</sup> were approved. Minutes for August 16<sup>th</sup> were accepted as an information item report.

4. Current Information Scan – *Commissioner Chief Lansdowne*

- a. *Crime Statistic Update was given by Lt. Andrew Mills of the Gang Unit*
  - i. *3 more homicides to date than last year*
  - ii. *2 more attempted homicides to date than last year*
  - iii. *29 more assaults with a deadly weapon than last year*
  - iv. *Assaults with firearms is down by 7*
  - v. *8 more robberies city wide*
  - vi.

5. Discussion/Action Agenda:

- a. Action Item #1: Strategic Action Plan – Ad Hoc Committee-

Pastor Cooper stated that each of the action goals would be reviewed and commented on by the Commission then community comments would be sought on each one. These are recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on how to comprehensively impact gang intervention and prevention.

**Goal #1:** Establish an effective coordinated collaboration process to impact gang activity citywide.

**Recommendations:**

1. *The Commission recommends that the Mayor and City Council strongly support the Commission's effort to set up coordinated efforts in specific communities to address the gang situation.*
2. *The Commission recommends that the City consider focusing on specific areas for graffiti removal for the next six months.*

**Strategic Actions:**

- #1. Establish community technical teams to implement neighborhood strategies.
- #2. Collaborate on establishing the Safe Passage program at schools at five schools where gang activity impacts the school community.
- #3. Develop local employment strategies for at risk youth and former gang members.

Discussion:

**Commissioner Page** requested a strategic action be added as:

- #4. The City launch a program in the next six months that addresses graffiti removal in specific neighborhoods.

**Deputy City Attorney Makini Hammond** stated the City already has a program.

**Commissioner Yanov** stated preventing and working on graffiti doesn't address the root cause but he expected to see further in that we would move toward that.

**Commissioner Henderson** pointed that gang graffiti promotes gang involvement. He also stated that Writers Block is important because it promotes an alternative for graffiti artists.

**Luis Natividad** from the Community pointed out that this is disrespectful. He also commented that the "strongly" should be added to the goal.

**Commissioner Eldred** talked about Broking Windows. He feels that cleaning up the community promotes the stemming of violence. Chris

Commission Action

Moved by **Commissioner Fitch** and seconded by **Commissioner Henderson** adding #4 and the word "strongly" be added to the goal. Unanimously approved by Commission members.

**Goal #2:** Develop joint partnerships to help address the gang issues within the City of San Diego.

**Recommendations:**

1. *The Commission recommends that City Departments actively work with the Commission and identify community-based organizations to collaborate on grants and programs that focus on gang prevention/ intervention or violence prevention.*

### **Strategic Actions:**

- #1. Institutionalize within the City that every City department will include practices, partnerships and/or technology that will protect our youth and children.
- #2. Establish formal agreements with government and community organizations (inclusive of Faith Based groups) that support The City's effort to impact gang activity effectively.

#### Commission Action

Acceptance of this strategic action goal #2 was moved by **Commissioner Fitch** and seconded by **Commissioner Cohn** unanimously approved by the Commission.

**Goal #3:** Establish a data and research analysis process to keep Mayor and City Council and Commission aware of key gang trends and anti-gang research on an ongoing basis.

### **Strategic Actions:**

- #1. Collect information on trend analysis with listening tours, and review local crime statistics. Expand upon this data analysis by working with local researchers on surveys and data collection so as to develop the Commission as key source of updated anti-gang program/policy information.

#### Commission Action

Acceptance of this strategic action goal #3 was moved by Commissioner Fitch and seconded by Commissioner Henderson. Unanimously approved by the Commission.

**Goal #4:** Based on existing funding, build capacity in existing, effective and promising gang prevention and intervention programs/strategies on a neighborhood basis.

### **Recommendation:**

1. The Mayor and the City Council should only fund those promising gang prevention and intervention programs/strategies with evidenced based outcomes.

### ***Strategic Actions:***

- #1. Create neighborhood-based inventories of gang prevention and intervention programs/strategies using risk and resiliency factors as the defining guidelines.
- #2. Survey programs in communities seeking City funding to assess which programs in the community have had internal or external evaluations done. Analyze evaluation results in order to develop criteria for future funding of promising prevention and intervention programs/strategies.

