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**ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting Report  
March 11, 2004

PRESENT: Chair Ken Yeager, Vice-Chair Judy Chirco, Councilmember Terry Gregory

ABSENT: Vice-Mayor Pat Dando

STAFF: Jim Holgersson, Barbara Jordan, Sara Hensley, Maria Hurtado, Angel Rios, Jim Helmer, Russ Taft, Nora Pimentel, Deborah Simon, Jane Light, Gordon Yusko, Jim Schutz, Christina Gilmore, Megan Doyle, Trang Nguyen, Rabia Chaudry, Joe Mosley, Dave Peyton, Marina Kipnis, Esther Mota, Fernando Lopez, John Rose, Rich Saito, Ruben Chavez, Diana Miller

OTHERS: Karen Goodwin, Rose Whitcomb, Linda Dinsmoor, Carla Holtzclaw, Cora Tomalinas

The meeting was convened at 1:33 p.m.

- a. Civic Center Childcare Update (Redevelopment Agency) {Deferred to April 8, 2004}
  
- b. Update on the Early Child Care and Education Master Plan (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)

Maria Hurtado and Angel Rios of PRNS presented the report. Maria said that in the reporting period of October to March, we opened 40 new quality early care and education spaces for a total of 1,338 to date. The City has also launched a Smart Start San José "You Paid It, Now Claim It" child care tax credit. We have some posters here for you to see. (Posters were given to Committee members.) We did an extensive outreach effort. We put these posters on bus stops, and we printed them in English, Vietnamese and Spanish. We wanted to raise public awareness about this child care tax credit, so the public could take advantage of it. The City also assisted the Franklin McKinley Education Foundation in their application to the Knight Foundation, and they were awarded \$500,000 to support their

Smart Start San José Kindergarten Readiness component. The City played a key role in making that happen. We also received \$400,00 of federal appropriations, with the support from Senator Barbara Boxer's office, to implement the Early Care and Education Strategic Plan. In May, we will be submitting the scope of work for that grant. On April 17, we are having the "Month of the Young Child". We also have those posters for you to see. (Posters were given to the Committee members.) Given the decrease in RDA funding for construction of new Smart Start sites, we will be developing a strategy to focus on enhancing the quality of current spaces. We will be developing a program so that we can convert existing spaces to high quality Smart Start standards. We will also continue to explore the feasibility of merging Early Care and Education with the Library Literacy Program with the goal to streamline services and achieve General Fund savings. Finally, staff is proposing to change the goal from 3,200 spaces to 2,428 in terms of developing spaces due to the decrease in funding.

Councilmember Gregory asked if the grant for the Franklin McKinley Education Foundation is the grant to Solari Seven Trees Community. If so, that grant is \$2.1 million.

Angel said it is that grant. And, the \$500,000 reflected here is the portion that is dedicated to the City's School Readiness Initiative.

Vice-Chair Chirco commended Maria and Angel for the money they have generated by the hard work of their department, working in conjunction with Franklin McKinley Foundation and Senator Boxer's office. She said it is really impressive how much money they have been able to generate for this child care program.

Angel said that, to date, they have been able to bring in \$3,749,000. He said that they are currently in negotiations with EBay, who is interested in funding them for an additional \$250,000. They are coordinating that through the Mayor's office.

Councilmember Gregory advised that Christopher Elementary School is no longer in District 7; it is now in District 2. Maria thanked him for that information.

Chair Yeager said as far as lowering the goal for Smart Start spaces due to decreases in funding from RDA, what about being more aggressive about finding corporate dollars to help increase the numbers.

Angel said that is what they are hoping to do. What they are looking at right now is developing a new strategy that looks at converting existing child care spaces that do not meet the current standards versus creating completely new spaces. Even the revised goal of 2,428 spaces assumes that we need to go out and identify some additional dollars.

Maria said we wanted to do a dual strategy. In case we are not able to get money, let's figure out how to continue to increase the quality of the spaces by promoting our Smart Start standards. The other strategy is our funding strategy. As Councilmember Chirco pointed

out, we have been pretty successful in obtaining outside funding that does not impact the General Fund. We will continue to move forward with both those strategies.

Jim Holgersson said that he wanted to mention the Success by Six opportunity that we had that may bring additional resources. The United Way's efforts focus on ages zero to six and we are working with them to see how we might pool our resources and get more support from the private sector.

Councilmember Gregory said that, at the Shirakawa Center, there is a space that is already set up for child care that has never been used. He would like to know what the plan is for that space.

