



# Memorandum

**TO:** ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVE  
COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Sara L. Hensley  
Chief Robert L. Davis

**SUBJECT: SAFE SCHOOL CAMPUS INITIATIVE      DATE: 05-25-05**  
**UPDATE REPORT**

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Approved

Date

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## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memorandum is to update the All Children Achieve (ACA) Committee on the Safe School Campus Initiative (SSCI) activities during the first half of 2005 and to provide next steps for FY 2005-06.

## **BACKGROUND:**

In December 2004, staff reported to the All Children Achieve Committee the trends in the SSCI crisis responses from 1999-2004, and discussed the rise in Level 1, 2, and 3 crisis responses over the last six-year period. The report pointed out that there is an inverse relationship between the Level 1, 2, and 3 responses. As more effort is placed in responding to the preventative Level 3 calls, the Level 1 and 2 incidents decrease correspondingly. The report also attributed the large increase in Level 1, 2, and 3 responses throughout the six years to schools being more familiar with the SSCI protocol, and feeling more comfortable in calling on SSCI teams from San José Police Department and Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) for assistance. Staff also identified two areas of focus for the upcoming six months, which included developing a community safety protocol and creating a stronger link between the SSCI and the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF) strategy.

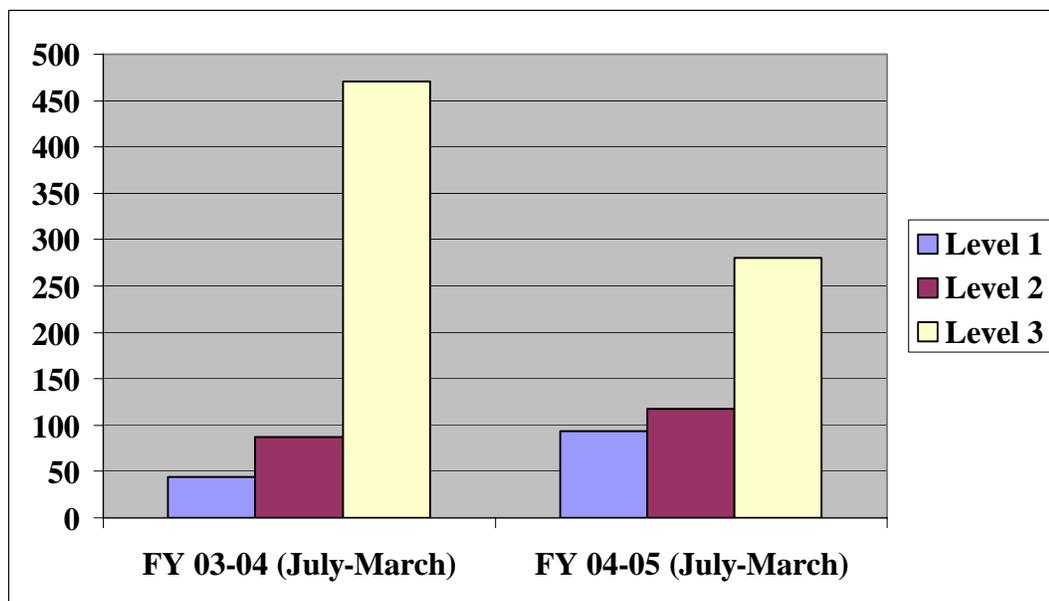
This report will focus on providing an update on: (1) the crisis response trends occurring during this school year, (2) the development of the community safety protocol, (3) the linkage between the SSCI and the MGPTF strategy, and 4) the increased efficiency of the SSCI.

## ANALYSIS

### SSCI Critical Incidents Response (July 2004 – March 2005)

The graph below provides a current glance at the gang and youth violence situation in San José during the current school year. It compares the first three quarters of FY 2003-04 (July – March) with the first three quarters of FY 2004-05. The data shows that during this school year there has been an increase in Level 1 and 2 responses by 111% and 36% respectively (Level 1 responses increased from 44 to 93 and Level 2 responses increased from 87 to 118). On the other hand, the Level 3 responses have decreased by 41% as compared to last year from 471 to 280 responses. Based on conversations with SSCI staff, this pattern can be attributed to an increase in the intensity of incidents, a by product of the intensified gang tensions in the City. Rather than simmering for a while, these conflicts escalate to violence much quicker than before, requiring Level 1 and Level 2 response to suppress and defuse the situation.

