



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** July 31, 2012

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** City Administrator's Office

**SUBJECT:** South Coast Task Force On Youth Gangs Update

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receive an update from Saul Serrano, Interim Task Force Coordinator, regarding the work of the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs (SCTFYG) was formed in 2009 after a yearlong effort of community meetings and discussions on youth gang issues and solutions. This regional effort is funded by local governments in the south coast.

The regional approach recognizes that the problem of youth gang violence is a community problem and finding a solution will require on-going collaborative community efforts. The SCTFYG's focus is specific:

- Take a regional approach focused on the south coast jurisdictions of the cities of Carpinteria, Goleta, Santa Barbara and south Santa Barbara County
- Focus on youth in or at high risk of becoming involved in youth gangs
- Advocate for comprehensive programs that include suppression, intervention and prevention
- Advocate for coordination and partnerships by agencies involved with youth gang intervention, prevention and suppression programs
- Secure reliable funding to support programs with proven program effectiveness and efficiency
- Be experimental with solutions, programs and opportunities
- Be patient as the problem did not develop overnight and solutions will not be accomplished overnight

The SCTFYG is guided by two advisory bodies: the Leadership Council primarily composed of elected officials, and the Executive Council, primarily composed of chief executives from public, private and non-profit organizations and community

representation. The composition includes representatives from City Councils and the County Board of Supervisors, philanthropic organizations, youth and parents, service providers, law enforcement, county probation and social services, school districts, community college and UCSB, city and county executives and the faith community,

City of Santa Barbara representatives on the Task Force include Mayor Helene Schneider, City Administrator Jim Armstrong, Assistant City Administrator Marcelo A. López, and Police Chief Cam Sanchez. The councils meet quarterly throughout the south coast.

Regional administrative support is provided by the Community Action Commission who serves as the host agency. Using a per-capita formula, the effort is funded by a combined contribution of \$151,666, from the County of Santa Barbara, and the cities of Carpinteria, Goleta, and Santa Barbara. There is also a \$26,505, in-kind contribution from the Community Action Commission.

The partnerships formed through the SCTFYG have been key in securing funding for youth intervention programs in the South Coast. In the last four years, we received two CalGRIP grants totaling approximately \$750,000 to provide services to 250+ youth in the south coast.

This year, with the support from the City of Santa Barbara and the Community Action Commission, the City of Carpinteria secured a CalGRIP grant for \$245,145 for programs linked to the Safe Schools Healthy Schools initiative. Additionally, although not a part of the south coast effort but with our support, the City of Lompoc received \$125,000 to serve youth exiting out of the Los Prietos Boys Camp and for a job corps program.

Additional information about the work of the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs can be found at <http://youthgangtaskforce.org/>

**ATTACHMENT:** South Coast Task Force On Youth Gangs Guiding Principles

**PREPARED BY:** Marcelo Lopez, Assistant City Administrator

**SUBMITTED BY:** James L. Armstrong, City Administrator

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office

# South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs

## Guiding Principles

1. We need to focus on services to the target population:
  - Youth actively involved in gangs
  - Gang affiliates and potential gang members
2. We need comprehensive programs which include suppression, intervention and prevention strategies
  - We need to advocate for client specific services based on the individual needs of youth and their families, not a cookie cutter approach
3. We need to advocate for more coordination and partnerships by the agencies involved with youth gang intervention, prevention and suppression programs
  - We need to promote the availability of a youth gang case worker in every school to prevent, suppress and intervene with youth gangs
  - We need to promote a full range of services to assist the youth and his family
  - We need to remember the female youth involved with and affected by gangs
4. We need a reliable funding stream to support programs with a track record of success or new promising programs that satisfy unmet needs
  - We need to build on the base of successful client driven programs created through coordination and pooling of resources
  - We need to have the ability to measure program effectiveness and efficiency
5. We need to be experimental, risk takers ready to move forward accepting the premise that if all possible objections must first be overcome nothing of significance will ever be accomplished – we will have successes and failures but doing nothing should not be an option
6. We need to be patient
  - Problems did not develop overnight
  - Solutions will not be accomplished overnight