

Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

**Update to Public Safety
and Neighborhood
Services**

June 2007

Commission Vision:

The Commission shall make recommendations concerning gang prevention, intervention, diversion, and suppression methods; identify local, state, and federal funding sources; and address other gang-related policy matters.

Activities

- **Safe Passage**
 - Montgomery Middle School (District 6)
 - Gompers Charter School (District 4)
- **Collaborations on Grants**
 - Weed and Seed (District 3)
- **Community Solutions: *Creating Regional/Neighborhood Anti-Gang Solutions* on May 10th**

Community Solutions

To attempt gang prevention and intervention without attending to community dynamics is fool hardy.

*Malcolm Klein, Ph.D. Street Gangs: Patterns and Policies
(2006)*

Statistics

Gang Related Crimes January , 2005- December 31, 2006 by Neighborhoods

- **Mira Mesa: 42**
- **Otay Mesa West: 38**
- **Mountain View: 35**
- **Logan Heights: 27**

There are over 3,600 gang members in the City of San Diego

Gangs exist in all parts of the City of San Diego.

Community Solutions

- **Purpose of event:**
 - Involve the community
 - Share Strategies that are working
 - Generate neighborhood based ideas and strategies
- **Who was invited and who attended:**
 - 350 people from community based organizations, community members, school officials, San Diego County HHSA, Police Department, Probation, local politicians and/or their representatives.
- **Co-sponsored by:**
 - U.S. Attorney
 - Jacob's Foundation/Family Funders
 - San Diego Foundation

Strategies that work

Dr. Joseph Marshall, Jr. is the co-founder and executive director Omega Boys Club/Street Soldiers, and is the first person to classify youth violence as a disease.



Dr. Braga was a key member of the **Boston Gun Project / Operation Ceasefire** working group that was responsible for reducing youth homicide in Boston by almost two-thirds during the late 1990s.



Strategies that work



Operation Phoenix in the City of San Bernardino:

- Violent crime fell 21 percent citywide
- By 38 percent in the targeted neighborhood (a 20 block area) in the last six months of 2006 compared with the same time period in 2005.

SAN JOSE'S MAYOR'S TASK FORCE:

Since the initiative began, there have been no homicides in the target area.

The 2006 December report of the MGTF:

- Gang activity dropped 47 percent over the past year.
- There were 39 gang-related incidents in 2006, compared with 98 the year before and 80 in September 2004.

Strategies that work

Fresno's Operation Bulldogs



In November 2006, **Operation Bulldogs** was launched to wipe out the Bulldog street gang with over 4,000 members.

There are three options for gang members:

- drop out of the gang and join the Mayor's Gang Prevention Initiative
- leave the city
- go to jail

In the month of April, the City of Fresno's Anti-Gang efforts resulted in an overall 17.9 % crime drop.

Neighborhood based Strategies

Linda Vista

- Involve more youth in the discussion
- Need youth outreach workers who are in community during the same hours as police not 9 – 5
- Expand avenues for healthy competition.

Mid City

- Increase Community Awareness of Community Resources
- Sustain what's already working
- Make sure solutions are youth and community driven

Neighborhood based Strategies

Southeastern

- Work smart together – reconvene
- More youth activities
- Lincoln High School must be a success-47th Street Corridor needs Safe Passage

South Bay

- Encourage communication with families
- More programs, youth groups and youth activities where children have access
- Build strategic plan together

Neighborhood Based Strategies

Mira Mesa

- Create opportunities for youth to have positive leadership opportunities
- Include gang members/leaders in developing solutions and programs
- Youth should be the core of the solutions building "circle"

Other Communities:

• North County

- Convene meeting
- Establish a website

• East County

- Want to continue the dialogue
- Services need to be relevant culturally, socially and ethnically sensitive and suitable.

What's Next..

The Commission will invite quarterly reports from the neighborhood groups who participated in the Community Solutions forum.

The Commission will move forward with its strategic action plan.

The California Cities Gang Prevention Network



National League of Cities

The California Cities Gang Prevention Network seeks to support gang prevention efforts by strengthening collaboration within and among 13 city teams and helping them shape comprehensive local action plans. It is sponsored by the National League of Cities and over 7 private foundations.