Maria and Angel said they would look into it and get back to him.

**Upon the motion of Councilmember Gregory, seconded by Vice-Chair Chirco, the Committee accepted the report.**

c. Report on School Traffic Safety Program (Department of Transportation/Police Department)

Jim Helmer, Director of Department of Transportation, and Sgt. Ruben Chavez of the Police Department, presented the report. Jim said that they are going to give a presentation on many of the applications of school traffic safety programs that they have been applying to San José schools for many years. Jim said that the presentation would focus on six points: School Radar Speed Display Signs, Uplift Crosswalks, Police Enforcement Programs, Safe Routes to School Grants, Operation Safe Passage, and our Street Smarts Program (which is our educational component).

School Radar Speed Display Signs: These signs are fully programmable, and that means that we will utilize the electricity from a street light pole. We are the only city in California at this point in time, through Public Utilities Commission grant process, that has been able to buy power from the street light pole without having to install separate trenches, conduits and meters to run these devices. So we pay a flat fee to PG&E for these devices, and that has saved literally tens of thousands of dollars. Because they are fully programmable, we can look at the school schedule at the beginning of the year and program their activation on every day of school, in session or out of session, and for any special events that the school is having. There are three modes of operation: OFF, SPEED LIMIT 25, YOUR SPEED XX. They are usually OFF during the night. When school comes in session, the sign will be activated electronically to say SPEED LIMIT 25. When a car approaches, the built-in radar device picks up the car's speed at a certain distance and designates the speed of the on-coming vehicle. We have 31 of these signs installed. (A handout was distributed which listed the locations.) The 31 locations were selected through working with the school districts, council offices, and our consultant who did a school access study. Incidentally, these signs were more or less invented by Russ Taft of DOT and a vendor from Gilroy.

Between the two of them, they designed these signs, set the industry standard, and now they are being sold across the United States.

**Uplit Crosswalks:** These are designed to alert drivers that a pedestrian intends to cross the street. They are pushbutton-activated, generally speaking, and they are light emitting diodes (LED) that are embedded in the pavement. We received a state grant about two years ago to install 10 of these at certain school crosswalks. The construction will begin this month. The project will be completed by the time the school year begins. The uplit crosswalks are very high in operations and maintenance costs. Many cities have stopped their use because of high failure rates. These may be the last 10 that we install. As we look to improve to the next generation, and actually have lower cost installations and higher reliability rate on future products, it is likely we will not go into the pavement. We will keep our light systems up out of the pavement because of the higher costs of embedded lighting.

Chair Yeager said that he knows Jim's concerns about these uplit crosswalks, and he knows that Jim contacted the agency that granted the money and found out that we have to use the money only for this project. Given all Jim's concerns, and given the cost of maintaining it, he asked if Jim feels it is the right decision to accept the money and go forward with it.

Jim replied that he absolutely believes that it is the right decision. These are locations that were identified by our consultant two or three years ago, and by the school districts, as locations that have very high volumes of children crossing the streets. We are getting \$500,000 or \$600,000 for this grant and we intend to use that money very wisely. But if the embedded lights start to show a failure rate, we can switch over to a more reliable system.

**School Area Traffic Management:** This is what we are doing to work with school officials, the Police Department, DOT, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office, Highway Patrol and others, about enforcement around the school zones. Generally speaking, we are in touch through our Traffic Enforcement Unit, or through our School Safety Unit in the Police Department. Through all of our organizations, we are in touch with the schools regularly about coordinating parking compliance as well as enforcement programs. Russ Taft works with every school in the city that has an issue and turns that over to the SJPD or to our Traffic Calming teams or to any other department or agency where school related traffic issues come into play. The SJPD has several safety programs at the schools. It is important to note that their school safety crossing guard program has four coordinators that oversee the crossing guard program. When they have time available, the coordinators will go into the classrooms and do safety presentations with the crossing guards. Also, we contract with a consultant who does school safety education to 80 schools per year.

**Safe Routes to School Grants:** The State uses federal gas tax money to give grants to cities for Safe Routes to School Grants. Jim was in Washington, D.C. this past week with the National League of Cities, and a major issue with the cities is that they would really like to see the State sub-allocate those federal gas tax funds at least down to the county level and not hold on to those funds and make the cities go through the unnecessary process of grant

applications. It should be more of a formula based upon the number of students you have in your county. But, the current process is that the cities have to apply to the State to get the funds, and we may or may not get the grants. It is a competitive process. Last year, we did not get any money. It just does not seem right that the third largest city in the state did not get a grant last year. We are applying for three grants this year. We have selected sidewalks and bulb-out installations as our highest priority needs, based on our consultant study. One of them would be at Baldwin Elementary, one at Vista Elementary, and one at Carlton Elementary.

