



DATE: August 13, 2008
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 Steering Committee as an information-only item.

BACKGROUND

This is the second 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 last quarterly update was at the City Council meeting on April 9, 2008.

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. This structure was supported by City Council at its December 19, 2007 meeting. The OCSP Steering Committee has been meeting since January 30, 2008.

The Mission Statement created by the OCSP based on input from community meetings is:

To positively impact the lives of our youth and create an environment that is safe and fosters accountability, education, prevention and intervention.

ANALYSIS

Though initially scheduled to meet monthly, the Steering Committee has been meeting on a weekly basis. The majority of the meetings have been held at the Oceanside Police Department with the Neighborhood Services Department providing staff support for the committee.

The following persons are members of the committee:

- Youth-Serving Organizations: Deborah Shriver, Director of Youth Services, North County Lifeline.
- Law Enforcement: Lt. Shawn Murray, Oceanside Police Department, Neighborhood Policing Team
- Business: Vernon R. Pertelle, Senior Director; Assistant Vice President, Tri-City Medical Center
- Education: Tim Ware, School Intervention Manager, Oceanside Unified School District (OUSD)
- Faith-Based Organizations: Wayne Godinet of the Save Our Streets group and Pastor David Escovedo of Victory Outreach
- Community/Neighborhood Groups: Jose Jimenez has stepped down from his position as President of the Crown Heights Residents Association after providing excellent leadership for that group and will be replaced on this committee by another community representative.
- City: Eileen Turk, Manager, Parks and Recreation Division, Neighborhood Services Department
- City: Brendan Mangan, Management Analyst and Community Resource Centers Manager, Neighborhood Services Department - Housing Division.
- City: Jared Bruce – OPD Intern from Cal State San Marcos who is a key participant in development of the OCSP Website.

An initial priority for the OCSP Steering Committee was to create a list of youth-serving programs and activities that address needs for youth aged 0 to 24 years. Information was obtained from existing lists, OCSP meeting participants, and from other partnering agencies. A Web site for the OCSP is under construction at www.ocspdatabase.org. Information provided by partnering agencies has been placed on the Web site but needs to be vetted before it is released to the public. Steering Committee members will have the ability to update program information on the Web site with information provided by partnering agencies. There is also an area on the Web site for community event and activity announcements.

New programs are providing additional gang prevention/intervention services for Oceanside youth and families, supporting those currently in existence. Interfaith Community Services' Transitional Youth Academy has had a good start to the "Working Pirates" program, which is funded with a Gang Prevention Initiative Project Grant (Workforce Investment Act) through the San Diego Workforce Partnership. Twenty Interfaith interns are working in various City departments this summer, gaining valuable work experience and developing contacts within the City. After the summer program, Working Pirates will switch to the school year program which will include: Tutoring; Gang Intervention (individual and group counseling, anger management, decision making and conflict management); ESL Instruction; Project-Based and Community

Service Learning Experience; Case Management (focused on attendance, graduation requirements and post graduation planning); Mentoring; Life Skills Workshops; Financial Literacy; Computer Literacy; Educational/Vocational Field Trips (college and career); Gang Prevention (CROP Program, Writing letters to gang inmates, Art therapy and expression, TAG journaling); Diversity Workshops and Co-Ed Socialization Groups; Girls Only Groups; Parent Workshops; Team Building Activities; Post Testing in Math and English (assessing gains in literacy and numeracy)

The goal of North County Lifeline's Targeted Outreach Program (TOP) is to reduce future gang membership in Oceanside by redirecting high-risk youth into becoming productive law abiding citizens. Funding for the program is provided through a CalGRIP grant. Services for youth under age 15 include Gang Awareness and Resistance; Anger Management, Conflict Resolution, and Tolerance; Decision Making, Educational Goals, Graffiti Abatement; Positive Social Skills Development, Self Esteem; and Positive Peer Selection, Family Conflict Mediation, Family Counseling, and Victim Awareness. Families may also be referred for case management. The TOP program also provides the same services at a higher intensity for youth from 15 to 17. Additional services provided to these older youth include: Vocational Career Information, Employment Skills, Independent Living Skills, Job Seeking Skills, Support in Employment Retention, and Positive Leadership Skills. Parent Services provided under the program include instruction in the following areas: Exercises in Life Management, Child Development, Communication, Mediation, Substance Abuse, and Recognition of Gang-Related Activities, Clothing, and Behaviors. An initial Gang Awareness and Prevention presentation was held at the Joe Balderrama Recreation Center in Eastside in June. The program was offered in both English and Spanish and over 100 people attended.

