



Meeting Date: 11 / 28 / 06

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent
<input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Prepared By: Gil Ramirez  Agenda Item No. I-10
 Reviewed By: City Manager mmh City Attorney [Signature] Finance [Signature] Other (Specify) _____

DATE: November 20, 2006

TO: City Council

FROM: Gil Ramirez, Recreation Superintendent
Recreation and Community Services



SUBJECT: City's Participation in the California City Gang Prevention Network Initiative

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council:

1. Approve the City of Oxnard's participation in a three year California City Gang Prevention Network Initiative launched by the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families (YEF) in partnership with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) in order to reduce gang violence and to develop a statewide policy agenda to support promising local efforts.
2. Ratify the execution by the Mayor of the letter to the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Facilities.

DISCUSSION

The City of Oxnard was invited to participate in a three year nationally unprecedented California City Gang Prevention Network Initiative launched by the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families (YEF) in partnership with the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD). Participating cities in California include: Sacramento, Santa Rosa, San Francisco, Oakland, Stockton, San Jose, Fresno, Salinas, Los Angeles (San Fernando Valley portion) and San Diego.

The vision of YEF Institute and NCCD is to identify new approaches in an organized, comprehensive municipal approach that links municipal entities (mayor's office, police, public health, recreation, school) with community groups, combined with a systematic means for cities to learn, share and adopt successful gang strategies with each other and to frame and recommend state-level policies that assist those working on the local level.

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- Identify, plan for, and recommend state and federal policy changes at the administrative, legislative, and funding levels.

The City of Oxnard's participation in this Initiative will require the City to establish a team that will meet regularly over the next three years to improve collaborative approaches, learn from other cities, document effective practices, and promulgate lessons learned for local, state, and national consumption. Project activities include:

- Meet twice a year supplemented by regular conference calls with team leaders to facilitate sharing of local successes and challenges;
- Develop a Resource Bank for mutual assistance;
- Develop sub-networks among participating cities on key topics;
- Convene a statewide advisory board (including representatives from the health, criminal justice, state agency, legislative, service, funding and advocacy sectors);
- Issuance of monthly bulletins and two "Strategic Briefs" per year;
- Recommend policy changes on the state and federal levels to support local efforts; and
- Produce documentary evaluations.

The Community Action Partnership (CAP) is the designated entity to represent the City of Oxnard in this Initiative. CAP is a collaborative project which includes the City of Oxnard and the County of Ventura working to coordinate youth violence prevention services and activities. The CAP's goal is to produce a sustained county-wide coordinated and integrated system where improved and informed decisions for violence prevention efforts will be generated.

In order to qualify as a participant in the Initiative, the National League of Cities of Youth, Education and Families required a timely letter from a city proposing to participate. As a result, staff mailed a letter (Attachment #1) to the National League of Cities executed by Mayor Dr. Thomas Holden and Police Chief John Crombach with the understanding that staff would submit the item for approval at the next City Council meeting.

The California City Gang Prevention Network Initiative's organizational capacity includes the following:

- The YEF Institute, a special entity within the National League of Cities (NLC), helps municipal leaders take action on behalf of children, youth, and families in five core program areas: education and afterschool, early childhood development, youth development, family economic success, and safety of children and youth. Mr. Clifford M Johnson, who leads NLC's efforts to strengthen the capacity of municipal leaders to meet the needs of children, youth, and families in their communities will provide administrative oversight. Another member of the YEF Institute is Mr. Jack Calhoun, who was the former president and CEO of the National Crime Prevention Council and U.S. Commissioner of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families, will take the lead for the YEF Institute.

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- The National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD), a non-profit organization, is devoted to developing criminal and juvenile justice strategies that are fair, humane, economically sound, and effective. NCCD is valued for its high-quality applied research and its capacity to help policymakers and practitioners translate research finding into action. Dr. Barry Krisberg, who is NCCD's principal on this project is a world renowned expert on juvenile justice.

During the project's early stages, NCCD will contribute the time of Dr. Barry Krisberg to this venture and the YEF Institute will contribute some of Mr. Jack Calhoun's time. This will guarantee that the project will have top level leadership.

This is a unique opportunity for the City of Oxnard. Through its participation, the City will be involved in a first-of-its-kind-in-the-nation initiative that includes changes in local program and practice and, toward the project's end, recommendations for state policy changes. Instead of one city requesting help and change, there will be identified cities assisted by a powerful, California-wide advisory board.

Therefore, it is staff's recommendation that City Council approve City participation in the California City Gang Prevention Network Initiative.

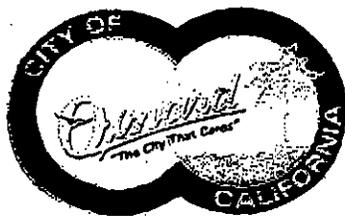
FINANCIAL IMPACT

None.

GR:mmn

Attachment #1- National League of Cities

DR. THOMAS E. HOLDEN
Mayor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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E-mail: drtomholden@aol.com

November 15, 2006

Mr. Jack Calhoun, Consultant
National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families
921 Mackall Avenue
McLean, VA 22101

Dear Mr. Calhoun:

As I prepare to enter my second term of office as Mayor of the City of Oxnard, my commitment to ending youth violence is the strongest it has ever been. Our City Council was able to accomplish much in the past two years, particularly in terms of violence suppression, but much remains to be done.

This City Council has dedicated a tremendous amount of resources to our suppression efforts. In addition to those enforcement efforts, we have been innovative in our prevention and intervention strategies as well as being granted two civil injunctions against the two largest and most violent gangs in the City. However, despite our successes, youth violence, particularly gang-related violence, continues to be a leading challenge facing our community. This summer, we experienced a reversal of the downward trend that had been occurring over the past few years when we were faced with 24 gang-related shootings that claimed the lives of four young people, including a 14-year-old boy and an innocent woman bystander. We also had two of our police officers shot and very seriously wounded in gang-related violence. These statistics bolster our belief that suppression can slow, but not stop, the tremendous level of violence ever present in our neighborhoods.

In the words of our Police Chief John Crombach, "We are not going to be able to *arrest* our way out of this problem." He and I are in absolute agreement that the focus of our new efforts for long-term success needs to be in the areas of prevention and intervention. Many influential members of our very diverse community are in agreement with us and there are a number of new efforts currently underway. One of these efforts is a partnership between the City of Oxnard and the County of Ventura which has resulted in the creation of the Community Action Partnership (CAP), an anti-violence committee. The leadership of this group includes me, Mayor Pro Tem Andres Herrera, County Supervisor John Flynn, and County Supervisor Kathy Long. CAP is tasked with developing and providing coordinated resources to create a safe, nurturing, and stable environment for our youth and families in their homes, schools and communities. CAP will bring together public and private stakeholders for this effort; schools, criminal justice

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Mr. Jack Calhoun, Consultant

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agencies, health care organizations, community-based nonprofit organizations and faith-based groups all will have a vital role in finding the solution to youth violence.

We strongly believe that we have the right players at the table to find solutions. We know that the problem of youth violence is one facing many cities in the State of California and there are many dedicated people working hard towards finding solutions that will work in their communities. In order to benefit from what others are doing and to share our successes and challenges with them, the Chief and I believe our City would greatly benefit through participation in the California City Gang Prevention Network.

We are eager to begin working with this network and look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas E. Holden

Mayor



John Crombach

Chief of Police

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