



# Memorandum

TO: PUBLIC SAFETY, FINANCE AND  
STRATEGIC SUPPORT (PSFSS)  
COMMITTEE

FROM: Albert Balagso  
Chief Robert L. Davis

SUBJECT: **MAYOR'S GANG PREVENTION  
TASK FORCE STRATEGIC  
WORK PLAN 2008-2011**

DATE: August 7, 2008

Approved

*Seama Sarka*

Date

*8/12/08*

## RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of **Action, Collaboration, Transformation (ACT)** - *A plan to break the cycle of youth violence and foster hope*, the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Strategic Work Plan 2008-2011 (attachment).

## OUTCOME

Implementation of a citywide strategy, aimed at reducing youth-related gang violence and anti-social behaviors for the period of 2008-2011.

## 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 José. The Task Force also provides a coordinated inter-agency response to gang-related incidents, which result in serious injury or death. The MGPTF is comprised of parents, city, county, state, community-based organizations, San José Police Department, faith community, schools and other community stakeholders. The MGPTF target population is: youth ages 6-24 exhibiting high-risk behaviors; youth committing intentional acts of violence; youth exhibiting high-risk behaviors related to gang lifestyle; 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 the San José Bringing Everyone's Strengths Together (B.E.S.T.) funding program. An additional \$1 million has recently been approved as ongoing funding bringing the B.E.S.T. allocation to \$4 million annually.

The last MGPTF Strategic Work Plan (2005-2007) has expired, having accomplished its primary focus of reducing and preventing youth and gang violence. However, during the months of July through September 2007, we experienced a significant increase in gang-related incidents and

homicides. The MGPTF took immediate action and this spike has dropped consistently since October 2007. Despite recent challenges, San José remains committed to continue being one of the Safest Large Cities in the country. As such, the MGPTF has re-examined its Strategic Work Plan to proactively prepare and respond to changing and emerging trends. The new 2008-2011 Strategic Work Plan builds upon past successes and provides direction for the future.

## **ANALYSIS**

In response to the recent increase of gang incidents and in order to position the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force for success, PRNS staff, in coordination with the Office of Mayor Chuck Reed, initiated a renewal strategy and took the following immediate actions:

- Developed a Steering Committee aimed at coordinating all efforts toward the completion of the 2008-2011 MGPTF Strategic Work Plan.
- Executed a comprehensive community engagement process consisting of five "Town Hall" meetings throughout San José involving over 1,200 community residents.
- Facilitated 43 individual focus groups ensuring community input from adult residents as well as all types and ages of youth (i.e., mainstream kids, incarcerated youth at Juvenile Hall and the Ranch, and the San José Youth Commission).
- Convened a work plan "Review Committee" made up of representatives from both the Technical and Policy teams.

The Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force adopted the following Guiding Principles, Vision, Mission, and Strategic Goals:

- Guiding Principles:**
- 1) We value our youth.
  - 2) We cannot arrest our way out of this problem.
  - 3) We will address this community challenge with a community response.
  - 4) We will hold our youth accountable for their actions.
  - 5) We will not give up on any youth and are committed to facilitate their personal transformation.

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

### **Strategic**

- Goals:**
- 1) Strengthen and expand the "asset-based" service delivery system to connect, coordinate, and leverage community resources in executing the MGPTF Continuum of Care Strategies.
  - 2) Design and execute an education and awareness campaign that employs culturally competent strategies to inform and engage youth, families, and community partners to live, work, and prosper together.
  - 3) Implement a comprehensive capacity-building strategy to equip task force members, youth, families, and neighborhoods with the skills and resources necessary to reduce violence and anti-social behavior in the City of San José.

- 4) Enhance the citywide Crisis Prevention and Response Protocol to keep schools, community centers, and neighborhoods safe and accessible to youth.
- 5) Leverage and coordinate the City of San José's MGPTF Continuum of Care Model with local, state, and national initiatives.

### CONCLUSION/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 inter-agency 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 *Action, Collaboration, and Transformation (ACT)*, the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force Strategic Work Plan 2008-2011 will produce the following outcomes:

- Greater communication and streamlined inter-agency collaboration;
- Strengthened City-County partnerships;
- Increased involvement of community in addressing gang challenges;
- Increased focus on faith-based and private sector resources;
- Greater emphasis on facilitating personal life transformation;
- Increased effort to hold youth accountable for their actions;
- A seamless asset-based service delivery system;
- Safe schools, community centers, and 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.

### PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Criteria 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criteria 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criteria 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council

or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

**COORDINATION**

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office.

**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 José B.E.S.T. funding source.

**CEQA**

Not a project.

  
ALBERT BALAGSO  
Director of Parks, Recreation and  
Neighborhood Services

  
ROBERT L. DAVIS  
Chief of Police

Attachment

For questions, please contact Angel Rios, Deputy Director, at (408) 535-3576.