



# Information Item

Date: April 29, 2008

To: Mayor and City Council  
From: Barbara Stinchfield, Director, Community and Cultural Services  
Subject: Gang Violence Action Partner Update

## Introduction

In February and April of 2005, the City of Santa Monica and Senator Sheila Kuehl met with various organizations and community groups to learn about the underlying causes and effects of gang violence. The participating groups became “action partners” in a plan that identified specific commitments toward gang violence prevention and intervention in Santa Monica. This report transmits an update on the completion status of commitments made by the action partners to date. The report can also be found on the City’s webpage: <http://www.smgov.net/residents/sgv/index.htm>.

## Discussion

In 2005, participants in the Community Forums on Gang Violence developed ten strategies to reduce the causes, symptoms and effects of gang violence. Eleven action partners, representing community groups, nonprofit organizations, local government, neighborhood associations, the school district, and the faith community, committed to the implementation of 25 specific plans or projects. Out of these 25 commitments, 21 have been completed, 14 have been integrated into ongoing program operations and 2 commitments are in progress towards completion. Two commitments were withdrawn: outreach and education for employment by the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California (AFL-CIO) due to reduced funds for outreach services; and development of a regional plan for job related youth programs by the California Employment Development Department due to limited resources.

Upon fulfilling their initial commitments, the majority of the action partners continue to implement specific activities that collectively contribute to promoting viable alternatives to gang violence, with comprehensive support to those who are most critically impacted. Attachment A, "Gang Violence Action Partner Update" lists each action strategy, specific steps, the lead partner(s) and status.

Over the coming months, City staff will meet with the action partners to receive input, examine outcomes and refresh the scope of services and approach to addressing gang violence issues in Santa Monica.

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Attachment A: Gang Violence Action Partner Update (April 2008)

| Action   |  | Steps   | Lead                     | Status |
|----------|--|---|--------------------------|--------|
| <b>1</b> | Break down barriers between at-risk youth/families and services that are available to them   | Evaluate current programs and structure three year grant cycle to address breaking down of service barriers   | City                     | ✓      |
|          |  | Encourage greater coordination of services among programs that provide services to at-risk youth/families   | City                     | ✓+     |
| <b>2</b> | Create welcoming and collaborative environment at Virginia Avenue Park   | Complete Virginia Avenue Park expansion and phase-in programs   | City                     | ✓      |
|          |  | Encourage community use of and celebrations at VAP  | PNA, FoSP                | ✓+     |
| <b>3</b> | Facilitate successful re-entry of incarcerated and/or expelled youth into the community and schools through peer mentoring by formerly incarcerated young adults who have said no to gangs; helping families and the neighborhood participate in the re-entry/healing process; and establishing a community day school in Santa Monica | Educate youth, police and others on the re-entry process  | LA County Probation Dept | ✓+     |
|          |  | Initiate community day school implementation and contact youth exiting penal system at least a month in advance   | SMMUSD                   | ✓      |
|          |  | Focus Pico Partnership outreach on "at-risk" Pico neighborhood youth  | SMC                      | ✓      |
|          |  | Educate families of incarcerated youth about the Community Day School   | PNA                      | ✓      |
| <b>4</b> | Encourage events in schools, churches, synagogues and neighborhoods that provide cross-cultural social experiences, share information and resources, and offer training and capacity-building experiences for youth, youth workers and community leaders   | Include conflict issues in Human Relations Council's Literatue & Arts Program and add a youth voice to the organization                                       | Human Relations Council  | ✓+     |
|          |  | Bring together youth workers and groups from all churches and synagogues to promote religious and racial tolerance  | SM Interfaith Council    | ✓+     |
|          |  | Share information and encourage involvement among members   | PNA / FoSP               | ✓+     |
| <b>5</b> | Involve 100 at-risk youth in mentor programs   | Work with Big Brothers & Big Sisters of LA and SMMUSD to implement city-wide mentoring program with focus on youth in Pico Neighborhood (18 mentored to date) | Chamber                  | ✓+     |
| <b>6</b> | Identify employment opportunities within Santa Monica for at-risk youth  | Partner with JVS Work Source to recruit employers   | Chamber, City            | ✓+     |

Key:      ✓ = Complete      ✓+ = Ongoing      ✗ = Withdrawn

| Action   | Steps  | Lead                               | Status      |
|--|--|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 7 Provide Job preparation and skill development for local at-risk youth  | Educate youth about careers in building trades and available apprenticeship programs   | Bldg & Construction Trades Council | ✘           |
|  | Refer Trades Interns to apprenticeship programs and increase available trades intern opportunities with the City   | City                               | ✓           |
|  | Provide support as needed for Santa Monica Youth Job Fair  | CA Employment Development          | ✓+          |
|  | Institute program based on national "Valued Youth at Work" program   | SMMUSD                             | ✓+          |
|  | Offer classroom experience and career/college counseling at SMC to John Adams Middle School students.  | SMMUSD & SMC                       | ✓+          |
| 8 Develop and implement a regional plan for job-related youth programs, to be overseen by a coordinating council led by the California Employment Development Department   | The California Employment Development Department was unable to focus resources on this expanded effort. The City continues to meet with local providers.                                   | CA Employment Development          | ✘           |
| 9 Using the community liaison model, increase opportunities for communication between the community and PD, with the goal of encouraging more resident participation in civic life   | Strengthen bonds between residents, PD and City staff through neighborhood-centered policing program and use all available outreach outlets to communicate about positive ways to interact | SMPD & City                        | ✓+          |
|  | Continue cultural sensitivity training and hiring practices that enhance diversity of workforce  | SMPD                               | ✓+          |
| 10 Maintain a safe and attractive community, particularly within the Pico neighborhood area, through a neighborhood assessment, safe walking paths, involving businesses in beautification projects, and establishing a volunteer community clean-up corps | Add question about perception of neighborhood to annual resident satisfaction survey   | City                               | ✓           |
|  | Continue anti-graffiti, weed abatement and code enforcement efforts within Pico Neighborhood, and address street lighting needs. Plan an annual neighborhood clean up day                  | City & PNA                         | ✓+          |
|  | Implement 20th & Cloverfield streetscape project   | City                               | In progress |
|  | Assist with physical security measures at Edison School  | City                               | In progress |

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