Operation Safe Passage: Jim said that Sgt. Chavez will discuss this program. Sgt. Chavez said that this program evolved from what was called "Back to School Week". In years past, school would start in September and there was a program developed to remind motorists that school is in session and they should slow down. It has now evolved into three enforcement periods for the school year--when school starts in September, then again right after the holidays in early January and then again just after Spring Break in April. Our next enforcement period is the week of April 19. Basically, it is a coordinated effort with all patrol officers as well as the Traffic Enforcement Unit assigned to all schools within the City. The enforcement aspect of it is to enforce any violations within school zones. We are looking for speeding (our primary enforcement violation), seatbelts, kids without helmets, pedestrian right-of-way violations, and things like that. In September, we had approximately 400 officers respond to 260 schools, with 1,900 citations issued. In January, we had 394 officers respond to 286 schools, with 2,015 citations written. Normally our biggest campaign is in September. However, during that period, there were a lot of things going on throughout the City and the weather was pretty bad, so the enforcement was a little less than it was in January. We have not had any serious injury accidents within the school zones during those two periods. In between our Safe Passage enforcement periods, if there are complaints at schools, we will refer serious complaints to our Traffic Unit. If it is not a serious complaint, we refer it to the beat officer working that patrol area. In both enforcement periods, we have towed 48 vehicles, arrested 19 drivers, and worked with DOT rotating the radar display trailers to as many schools as we can.

Back-To-School Campaign: Jim said that each year we do bike rodeos where we teach children safe cycling habits. We did 8 last September in different schools. These are very popular. We issued safety posters for every classroom, which was a real positive thing this year. These teach safe pedestrian walking habits. Through our Street Smarts educational funds last year, we purchased 180 banners which went on school fences and school walls. These banners show the children walking to school. The principals have responded saying that the message on the school banner is probably the most positive message that they have been able to give to their parents and motorists around their school grounds. Our Street Smarts program has been going for two years now and it has been very successful. It has been primarily targeted toward adult drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, and now we are customizing the Street Smarts Program for grades K-3. We will begin to generate our Street Smarts messages into the classroom more regularly now as we operationalize our consultant's efforts of two years ago and make it part of our normal way of doing business.

Jim discussed some of our future challenges. In the area of education, we had a consultant called Safe Moves, who did safety education in our city and many others, but their contract expired in January of 2004. We are unable to renew it right now until we determine what our outcome for our budget will be. So between now and June of 2004, we are working with the Police Department's School Safety Unit and the Traffic Enforcement Unit and the schools to determine how we can continue to provide school safety education. We are looking at grant funding to continue it through the Office of Traffic Safety. DOT and the SJPD are exploring the possibility of bringing the educational component in-house rather than through a consultant. Another challenge is the state grant funding that was mentioned earlier. The message from the cities is clear to our federal lawmakers, and it should become more clear in the California League of Cities that we want to sub-allocate more of these gas tax funds for local programs. They do not need to be regionalized or state-wide run. There is a lot of overhead syphoned off at those higher levels. It is a challenge for us to get our hands on as much of the available money as possible. The final challenge is our Adult Crossing Guard program. It is always under a lot of pressure in terms of satisfying the school's needs and the community's needs, and continued budget pressures that we are facing. We have to be more creative and innovative in our partnerships with the schools to see if we can get the schools to take on more of the crossing guard responsibilities. Our office and the SJPD are working with Councilmember Campos' office in a test program of volunteer crossing guards administered by the schools and trained and equipped by the SJPD. If we can get that pilot program up and successful, then that might be a way to continue the successful crossing guard programs at a lower cost to the City. We all recognize that it is a very much needed program but there are funding pressures on all of our educational and school safety programs.

Vice-Chair Chirco asked when we would find out if we are going to receive the Safe Routes to School Grant. Russ Taft replied that the grant application was submitted on February 28 and we expect to hear in either May or June.

Councilmember Gregory said that he used to get a lot of complaints from Andrew Hill High School regarding the dangerous traffic situation there. He wanted to let Jim know that DOT and the SJPD did a great job working with the school to deal with the issue and now the administration at Andrew Hill is very pleased with the results. Jim said that is what they like to hear.

