

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
MINUTES FOR COMMISSION ON GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION
MEETING
OF
THURSDAY, May 20, 2010
AT 5:00 P.M.
CITY HALL
202 C STREET, 12TH FLOOR
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pastor Harry Cooper at 5:05 p.m. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Pastor Harry Cooper at 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chair Cooper called the roll:

ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING:

- (1) Commissioner Cafferty
- (2) Commissioner Benavidez
- (3) Commissioner Johnson
- (4) Commissioner Yanov
- (5) Commissioner Henderson
- (6) Commissioner De Leon Torres
- (7) Commissioner Sotelo
- (8) Commissioner Lozada
- (9) Commissioner Eldred
- (10) Commissioner Dumanis

Chair Pastor Cooper extended gratitude to the East African Community & Cultural Center and Brother Abdi for opening the facility to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mohamed Abdi thanked and welcomed everyone for coming on behalf of the East African Community & Cultural Center

Abdueli welcomed everyone to the East African Community Center and stated that the staff and volunteers are here to make things easy for all attendees.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Pastor Cooper asked for the approval of Minutes from March 2010 CGPI meeting.

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Motion to approve the minutes was made by COMMISSIONER HENDERSON and seconded by COMMISSIONER SOTELO. It passed unanimously.

CURRENT INFORMATION SCAN (CIS):

San Diego Police Department

Lieutenant Jorge Duran from the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) Gang Unit presented a report on current statistics from April 2010 that involved the City of San Diego. There was zero gang related homicides, total for the year is 2 compared to 3 homicides last year. There were also 11 aggravated assaults in April; total for the year is 47 compared to 61 the prior year. Out of those aggravated assaults for April 3 of those were shootings, 7 were stabbings, and 1 was other (includes beatings, other type of weapons). On the suppression side there were 91 gang arrests which of those 78 being adults, 13 on probation violation and 10 parole violations. There were 14 firearms recovered from these gang members on the street.

Since there was no April meeting Lieutenant Duran gave a presentation on an operation which he was a part of on March 24, 2010. The operation, which was in cooperation with Drug Enforcement targeted gang members that were involved in narcotic trafficking in the community. Approximately 53 arrests were made and out of those, 47 were known gang members in the community. There were 16 firearms recovered, 1 pound of crack cocaine, 1 ½ of crystal methamphetamine, and 200 pounds of ecstasy tablets. Lieutenant Duran stated that they continue to work with federal, local, and county partners to go after those individuals in the community that are committing violent crimes. Those arrests and operation have had a direct impact on the violent crimes in the community. Lieutenant Duran also stated that the individuals involved in the violence are unfortunately involved in other criminal activities, such as drug trafficking, prostitution, and other violent crimes. Lieutenant Duran additionally stated that by getting these individuals off the streets they are (1) not committing violent crimes and (2) are not being victims of violent crimes themselves.

Lieutenant Duran also spoke about the recent Gangland episode on the History Channel, which showed Lincoln. As a result of that episode, there has been an increase in gang activity in the southeastern part of the city. Lieutenant Duran stated that there will be additional gang resources and police as a precaution to prevent any type of violence as a result of the Gangland episode.

Commissioner Henderson stated that he recently spoke with Mitchy Slick and he is very apologetic about the Gangland episode. He wants to set up a public forum for Mitchy Slick to apologize and set the record straight. Felt that his message was not conveyed appropriately.

Chair Pastor Cooper asked how many documented gang member there are now.

Lieutenant Duran stated that there are approximately 3900 juvenile and adult documented gang members in San Diego.

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Chair Pastor Cooper asked if the additional gang unit presence will be undercover or a show of presence.

Lieutenant Duran stated that they will have investigators working undercover and also have gang suppression officers out in the field exclusively working in the southeastern part.

Commissioner Chief Jenkins asked what are the criteria for an individual to be removed from the Gang ID.

Lieutenant Duran stated that there is an automatic purge when the individual is put into the system. There is a 5 year purge; where if they committed any gang related crimes that individual purges automatically. Lieutenant Duran also stated there is a method that allows individuals to speak to himself, the Sergeant, or someone on the gang unit if they feel they have been wrongly or improperly documented. If Lieutenant Duran, the Sergeant, or someone from the gang unit feel that the individual was wrongly documented, then they would request that the individual be purged from the Gang ID.

Commissioner Benavidez asked if the crime has to be a qualifying criminal offense.

Lieutenant Duran stated that it would be an association type whether that person is documented gang member, such as tattoos.

