

STAFF REPORT*CITY OF OCEANSIDE*

DATE: January 14, 2009

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Neighborhood Services Department

SUBJECT: **OCEANSIDE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
STEERING COMMITTEE QUARTERLY UPDATE**

SYNOPSIS

Staff recommends that the City Council review the quarterly update from the Oceanside Community Safety Partnership (OCSP) Steering Committee as an information-only item.

BACKGROUND

This is a quarterly update from the Oceanside Community Safety Partnership Steering Committee which was organized at Council request to facilitate public and private organizations and individuals to address community safety concerns related to at-risk youth.

The steering committee's focus is on needs related to youth, with membership representing each segment of the community, including Youth-Serving Organizations, Education, Faith-Based Organizations, Neighborhood Associations, Business, Parks and Recreation, Neighborhood Services, and Public Safety/Law Enforcement. The OCSP Steering Committee has been meeting since January 30, 2008.

ANALYSIS

Since the previous update the following progress has been made:

The Oceanside Community Safety Partnership website located at www.ocspdatabase.org is operational and can be updated as new information regarding programs for youth is obtained. There is no ongoing funding source for staff to operate the site, however temporary funding was provided through Neighborhood Services and the Oceanside Police Department (OPD) for initial set up and maintenance of the site and North County Lifeline has volunteered one of their staff to be trained to assist in maintaining the site. Should the opportunity become available, a part-time grant-funded position could be created for this purpose.

On August 28, 2008, the OCSP in collaboration with Oceanside Unified School District (OUSD) hosted the "Unity in the Community" Event at Laurel Elementary School to

address concerns about students from Crown Heights attending Laurel Elementary following the closure of Ditmar Elementary. It was a very successful evening, drawing approximately 150 parents and children from Crown Heights and Eastside to the school and promoting participation by parents in the Parent Teacher Organization at Laurel Elementary and Neighborhood Associations in both neighborhoods.

On September 8, 2008, the first screening of the gang prevention video "Not Too Early, Never Too Late" was shown at Cal State University San Marcos. The video was created through a collaborative effort between CSUSM, Vista Sheriffs Department, San Diego County Office of Education, and OPD and was funded through San Diego County Supervisor Bill Horn's office. Both English and Spanish versions are on the same video which also includes a "Gangs: Awareness and Prevention" presentation that the North County Prevention/Intervention group helped to develop. Twenty copies of this video were made by OCSP for distribution to Resource and Recreation Centers and Community Partners in Oceanside. It has been shown at gang awareness/prevention presentations at Resource and Recreation Centers and community meetings.

Wayne Godinet and Pastor David Escovedo from the Save Our Streets (SOS) group represent faith-based organizations on the OCSP Steering Committee. SOS meets weekly and group members are active in our neighborhoods. Members continue to work closely with the Neighborhood Services Department and OPD and most recently participated with the City in the San Luis Rey Valley Community Fair in December and also organized the Candlelight Vigil on December 20, 2008 in memory of Officer Dan Bessant and other victims of gang violence in Oceanside. SOS is currently making plans with OUSD to hold a mentoring weekend in January at Oceanside High School led by Joe Palmer from Bullseye Theory Coaching and Training. A key group member, Victory Outreach, has established rapport with youth in the Eastside neighborhood, and their presence in the neighborhood on weekends provides positive role models and activities for area youth.

Neighborhood Services and OUSD staff active on the OCSP Steering Committee also maintain a good working relationship with the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) through regular meetings at OUSD and the quarterly North County Prevention/Intervention Committee meetings. SDCOE continues to be a great partner for the City in gang prevention and education programs. Two of our Community Resource Center Assistants attended a "Girls: Risk Factors, Trends, and Strategies" training provided by SDCOE in San Marcos on December 4, 2008. The training focused on ways to help teen girls deal with issues including gangs, relationship aggression, drug and alcohol abuse, and teen violence. As a result of the training, staff are leading a girls' movie night at the Crown Heights Resource Center on two Friday evenings each month using information and ideas provided in the training.

On November 25, 2008, the OCSP in collaboration with OPD and OUSD submitted an application for a California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Program for Cities (CalGRIP) grant of \$400,000 for a two-year program to reduce truancy in Oceanside middle and high schools. The proposed program would seek to reduce the

risk of gang involvement for Oceanside youth by reducing truancy, particularly in the schools serving our neighborhoods most impacted by gangs. OUSD would identify high-risk truant youth with whom initial truancy intervention efforts have been unsuccessful. An OPD officer would do a home visit to speak to the youth and family and assess the home situation. Where an initial OPD visit does not resolve the truancy problem, or if the School District or OPD sees evidence of gang involvement or other issues contributing to the truancy, referrals will be made to appropriate programs and agencies. A portion of the grant would be dedicated to increasing case management capability for working with the youth and family members, mentor training, and support of mentoring programs. Over the two-year grant period the number of truancy sweeps conducted in Oceanside would be doubled, with the majority taking place early in each school year for the biggest impact on student attendance. Additional curfew and probation sweeps would also be completed in targeted areas. If successful the grant would be managed through OPD and OCSP would oversee the grant and host the required monthly grant meetings.

Oceanside Police Department and the Neighborhood Services Department continue to work alongside the faith-based "Save Our Streets" organization and our nonprofit partners to improve communication and develop cooperation at a grassroots level in our neighborhoods most impacted by gangs. Monthly community meetings in our Crown Heights, Eastside, Libby Lake and San Luis Rey Valley neighborhoods, community outreaches, cleanups, and individual contacts made by grassroots members are helping to develop increased trust and communication in the neighborhoods, which is a key factor in continuing progress.

FISCAL IMPACT

Does not apply. At this time, there is no funding for the OCSP or for its staffing.

COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE REPORT

Does not apply.

CITY ATTORNEY'S ANALYSIS

Does not apply.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council review the quarterly update from the Oceanside Community Safety Partnership Steering Committee as an information-only item.

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