Chair Yeager said that it is heartening to hear how much can be achieved. The parents and the neighbors and the school staff are very glad at the recommendations and implementations that you do and we probably don't thank you enough for all the work that you put in.

Chair Yeager said that he attended a community meeting on Tuesday in Willow Glen on the subject of safety issues in general and gang issues in particular. One of the issues that came up, that we as a committee have not focused on, is the perceived increased concern of people riding VTA buses, particularly kids going to middle school or high school. This is something that is really more under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Department. But he

asked Sgt. Chavez if he could give a report at a future ACA Committee meeting about what we might be able to do to try to bring more safety to VTA buses; or at least have a better way to respond when there is an incident. Of course, fresh in the minds of the people at the meeting was the kid who was stabbed to death on the bus. He wanted to know if Sgt. Chavez had any initial thoughts.

Sgt. Chavez said that he knows that, not specific to the bus, they have stepped up enforcement efforts. In fact, traffic enforcement has been deployed at several high schools during the day. As far as an ongoing program with the bus system, he is not familiar with that. The Chief might have someone working on it. He knows that it is something that is very important to the Police Department and something that they are working on very hard.

Chair Yeager said that when he thinks of safe routes to schools, he had not thought about the bus situation. Concern about that seems to be increasing. We would obviously have to coordinate with a lot of other jurisdictions to try to resolve this.

Sgt. Chavez said that this will probably not be a traffic issue but a patrol issue, and he is sure that the Chief is working on it, and he will make sure that this question is posed to him.

Chair Yeager said that in the second half of the year, we might want to bring in other people from other police jurisdictions to discuss this. He thinks in some way this is even connected to light rail stations and Caltrain stations. Any of those locations could have an increase in gang activity.

Chair Yeager said that it is obvious that we are going to have to cut back on some of our programs. He asked Jim how much lead time he will be able to give the schools so that they can prepare for it.

Jim said that the goal is to work with the schools as quickly as possible and as thoroughly as possible, which is why we are doing everything we can to not cut those types of programs but to look for innovative ways to keep them going. Our highest emphasis right now is to work together to look for ways to partner with the schools not only on crossing guards but also on the safety education component that I mentioned.

Regarding when the information will be available, Jim Holgersson said that the Mayor's message on the budget is on March 23. It will get pretty close to May before we get the details, but we'll get a pretty good look at it on March 23. We are looking not only at partners with the outside but partners inside because school safety and safety for our youth is a priority.

**Upon the motion of Councilmember Gregory, seconded by Vice-Chair Chirco, the Committee accepted the report.**

d. Safe School Program Update (Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services)

Maria Hurtado, Deputy Director for PRNS, and Acting Captain Richard Saito of the Police Department presented this report. Maria said she wanted to focus on four things. First, the training drills and simulations that they have held which have been instrumental in the success of the Safe School Campus Initiative. Second, the activated response system that has been developed which places focus on responding to level 1, 2 and 3, which we will define later in the presentation. Third, the lock down and evacuation procedures which take place if a critical incident is happening on campus. Finally, some of the next steps that PRNS will take in the coming months. Over 150,000 children, teachers, administrators, city staff and community partners have gone through drills on code red protocol. If a shooter comes on campus, for example, they learn to barricade doors, to cover their windows, and they also learn zig-zag maneuvers to get away from the scene. They practice these kinds of drills so they can learn how not to be victims but to be survivors. Simulations held at Mount Pleasant and Overfelt really focused on tracking injured students to hospitals or notifying parents of the whereabouts of their children, or identifying student safe areas off campus and family reunification centers. Additionally, over 25,000 educators in 19 school districts and private schools and neighboring communities have received code red training and training around gang awareness. A critical part of the code red training focuses on three levels of responses that school administrators and others can activate depending on the seriousness and severity of the situation. Level 1 responses are primarily handled by the Police Department and often come in the form of 9-1-1 calls. Those who call are usually experiencing a violent situation. Level 2 responses indicate that the incident is likely to occur because tensions are high. Usually we get these referrals from a reliable source. In these particular cases, the SSCI Intervention Team is the primary and lead respondent. Level 3 responses focus primarily on prevention. Their goal is to prevent incidents from escalating to a Level 2 or a Level 1. Again, the SSCI staff are the primary respondents. She showed a graph which showed the trend since 1999, since the program's inception. There has been a significant increase in Level 2 and 3 responses in both the high schools and the middle schools. It is important to note that there is a direct correlation between the increase in Level 3 responses and the decrease in Level 1 responses. In other words, the more preventive and intervention work that we do on the front end, the less likely there is to be an escalated situation that would require a Level 1 response.

