



Agenda Item C.1
DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM
Meeting Date: April 7, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Daniel Singer, City Manager
SUBJECT: South Coast Gang Task Force Appointment

RECOMMENDATION:

Appoint a City Councilmember to serve on the South Coast Gang Task Force – Leadership Council.

BACKGROUND:

As a result of a series of violent gang-related crimes in Santa Barbara that occurred over a year ago, the City of Santa Barbara initiated a series of discussions with various government and community-based organizations that deal directly with youth and the prevention of youth gang violence. The discussions resulted in a year long process that brought about two specific initiatives: first, a youth summer program targeting over 80 with gang affiliations; and, second, the creation of a long-term institutional structure to address regional gang prevention and intervention programs and opportunities. The latter initiative involves key governmental officials, education, social service and non-profit representatives, who will come together to compose a South Coast Gang Task Force. As the attached organizational chart indicates, the Task Force will be made up of a Leadership Council and an Executive Council and will have staffing support through the City of Santa Barbara and to a lesser extent the County.

The Executive Council consists of city administrators, professionals from the court system, juvenile justice, law enforcement and probation, educators, and executive directors from numerous non-profits and social service agencies. The core purpose of the Executive Council is to promote coordination and collaboration among agencies directed at working with youth gang issues. The Executive Council will also implement direction received from the Leadership Council. The City Manager will serve as Goleta's representative on the Executive Council, while the Redevelopment, Neighborhood Services and Public Safety Director serving as an alternate member.

The Leadership Council will be composed of elected representatives from each of the south coast cities and school districts, the County Sheriff, District Attorney, and Presiding Superior Court Judge, as well as representatives from the interfaith

community, business community, and local youth and families. The Leadership Council's purpose is to focus on ending youth gangs and violence and to represent a commitment to a five-year pilot program to end such violence. The Leadership Council will be directly involved in securing the necessary resources to achieve the Task Force's goals. They will also work to create and evaluate performance measures for the Task Force.

DISCUSSION:

Over the past eighteen (18) months Mayor Aceves has been participating in a significant number of these meetings. With the structure of the Task Force now more certain, Santa Barbara has asked Goleta and Carpinteria to select an elected official to serve on the Leadership Council and Mayor Aceves has indicated a desire to continue in this role.

The Leadership Council is expected to meet on a quarterly basis and may involve additional assignments or meetings. At this time, the Council is asked to appoint Mayor Aceves or another interested member of the City Council to represent the City of Goleta on this new regional Task Force.

Staff is available to answer further questions about this request or the purpose and goal of the South Coast Gang Task Force. A representative from Santa Barbara has been invited to the meeting to provide an overview of this regional effort.

ALTERNATIVES:

Council could choose not to appoint a representative to the Leadership Council in which case Goleta would continue to participate at the staff level only. Given the importance of this topic and the need to address it from a regional perspective it would be valuable for the City to have Council representation on the Leadership Council.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

At this time no funding is being requested from the City, however, in order to sustain this regional effort future funding requests may be made.

Submitted By:

Reviewed By:

Daniel Singer
City Manager

Michelle Greene
Admin. Services Director

Attachments:

1. City of Santa Barbara Request Letter
2. South Coast Gang Task Force Organizational Structure

ATTACHMENT 1

City of Santa Barbara Request Letter

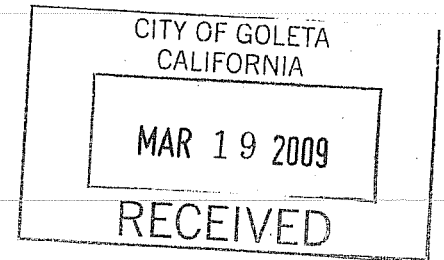


City of Santa Barbara
City Administrator's Office

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March 17, 2009

The Honorable Roger Acevas
Mayor
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SUBJECT: SOUTH COAST GANG TASK FORCE - LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Dear Mayor Acevas: *Roger*

We are requesting that the Goleta City Council formally approve participation in the South Coast Gang Task Force and designate a Councilmember to represent the City on the Task Force's Leadership Council.

A year ago, the City of Santa Barbara convened a half-day work session with 45 executive level staff of government agencies and community based organizations located on the South Coast that are engaged with suppression, intervention, and prevention of youth gang violence. This initial meeting resulted in a year long process that produced two major initiatives designed to combat gang violence.

The first effort involved the development and implementation of a Summer Program targeted to 82 local youth with gang affiliations. This program has become the model for year-round coordination and collaboration by all the agencies and organizations that have various responsibilities and roles with respect to our community's response to youth gang violence.

The second major effort was to create a long term institutional structure that will work to better coordinate the multitude of ongoing efforts on the South Coast that deal with elements of the gang problem. This long term structure was developed by a committee composed of key governmental officials, education representatives, and directors of major nonprofits. This organizational structure has been designated as the South Coast Gang Task Force.

Attached is a diagram that illustrates the organizational structure for the Task Force and a summary description of Leadership Council, their respective purposes and proposed membership.