**Critical School Incidents in Middle and High Schools  
FY 03-04 and 04-05**



### Definition of Level 1, 2 and 3 responses

**Level 1:** 9-1-1 emergency response

**Level 2:** immediate response to potential threat

**Level 3:** rumor of threat in the future

### Development of the Community Safety Protocol

While the SSCI addresses violence on or around a school campus, there is a great need for an organized system that responds to violent situations arising in the rest of San José, including community centers, parks, and neighborhoods. A consultant was recently hired to begin

modifying the SSCI protocol to cover the needs of communities and community centers during outbreaks of youth violence. The MGPTF will be used as a vehicle through which to integrate and train City staff and community partners on this updated protocol. The consultant will also develop a training of trainers for the modified SSCI Safety Protocol in order to build the capacity of the City to continue successfully carrying out the protocol in the future without the need for ongoing consulting services. These trainings will be provided to key PRNS and SJPD personnel, who will then be responsible for ongoing training for City staff, key school personnel and community partners.

#### SSCI Strategy Linked with MGPTF

As SSCI begins its expansion to cover the entire City, the MGPTF restructuring will provide more resources for the SSCI teams to draw on. The MGPTF, through its Strategic Work Plan, has developed a City-Wide Safety Strategy that links all San José B.E.S.T. funded agencies, school based safety efforts and PRNS intervention services together. Consequently, rather than operating as a separate program, the SSCI program has become incorporated into the overall City strategy for reducing youth violence in San José. This integration will allow SSCI teams to draw in the support of B.E.S.T. agencies and other Task Force members in responding to incidents of youth violence.

As an outcome of the MGPTF re-engineering, the Task Force Technical (“Tech”) Team has been divided into four geographic quadrants, which align with the Police Divisions (Foothill, Southern, Western, and Central). Each Tech Team Division is comprised of the following members:

1. Police Department Captain
2. PRNS Community Services HUB Supervisor
3. SNI Community Coordinators
4. San José B.E.S.T. funded CBOs
5. SSCI teams (SJPD School Liaison Police Officers and PRNS Youth Intervention Services staff)
6. Library Safety Committee Representatives
7. WIA Service Providers
8. School District Safety Liaisons

The key to each Division team is that they are geographically organized, pulling together service providers who work in that particular area to discuss gang climate, hot spots, emerging trends, and other City-wide and regional gang-related issues affecting their Division. This intentional geographic focus will enable SSCI teams to develop relationships with other partners who work in their geographic area and call on the support of its Division members in responding to incidents of youth violence. Each Division will run its own climate meetings with the goal to collectively develop service strategies for addressing gang-related issues and identify service partners who will take a lead on these issues.

In addition, once all MGPTF members and partners have been trained and integrated into one standard crisis response protocol, the coordination of crisis response services will be more strategic and effective. The SSCI teams will now work hand-in-hand with other Task Force members and service providers located in their Division to ensure a quicker and more effective response not just for SSCI teams, but also for their service partners. All intervention service providers including SSCI will be part of an organized system for responding to incidents regionally and City-wide.

#### Increased Efficiency of SSCI

The MGPTF restructuring will also result in a more efficient response from the SSCI teams. With more resources at its disposal, the SSCI will begin to focus its role on its three core responsibilities: 1) Keep a steady “pulse” of the gang climate in San José, 2) Provide on-call intervention specialists to defuse tension and mediate conflicts, and 3) link youth and families to MGPTF partners and resources for follow-up support services. This focused approach will allow SSCI teams to respond to more incidents of violence, considering that they will have more partners to assist them. In addition, since each SSCI team has been strategically redeployed into HUBs that have the highest rate of youth and gang-related crime, they are located closer to the hot spots. This proximity allows the SSCI teams to respond more quickly when incidents of youth violence occur, as well as become more familiar with the neighborhoods and schools they serve.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

In the upcoming year, the SSCI will be instrumental in working with the MGPTF to implement its Strategic Work Plan and the implementation of its five strategic goals. Greater emphasis is being placed on implementing Strategic Goal #2: Create and implement a Crisis Response Protocol aimed at keeping schools, community centers, and neighborhoods safe (Attachment A) since it is the approach that prevents and responds to youth violence which is a high council priority, and Strategic Goal #5: Integrate the City of San José’s MGPTF Intervention Strategy with local, state, and national initiatives (Attachment B).

All Children Achieve Committee

05-25-05

**Subject: Safe School Campus Initiative Update Report**

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## **COORDINATION**

This memorandum has been coordinated with the San José Police Department and the City Attorney's Office.

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Attachments