Acting Captain Rich Saito will discuss three examples of Lockdown and Evacuation. He said that before he did that, he wanted to comment on the training accomplishments of the past year. He wanted to recognize the East Side Union High School District, and particularly Carla Holtzclaw. She is the Safe School Campus Coordinator for East Side Union High School District and she has personally taken on the task of training, not only every high school in the City, but also in the County. Between her and the leadership at East Side Union, our educational partners, they have done an outstanding job of creating a model that is basically second to none in the nation. He thanked them very much.

Of the three events that he wanted to talk about, the first one was at Majestic School. Federal

ATF agents were trying to locate a suspect who tried to escape by running through this campus. This was a great example of how the protocol works. As soon as the staff at the school recognized that there was a potential threat, they locked it down. They moved the children from the portables into the main building, because the more we can compact them, the more we can protect them. That is just part of the protocol. The response there was very good. The second event was at Challenger Pre-School, John Muir Middle School and Branham High School. A patrol officer detained a subject in a stolen car, but the subject ran away and went on to the campus at Branham High School. The staff was notified and they locked the school down, along with the middle school and pre-school located nearby. That went very well also. At this point, he acknowledged four representatives of the East Side Union High School District Parent Safety Council. They have been very instrumental in getting the SJPD support for the type of training that we share with all the school districts. Before continuing with the third event, he asked that the Committee hear a brief statement from Linda Dinsmoor.

Linda Dinsmoor said that she is a parent of a student at Branham High School in San José. She said that she was here to urge the Committee to keep the "Safe School Campus Initiative" in place. The reason why is because she lived in the Columbine area of Colorado at the time of the Columbine tragedy. Her daughters went to neighboring schools. Before the time of the tragedy, the schools had only practiced the normal "fire drills". The schools went into immediate lockdown with no practice or warning. The impact was tremendous on everyone. It was a scary time for parents. Her daughters were so traumatized that it was necessary to remove them from school for a time. It will forever be etched into their minds and hearts. In great contrast, last fall when her daughter called her and said not to come to Branham High School because there was a "Code Red", she felt at peace because she knew that the SSCI plan was in place. She said she cannot fully put into words her gratitude to the City of San José for having the insight to create and operate the "Safe School Campus Initiative". She again urges the Committee, as a parent who has experienced the chaos of Columbine, to support this very important initiative.

Acting Captain Saito said that the third event occurred at Alum Rock Community Center when some gang members went there looking to start a fight with rival gang members. He said that this happens all the time, all over the City. In this case, the Community Center staff did a lock down, they were able to secure the safety of the staff, and the fight did not occur inside the City facility. He added that they have an officer who is working to provide a similar type of protocol for the new City Hall. He thinks that these types of drills are probably beneficial for all City facilities in some form or another.

Maria said that the incident at Alum Rock Youth Center is a critical one because we have a very solid response mechanism at our schools, and people know how to respond when a critical incident occurs. At the Alum Rock Youth Center, the staff knew exactly what to do when the gang member walked in and said he was being chased by rival gang members with guns. They immediately locked down, and called the Pala Middle School and they did a lock down because they are located right next door. The situation was able to be contained.

Which leads to some of the next steps that PRNS is doing. Recognizing that we have a good protocol here, one of the things we are moving towards is deploying our Safe School Campus Initiative teams into our multi-service delivery HUBS and making an effort to maintain a 30 minute response. The more emphasis we put on Level 2 and 3 responses, which focus on the prevention aspect, the less likely the incidents are to escalate to a Level 1. The department has recognized this and is putting a lot of emphasis on all the prevention efforts that we are doing. The other thing we are going to be doing in the next few months is expanding our Safety Protocol for critical incidents to neighborhoods and our centers. It is in line with the direction we are going in terms of developing our HUBS concept and training our recreation staff and our SNI staff to be able to do community response as we do in the schools.

Councilmember Gregory asked about the simulation that happened last year. He said that it seemed to be successful, but he is not aware of any feedback. He said that it is not so important that the Committee get feedback, but he would like to know how feedback is fed back into the system so that there are improvements.

Acting Captain Saito said that they are working with the East Side Union High School District staff to complete that report. They are still working on it.

