



DATE: March 8, 2006

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: **LETTERS OF SUPPORT REGARDING A CITY GANG INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM AND ASSOCIATED RESOLUTIONS OF SUPPORT**

SYNOPSIS

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the attached letter of support regarding the City's efforts to obtain FY 2007 Federal Appropriations money for a City Gang Intervention and Prevention Program as well as adopt resolutions of support for various organizations assisting in the City's gang intervention and prevention efforts.

BACKGROUND

The City has requested a \$350,000 earmark from the federal government to create a gang intervention and prevention program for Federal FY 2007. A City delegation recently went to Washington, DC, to speak with the City's representatives about this important request. At the February 22 meeting, Councilmember Sanchez placed an item on the City Council agenda regarding support for a variety of organizations to assist in gang intervention efforts. The draft letter expresses support for the City's gang intervention program and contains an attached list of organizations. Resolutions of support for various organizations will also be provided.

ANALYSIS

Staff is requesting that the City Council approve the draft letter of support so that it can be sent to Congressman Darrell Issa, Senators Boxer and Feinstein, and The Ferguson Group, the City's lobbyist, to encourage them to work toward obtaining the City's 2007 Federal Appropriation. Staff is further requesting that the City Council adopt associated resolutions of support for various organizations assisting in the City's gang intervention and prevention efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT

Does not apply.

COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE REPORT

Does not apply.

CITY ATTORNEY'S ANALYSIS

Does not apply.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the attached letter of support regarding the City's efforts to obtain FY 2007 Federal Appropriations money for a City Gang Intervention and Prevention Program as well as adopt resolutions of support for various organizations assisting in the City's gang intervention and prevention efforts.

PREPARED BY:

SUBMITTED BY:

Michelle Skaggs Lawrence
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Steven R. Jepsen
City Manager

REVIEWED BY:
Barbara Hamilton, Interim City Attorney

BH

DRAFT

March 8, 2006

The Honorable Darrell Issa
221 Cannon House Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Room 112 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Room 331 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman Issa:

Dear Senator Boxer:

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Oceanside to request your support for the City's FY 2007 Appropriations request for a City-sponsored *Gang Intervention and Prevention Program*.

As you recall, Oceanside recently sent a delegation to Washington, DC, to speak with your staff regarding the City's FY 2007 Federal agenda. One important project that we wish to have your support on is our request for \$350,000 from the Department of Justice Juvenile Justice Program in the FY 2007 Science, State, Justice, and Commerce Appropriations bill, for a City-sponsored *Gang Intervention and Prevention Program*.

As of January 2006 there were 1,133 documented gang members in Oceanside. In 2005 there were 24 gang-related shootings, 19 gang-related assaults, 27 gang-related fights, and 3 gang-related murders. Although the City contributes 61 percent of its budget to public safety, suppression alone is not the long-term answer to our gang problems.

The City of Oceanside is prepared to create a comprehensive program targeting youth in affected neighborhoods that have high levels of poverty, substance-abuse, crime, violence, gang membership, and elevated school dropout rates. The City intends to partner with the schools, local law enforcement agencies, local nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and other community organizations and service providers to develop a prevention and intervention program tailored to these at-risk youth. In fact, at the City Council meeting of February 22, 2006, the City endorsed specific programs/organizations that the City intends to work with under the umbrella of the City's *Gang Prevention and Intervention Program*. Please see the list of these organizations in Attachment A. It is the City's goal to partner with these agencies as well as other appropriate organizations in an attempt to create an integrated and community-based *Gang Prevention and Intervention Program*.

On behalf of the City of Oceanside, we would ask for your support of this very important project to assist Oceanside in combating its gang problem.

Sincerely,

Jim Wood
Mayor

Cc: City Councilmembers
The Ferguson Group

Attachment: Organization List

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS

Boys & Girls Club – Gangbusters Program

Integración Latina

Why Try?

Set Free Ministries

From the Inside Out