The first meeting of the Leadership Council is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2009 from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. and will be held at the Franklin Community Center, 1136 Montecito Street, Santa Barbara, 93103.

The Honorable Roger Acevas

SUBJECT: SOUTH COAST GANG TASK FORCE - LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

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We look forward to a representative of the Goleta City Council being a member of the Leadership Council to support the vital work to reduce youth gang violence on the South Coast. Please contact Don Olson, City Special Projects Manager at (805) 564-5312 to confirm your acceptance of this role and for your attendance at the upcoming meeting on April 22, 2009. After we have received your confirmation, we will send you an agenda via email.

Sincerely,



James L. Armstrong
City Administrator

Cc: Dan Singer, City Manager, City of Goleta
Don Olson, Special Projects Manager, City of Santa Barbara

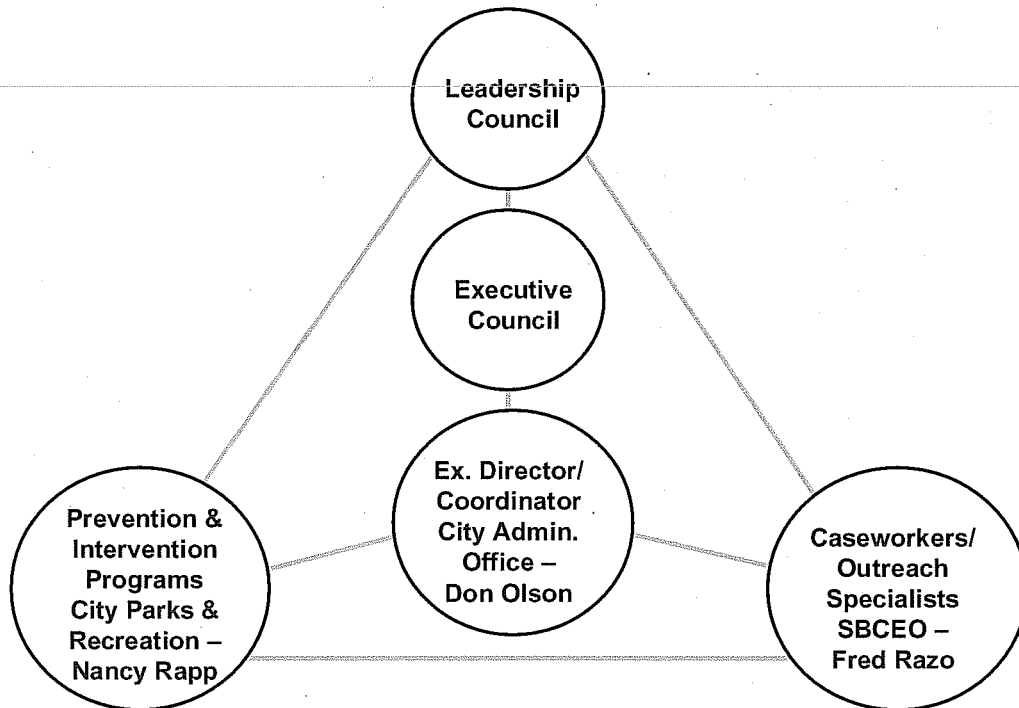
Attachment: South Coast Gang Task Force Organizational Structure &
Summary Description of Leadership Council

ATTACHMENT 2

South Coast Gang Task Force Organizational Structure

SOUTH COAST GANG TASK FORCE

Organizational Structure and Interim Staffing



Leadership Council

Description:

As envisioned, the South Coast Gang Task Force Leadership Council is to be composed of elected officials and community leaders who are members of political jurisdictions or organizations who can commit resources to end youth gang violence.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Leadership Council is to serve as the overall oversight group of the effort to end the negative effects of youth gangs. The Leadership Council will:

- Represent a South Coast regional commitment to a five-year pilot program to end youth gangs and violence
- Commit to support the effort and secure the resources to accomplish the mission
- Call for performance measures to evaluate and continue program funding
- Focus on ending youth gangs and violence
- Meet jointly with Executive Council three times a year to receive reports on program progress and accomplishment

Meeting Frequency:

The Leadership Council, as envisioned, will meet every six (6) months.

Composition:

Chair or Member of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors [TBD]

Mayor, City of Santa Barbara

Mayor or Council Member, City of Goleta [TBD]

Mayor or Council Member, City of Carpinteria [TBD]

Bill Brown, Santa Barbara County Sheriff

Henry Yang, Chancellor, University of California Santa Barbara

William Cirone, Superintendent, Santa Barbara County Office of Education

Board President or Member, Santa Barbara School Districts

Board President or Member, Carpinteria Unified School District

Presiding Superior Court Judge or Designee [TBD]

Christie Stanley, District Attorney, Santa Barbara County

The Foundation Roundtable [TBD]

Corporate Roundtable [TBD]

President/Chair of the Interfaith Initiative [TBD]

Community/Family Representative [TBD]

Youth Representative [TBD]