Carla Holtzclaw said that the report is in progress. They have written a grant for the entire City to get funded. She said that the protocols worked. The training now needs to be done. They know who they have to train and how they have to train them, but they have not done it yet. They are waiting for funding.

Acting Captain Saito said that the actual handling of the event worked the way they planned it. They did not experience any problems with that. They want to bring in all the other stakeholders who are involved in the situation, and the training we are talking about deals with the City and the safety providers reaching out to these other agencies. We are responsible for our part in the training. We are working with OES. Quite frankly, the other agencies--Public Health, Mental Health, the hospital system, AMR, and the 19 school districts--bear their own responsibility.

Councilmember Gregory asked how cooperative the school districts are.

Ms. Holtzclaw responded that they are very cooperative. She has trained every school district in the City of San José on Code Red. Now she is training the school districts in the County.

Councilmember Gregory asked what impact our budget constraints are going to have on this program.

Acting Captain Saito replied that he does not know yet.

Maria replied that we don't know what the budget cuts are going to be. We are aware that all programs may be impacted at some level. So, we are trying to be pro-active in identifying

ways that we can maximize the resources that we have. This is why one of the next steps that we identified is also the training of our recreation staff and SNI coordinators so that not just one group of folks know how to do the response. We are looking at deploying our SSCI staff who have the expertise into our centers and training the rest of the folks who work with them.

Councilmember Gregory said that one of the challenges that happens is that initial training happens at the school, and at the end of the year, teachers leave and new teachers come. He asked how we can keep the training fresh and how to get new teachers involved in the system.

Carla Holtzclaw said that they have a manual given to every school district, a training pamphlet for every administrator, a training video tape that is presented to every new hire. Every school has a code red drill which is mandated by the State, and the drills are evaluated and must be repeated if not rated as 85% compliant.

Chair Yeager asked how many of the 531 incidents in FY02-03 were gang related. And, how we are trying to deal with the larger issue that is causing these problems in the first place.

Acting Captain Saito replied that most of them were gang related. He represents the Department on the Mayor's Gang Task Force Executive Committee and they are definitely looking at the larger issue.

Chair Yeager said that he and Chief Davis went to two meetings on Tuesday night, and some of the concerns of the public were eased a little bit because they were glad to hear that the Police Department and the schools were doing as much as they were doing. He wonders how well we are doing in communicating to all of our residents that we are very much aware of the problems and that we are putting as many resources into it as possible as opposed to just pretending that it does not exist.

Acting Captain Saito said that one of the strategic goals of the Mayor's Gang Task Force is to put out that message and, unfortunately, this budget is not allowing us to do it right now. We are trying to work through the contacts in the school districts and other CBO's and community groups to put that message out. After the recent homicides, we have had a big increase in requests for gang education programs and we do them. We are doing the best we can with what we have, but it probably is not enough. We are trying to mobilize a lot of resources.

Maria said that, on the PRNS side, we really emphasize on the front end, doing prevention and providing safe places for kids to go, positive alternatives for teenagers. On the SSCI, it is a continuum of prevention, intervention and suppression. The success of that collaboration between the SJPD and PRNS is essential to ensure that we cover all those aspects.

Councilmember Gregory said it is unnerving to hear that we stand the risk of losing some of the preventative activity. He asked which of the key preventative strategies we have to hold the line on.

Acting Captain Saito said that they are working on developing leaders in the community to carry on this work. All they need is the information to recognize the problem and some instruction on what they can do to help. If we can train one or two powerful advocates for recognizing and dealing with gang activities, we can send them out into the community and they don't cost us anything but they do the work for us.

Councilmember Gregory asked how we get the community involved.

Acting Captain Saito said that members of the community actually approach them and ask how they can help.

Cora Tomalinas, a member of the audience said that from the parent's perspective, they need a champion. The Mayor and City Council have supported the community. But, it has gotten to the point where someone has to stand up and say to the negative element "the community is not going to stand for this". She said that the parents are ready to do whatever they can to help their kids, but they need somebody in authority to say that the City of San José is not going to stand for this. She feels that the City Council and the Mayor need to make a public statement that the community will not stand for this.

Chair Yeager thanked the parents and staff from the school district for attending. He thinks that we have sent the message to our City Manager that we want to make sure that these programs are protected and that this is not an area where we are seeing cuts.

**Upon the motion of Councilmember Gregory, seconded by Vice-Chair Chirco, the Committee accepted the report.**

e. Oral Petitions

None.

f. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45p.m.

Ken Yeager, Chair  
All Children Achieve Committee