#### Discussion

Staff pointed out that SANDAG staff had some concerns regarding this strategic goal. And asked to have time to clarify the issues and address and bring back to the Commission.

**Sandy Keaton from SANDAG** needs to review and need clarification about some of the words and where the Commission wanted to go. There needed to some more clarity and more information needed to be discussed. Pointed out that evidenced based is a very limited term.

**Commissioner Cohn** asked if the goal was an issue and Sandy Keaton pointed out the actions needed clarification. Commissioner Cohn was concerned about evidenced based was an issue.

**Sandy Keaton** said achieving the actions was a concern and this might be duplicative.

**Commissioner Eldred** pointed out definitions and criteria were concerns and there was concern about the amount of effort that would be involved in accomplishing this.

**Commissioner Page** the word “only” is a concern in the recommendation.

**Commissioner Fitch** remembered that there was concern about evidenced based and working through it and asking if you can’t show that your program works and there are programs that can show they work where we would put our limited resources? We have spent time discussing about how we can provide services.

**Chair** asked if the Commission therefore would affirm the goal and send back to the adhoc committee the recommendations and strategic actions for rework with SANDAG.

#### Commission Action

Moved by **Commissioner Eldred** and seconded by **Commissioner Fitch**.

Discussion by **Commissioner Yanov** wanting to explain that he would be voting no not because of the issue of evidenced based programs but that “prevention programs sometimes are a promotion program for gangs.” He is in favor of programs that promote positive things instead of preventing gangs.

The Commission accepted Goal #4 with the recommendations and strategic actions to go back to the Ad hoc committee was accepted with one no vote by Commissioner Yanov.

**Goal #5:** Develop a sustainable funding strategy for the strategic Action plan.

#### **Strategic Actions:**

- #1. Develop a strategy that allows for sustainability of the strategic action plan.
- #2. Implement the strategy as soon as possible with the understanding of the urgency of the issue of young people dying on our streets.

#### Commission Action

Moved by Commissioner Fitch, seconded by Commissioner Henderson the Commission unanimously accepted.

The following recommendations were already approved by the Commission but they are part of the Strategic Action Plan. The Chair opened the discussion.

#### **More Recommendations**

1. Celebrate youth.
2. Expand Commission membership to address re-entry.
3. The Commission recommends that the Mayor and city Council balance the Commission’s members to better reflect the impact the Gang issue has on the community.
4. Parents need to know when their child is about to be documented as a gang member.

5. Address Community Concerns about the criteria for documenting gangs.
6. Rehabilitated gang members should be able to get off Cal Gangs in three years

Discussion

**Commissioner Henderson** when we first started this question. I was informed we that after five years you are kicked out of the system. And they are still documented.

**Lt Mills** stated in the last year the system has become automated so that anyone has not had a police contact is automatically purged so if you are contacted a year ago but not a gang contact then a person would be purged. If more than a year ago it was not purged.

**Hugh Muhammad** questioned the criteria in the strategic action plan is different than CAL gangs criteria. Lt. Mills said he would review this.

b. Action Item #2

San Diego Workforce Partnership's Gang Prevention Employment initiative- Presentation was made by Margie de Ruyter of the Workforce Partnership. The Workforce reviewed different programs and are recommending a school based model which is a long term effort. The procurement effort will focus on organizations that understand the population and have cultural competence. Program implementation is May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

Discussion

**Commissioner Eldred** asked if the money for this project were new money and is it ongoing money.

**Chair** mentioned that people need jobs and this would give them an alternative.

Commission Action

Commissioner Page moved seconded by Commissioner Eldred and was unanimously accepted with the Commission with Commissioner Fitch of the Workforce Partnership abstaining.

