



# Memorandum

**TO:** ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVE  
COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Sara L. Hensley

**SUBJECT:** MAYOR'S GANG PREVENTION  
TASK FORCE STRATEGIC  
WORK PLAN 2005-2007

**DATE:** 02-24-05

Approved

Date

3/1/05

## RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of *Reclaiming Our Youth*, the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Strategic Work Plan 2005-2007.

## BACKGROUND

The Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF) was created in 1991 and has served as the main catalyst for engaging a wide cross-section of community partners in an effort to reduce gang violence throughout San Jose. The MGPTF is comprised of parents, city, county, state, community-based organizations, San Jose Police Department, faith community, schools and other community stakeholders. The MGPTF target population is: youth ages 12-21 exhibiting high risk behaviors; youth committing intentional acts of violence; youth exhibiting high risk behaviors related to gang lifestyles; youth identified as gang members and/or arrested for gang related incidents or acts of gang violence; and families, including parents and children and friends, of youth involved with the gang lifestyle. Currently the efforts of the MGPTF are supported through an annual allocation of \$3 million from the San Jose B.E.S.T. Funding Program.

In May 2004, San Jose experienced a sharp increase in gang related violence. In addition, City staff identified an emerging trend that showed a sharp increase in the use of dangerous weapons in gang-related crimes. At the same time, Juvenile Hall was reporting an increase in the number of self-declared gang members incarcerated through juvenile probation. Recent developmental asset data from Project Cornerstone revealed that juvenile hall youth in Santa Clara County possess fewer developmental assets in the areas of restraint, planning and decision-making, resistance skills, and peaceful conflict resolution in comparison to all youth across the County. These factors coupled with the current budget crisis and resulting diminished resources triggered a re-examination of the MGPTF strategy.

## ANALYSIS

In order to position the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force for success, PRNS staff in coordination with the Office of Mayor Ron Gonzales initiated a re-engineering strategy and took the following immediate actions:

- Facilitated a retreat with the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Policy Team and secured their renewed commitment and new policy direction;
- Identified and assigned new staff to the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force;
- Refocused the use of San Jose B.E.S.T. funds towards Intervention Services;
- Engaged the Youth Commission's perspective and direction;
- In coordination with SJPD, staff geo-mapped locations of gang strongholds and an overlay showing locations of existing San Jose B.E.S.T. service providers;
- Disbanded the former MGPTF Technical Team and reconvened a new one with the appropriate representatives;
- Developed a new organization and communication structure for the MGPTF Technical Team; and
- Facilitated a retreat of the MGPTF Technical Team that produced *Reclaiming Our Youth*, the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Strategic Work Plan 2005-2007. This plan was presented and approved by the MGPTF Policy Team at their January 2005 meeting.

The Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Technical Team adopted the following Core Values, Vision, Mission, and Strategic Goals: (see attachment)

**Core Values:** Collaboration; 360° Accountability; Outcome Driven; Youth-Focused, Family Oriented; and Asset-Based.

**Vision:** Safe and healthy youth connected to their families, schools, communities, and their futures.

**Mission:** We exist to ensure safe and healthy opportunities for San Jose's youth, free of gangs and crime, to realize their hopes and dreams, and to become successful and productive in their homes, schools, and neighborhoods.

### **Strategic**

- Goals:**
- 1) Develop and implement an "asset-based" service delivery system aimed at connecting, coordinating, and leveraging intervention resources.
  - 2) Create and implement a Crisis Response Protocol aimed at keeping schools, community centers, and neighborhoods safe.
  - 3) Develop and implement a comprehensive capacity-building strategy aimed at equipping Task Force members with skills and resources necessary to re-direct youth.
  - 4) Create an education and awareness campaign regarding the risk factors affecting youth and the resources available to them.

- 5) Integrate the City of San Jose's MGPTF Intervention Strategy with local, state, and national initiatives.

### Next Steps

The Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Policy Team will be responsible for:

- 1) Evaluating emerging trends and setting policy direction, 2) Monitoring the progress of the Technical Team, and 3) Facilitating interagency collaboration and troubleshooting.

The Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Technical Team will be responsible for:

- 1) Implementing the Policy Team's direction, 2) Implementing the Strategic Work Plan and providing direct services to youth and their families, and 3) Serving as a youth safety net.

Successful implementation of *Reclaiming our Youth*, the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Strategic Work Plan 2005-2007 will produce the following outcomes:

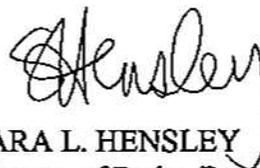
- A seamless intervention-based service delivery system;
- Safe schools and safe neighborhoods;
- Well trained and funded direct service providers;
- A public that is informed about the resources available to them; and
- An intervention strategy that is leveraged at the local, state and national level.

### COST IMPLICATIONS

The ability to implement the goals of this strategic work plan relies heavily on the future availability of funds provided through the San Jose B.E.S.T. funding source. Current eligible service providers receive funds through B.E.S.T. Cycle XIV that is in the Adopted 2004-2005 Operating Budget and was approved by the City Council.

### COORDINATION

This report was prepared in coordination with the City Attorney's Office.



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and Neighborhood Services