In addition to the above-mentioned grant funding the City has been able to secure an earmark for \$400,000 for the OCSP as part of the FY 2009 federal budget. This funding has yet to be reviewed in a House of Representatives committee "mark-up" session and is far from certain. The Steering Committee has also explored other grant opportunities, most notably the U.S. Department of Justice *Weed and Seed* Program. The committee determined that there is not sufficient time to submit an application by the September 2008 deadline, but that this will be a priority of the OCSP in the coming year. One meeting of the Steering Committee each month will be devoted to tasks related to the application.

At a meeting for initial discussion of the *Weed and Seed* Program the members of the OCSP Steering Committee and representatives of community-based organizations agreed that the issue of truancy is of immediate importance. Persistent truancy is an early indicator of delinquent behavior among youth and of potential later involvement in gangs. Truancy is a negative factor affecting academic achievement and often leads to an early drop-out from school. The OUSD and OPD are already working on plans to address truancy in the 2008-09 school year.

Graffiti “tagging” is another indicator of delinquent behavior and/or sign of gang involvement. The City proposes to contract with the “Graffiti Tracker” program, which will greatly assist OPD in identifying and prosecuting taggers. The City of Escondido recently arrested and charged one young person with over 200 instances of graffiti in that city by using the Graffiti Tracker program. Deployment of this program and vigorous enforcement will have a positive impact on neighborhoods with gang activity.

Oceanside Police Department and the Neighborhood Services Department/Community Resource Centers continue to work alongside the faith-based “Save Our Streets” organization to improve communication and develop cooperation at a grassroots level in our neighborhoods most impacted by gangs. Monthly community meetings at the San Luis Rey Valley Community Resource Center, community outreaches and cleanups and individual contacts made by grassroots members are helping to develop increased trust and communication in that neighborhood, which is key if progress is to be made. The volunteer-run Saturday evening drop-in sports and mentoring program at Melba Bishop Recreation Center is also thriving, attracting up to 100 youth for positive activities.

Individual outreach work by the churches involved with Save Our Streets, including Adopt a Block cleanup activities in the Libby Lake and Valley areas also help to establish relationships with community members who may be reluctant to attend formal meetings.

OCSP Steering Committee members continue to collaborate with agencies and committees providing positive youth development opportunities in North County. City staff from the Community Resource Centers and Parks and Recreation attended a free “Gang Awareness and Prevention Strategies” training offered by the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) in San Marcos on April 9 which included a “training of trainers” session. This program was subsequently presented for the community at the Crown Heights Resource Center by San Diego County Health and Human Services staff. The training class was made available by SDCOE through the North County Gang Prevention/Intervention Committee which meets every second month to share program information and promote collaboration among North County area agencies.

Community Housing Works is currently providing a Situational Self Leadership class for ten youth from 6th to 8th grades at the Crown Heights Community Resource Center. This is a series of ten classes over five weeks. Through this program students have the opportunity to develop personal growth, nurture their leadership skills and become active members and future leaders in their community.

The North County Cares Program of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency has similar goals to the OCSP and is proposing services for families in Eastside and other selected North County areas as part of their 2008/2009 program. In October they will partner with Eastside United Community Action and the City on the Eastside Annual Fall Fair, with a focus on providing information on programs available to residents.

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.

PREPARED BY:

SUBMITTED BY:

B. Mangan
Brendan Mangan
Management Analyst

Peter A. Weiss for
Peter A. Weiss
City Manager

REVIEWED BY:

Michelle Skaggs Lawrence, Deputy City Manager

MSL

Margery M. Pierce, Director, Neighborhood Services

MP