6. Partnership Reports:

- a. CALGRIP – Sandy McBrayer, TCI, Juvenile Justice Task Force and Coordinating Council
  1. California now has an organized office on gang issues and Paul Seave is the Director of Gang and Youth Violence Policy, Office of the Governor. First time there has been a statewide comprehensive approach. Mr. Seave is a former U.S. Attorney who worked on District Attorney and has worked with Domestic Violence issues.
  2. The purpose of the GRIP Program is to provide grants to cities and community-based organizations for gang prevention, intervention, reentry, education, job training and skills development, family and community services, and suppression activities.
  3. Employers can hire former gang members or people with criminal records.
  4. New funds. \$2.8 million in WIA dollars. San Diego is a head of the effort. It will extend up to \$11 million
  5. Victim compensation has been doubled. \$3 million to \$6 million
  6. San Diego is one of 25 counties that can apply for dollars.
  7. Youth coming out of camp need to have jobs. The effort is to do job training for these youth and when they come out of camp can get jobs immediately.

McBrayer also brought to the attention of the Commission that the documentation criteria is actually longer than what is in the Strategic Action Plan. She also stated that state and federal list is longer. She pointed out that the automated system for removing documented gang members off the list at the end of 5 years is not working as well as it is supposed to.

Chair asked if the CALgrip money will come to the City or the County. McBrayer stated that some will go to City and some to County depending on the funding stream regulation.

- b. Community Facilitator Update – Linda Vista, Mira Mesa, South Bay (they had to leave for another meeting so no report was presented)

7. Executive Director Report: (referred to handouts)

- a. PS& NS presentation
- b. Grants Information:
  - OJJDP Coordinating Assistance Grant progress
  - California Wellness Site Visit

8. Commission-Community Dialogue (Speakers Slips are available for this at the door)

**Crystal Campbell** noted there are no youth on the Commission. **Chair** and **Commissioner Henderson** responded we are working on it.

**Jasmine Moore** what are exactly doing to help the youth. Chair pointed out the Workforce Partnership's effort and stated that everyone on the Commission is working on ways to respond youth and its one of the Commission's values.

**Julius Burton** how long has the Commission been in existence? Chair responded science Nov. 2006.

**Rodney Smith** mentioned Jackie Robinson YMCA event on September 29<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned that each one teach me and expressed appreciation to Darryl Charles and Travis Stocking and the work they are doing in the community.

**Danny Manson** had a question about gang documentation and how does someone go about identifying the right person. Chair stated three criteria have to be met. Lt. Mills agreed to meet with people who want detailed explanation after the meeting.

**Dwayne Crenshaw** welcomed the Commission and talked about its program High School Completion and Employment program. The Coalition of Neighborhood Councils has been working on supporting mandatory school uniforms. Many schools districts are adopting this policy. The Long Beach School District found during the first year they implemented the policy that: over all crime on school campus' decreased 36%; fights decreased 51%; sex offenses decreased 74%; weapons 50%; assault and batter34% and vandalism down 18% with school attendance increasing. CNC believes that this policy should be implemented. We would like the Commission to join us in this support. We would like this policy implemented district wide.

9. Announcements

**Commissioner Cohn** mentioned the Truancy and Intervention Center in the school district. He stated there needs to be a Monday through Friday truancy sweep. Wendell Bass will be the principal of the center. It starts the 1<sup>st</sup> week in October. Dorothy Harper, Associate Superintendent, Parent, Student Community Engagement will be overseeing the effort.

**Commissioner Johnson** said he has been partnering with two other business men Darryl Charles and Travis Stocking to work with youth throughout the City.

Announced there had been gang violence on 54<sup>th</sup> and the three of them had sat down and talked with the young people involved.

10. Adjournment was at 6:35p.m.

**Public Comment on an Agenda Item:** If you wish to address the Commission on an item on today's agenda, please complete a speaker form (on the table near the door) and give it to the Commission's secretary before the Commission hears the agenda item. You will be called at the time the item is heard.

**Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda:** You may address the Commission on any matter not listed on today's agenda at the end of the

meeting. During Commission-Community Dialogue. Complete a speaker form and give it to the Commission's Executive Secretary.

However, California's open meeting laws do not permit the Commission to discuss or take any action on the matter at today's meeting. At its discretion, the Commission may refer the matter to staff or committee.

Individual's= comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. At the discretion of the Chair, if a large number of people wish to speak on the same item,

comments may be limited to a set period of time per item. The information contained in this agenda is available in alternative format. To request an agenda in Braille, large print, or cassette, or to request a sign language or oral interpreter for the meeting, call the Commission office at least five (5) working days prior to meeting.(619-236-5936)