Commissioner Henderson asked if there are any tattoo removal facilities in San Diego.

Lieutenant Duran stated that there may be some community based organizations, reentry programs, and/or counseling services that may offer tattoo removal.

Commissioner Eldred asked if purging erases an individuals' record completely or is there still a historical file.

Lieutenant Duran stated that after 5 years all of the documentation is purged, such as field interviews, arrest reports, and report warrants.

Commissioner Lozada asked if an individual is looking for employment and an employer asks if they have ever been arrested, can the individual say no if their file has been purged.

Lieutenant Duran stated that the employer can call the San Diego Police Department and ask if the individual is a known gang member.

Chair Pastor Cooper asked if it is possible to be a documented and not be arrested.

Lieutenant Duran stated that it is possible.

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Chair Pastor Cooper asked that an individual does not have to commit a crime, but the individual can be documented as a gang member.

Lieutenant Duran stated that was correct.

County Probation Scan

Supervising Probation Officer Ken Amertin commented that they are still continuing to supervise hardcore gang population which is 115 juvenile and 150 adult offenders in San Diego. Operation Red Sky targeted and apprehended various gang members who were involved in drug dealing throughout the City of San Diego. It was a collaboration was between the US Marshalls, DEA, San Diego Police, and Probation. Probation also participated in the Stone Guard Operation which took place in San Ysidro. There were three different operations over the past months. One was in Southeast for adults, one in Logan Heights where juveniles were targeted and Probation was on alert when the Snoop Dog concert happened. Office Amertin discussed the decrease in positions and the efforts to find funding for these positions.

Commissioner Jenkins asked if Supervising Probation Officer Amertin had knowledge about resources that offered tattoo removal.

Supervising Probation Officer Amertin stated that he mentioned the clinic in Logan Heights which used to do removal. He attended a meeting recently called Think Before You Ink. His department is trying to get local tattoo parlors to mask tattoos because the process of removing a tattoo is very painful.

Commissioner Cafferty stated that the military is looking into a program for the number of individuals that are moving up in the ranks of becoming an officer and are looking to remove tattoos. Commissioner Dumanis also suggested that some dermatologists might want to do this as a community service.

Parole Scan

Commissioner Benavidez commented that the GPS programs were fashioned to meet the needs of various communities. There has been a turnover of cases, which means that the individual has been returned to prison. Commissioner Benavidez says other law enforcement agencies are finding this option has been useful and supporting the effort.

Unit Supervisor Lincoln Lewis stated that there are currently three GPS gang loads in San Diego County that also service Imperial County. It has been up and running for over three months. They have been exploring requiring mandatory participation in mental health treatment with an emphasis on behavioral modification and decision making. Recently they have also become partners with a program that has a five prong model of intervention and was developed by the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. It focuses on prevention, job

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training, mentoring at risk youth and gang members, and creates policies to ensure that efforts are successful.

ACTION ITEM A:

Gang Commission Executive Director Lynn Sharpe-Underwood stated that the Commission has done two Strategic Action Work plan and a Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan needs to be updated. An outline was presented as to the critical items to be included in the updated Strategic Plan.

A discussion what should be included began. Chair Pastor Cooper stated that the stats should be included.

Commissioner Jenkins wants the report to track the number of the youth coming into the probation system. He would like to track successes of probationers who do not do another crime.

Commissioner Cafferty stated that the Action Plan lists job placement very high. Finding job placement for individuals is very difficult due to economy at this time. There is a lot of funding for job training but not job placement. Job training programs should be listed with job placement programs so that individuals can get trained.

Chair Pastor Cooper stated that one of the Commissions tasks is to be able to connect people to resources.

Commissioner Torres stated that the Commission Community Summit should be included into the Action Plan.

Commissioner De Leon Torres asked if the crime stats were aggregated by geographical location data. Executive Director Sharpe-Underwood stated that the information comes from probation and Police. Commissioner De Leon Torres stated that the data should be by geographical area to be able to see if the trends are going up or down. Additionally, that would show if there is a gap in services in the area. Chair Pastor Cooper stated that the data should be in bold to clarify the information.

Commissioner Sotelo mentioned that a critical issue is funding for community organizations. The Commission should become the voice for these organizations.

Commissioner Yanov asked if the data could show the prevention side to show what we need to invest in.

Commissioner Eldred stated that the Commission should encourage collection of a few basic elements across programs and communities to show correlations.

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Commissioner Dumanis stated that Fight Crime Invest In Kids is a good program to look to for guidance. They have a legislative packets that advocates for more funding, though not specific to San Diego. Commissioner Eldred said they are working with Fight Crime Invest In Kids for a local effort.

Commissioner Henderson stated that success stories be included in the Strategic Action Plan of the organizations.

Commissioner Lozada agreed with Commissioner Henderson about the organizations requesting support letters. She thinks some positive things have happened over the years.

Chair Pastor Cooper asked the Commission if they were all in favor to motion approval of the framework and establishes an Ad Hoc to draft the Strategic Action Plan for 2011.

Commission approved unanimously. An Ad hoc Committee was established with Commissioners Fred Sotelo, Kevin Henderson, Alicia DeLeon Torres and Rosa Ana Lozada.

ACTION ITEM B:

Executive Director Sharpe-Underwood stated that the 13 cities network, who worked with Assemblyman Jerry Hoffman to move an Assembly Joint Resolution NO. 40.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DUMAIS. Seconded by Commissioner Cafferty.

Commissioner Yanov opposed.

Commissioner Eldred stated that he needed clarification to the "whereas."

Commissioner Jenkins asked if the language was set.

Executive Director Sharpe-Underwood stated that it was.

Chair Pastor Cooper stated that there was a call to question, which ends all dialogue.

Chair Pastor Cooper asked Commission if all were in favor to calling the question.

Motion for the Mayor to write a letter of support for this resolution to our state legislative representatives for Assembly Joint Resolution No. 40

Commissioner Yanov opposed.

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DISCUSSION ITEM 1:

Commissioner Mark Cafferty gave presentation on Hire- a -youth for summer 2010. Youth employment rate is the worst it has been since records have been kept for all youth. The Workforce Partnership received Recovery and Reinvestment funding in the summer of 2009. Emphasis of that funding was on Summer Youth Employment and sponsored jobs. There was a job bill passed on February 25th with an earmark for summer youth employment that would have given a great amount of money, but unfortunately that earmark got stripped out of the job bill.

Commissioner Mark Cafferty stated that Workforce Partnership took money from existing programs and dedicated that money to the summer of 2011, which was over \$1 million. Also, the county of San Diego Board of Supervisors with the help of Greg Cox and Ron Roberts put Community Service Block Grant money into the pool for the Summer Youth Employment. The Summer Youth Employment now has \$3.6 million county wide. That money will allow them to put 1400 youth to work.

Commissioner Mark Cafferty stated that there are 300-350, 000 age appropriate youth in San Diego County. The poorest communities have 7500-9000 youth looking for jobs this summer. 100% of youth they will place will come the poorest communities because the eligibility criteria for any youth they work is based on the poverty threshold that is set by the Workforce Investment Act. Of the 1400 youth placed in employment, 50% will be in the City of San Diego and will be working with San Diego Unified School District to place youth from Morris, Lincoln, Madison, San Diego, Hoover, and Crawford High School. Additionally, Urban Corps will be working with youth who have dropped out of school and ACCESS will focus its help on youth aging out of the foster care system.

Commissioner Sotelo asked if there is a way to assist students that do not attend the schools mentioned.

Commissioner Cafferty stated that San Diego Unified will be working only with schools that they previously worked with.

Commissioner Sotelo asked if they could write a letter to tie in other schools.

Margie DeRuyter stated that San Diego Unified is focusing its help to youth that are enrolled in career academies.

Commissioner Sotelo asked if there is a way to communicate with San Diego Unified to include children who are bused out.

Commissioner Cafferty stated that it is going to be extremely difficult this summer to place all the youth in jobs, which is due to the fact that they may not have enough openings.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Lynn Sharpe-Underwood commented on the Mental Health Services Act and the report to City Council

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Cooper thanked Victor Torres for his service on the Commission.

Commissioner Torres thanked Chair Pastor Cooper and stated that it has been a pleasure and privilege to work with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Yanov stated that 40 students enrolled in Reality Changers earned \$3.5 million in college scholarships.

Commissioner Jenkins wanted to thank the Commission for the vote to have the Mayor write letter to the Chairperson on the Board of Supervisors.

Executive Director Sharpe-Underwood invited everyone to join her next Wednesday, May 26 at 2 p.m. for her presentation to City Council on Public Service and Neighborhood Services.

Commissioner Mark Cafferty commended Commissioner Steve Eldred for getting Fist Lady Michelle Obama to City Heights.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pastor Cooper made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 P.M., seconded unanimously and was approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Next regular meeting: Thursday July 22nd, 2010 @ 11:30a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Harmonium Epicenter
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