Meeting Date: 03 / 10 / 09

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
☐ Approved Recommendation	☐ Info/Consent
☐ Ord. No(s). _____	■ Report
☐ Res. No(s). _____	☐ Public Hearing
☐ Other _____	☐ Other _____

Prepared By: Grace Magistrale Hoffman GMH Agenda Item No. O-2

Reviewed By: City Manager City Attorney Finance Other *(Specify)*

DATE: March 3, 2009

TO: City Council

FROM: Edmund F. Sotelo, City Manager
City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: **Adoption of the Strategic Action Framework for Empowered and Thriving Youth (SAFETY) Blueprint**

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council adopt the Strategic Action Framework for Empowered and Thriving Youth (SAFETY) Blueprint developed by the Oxnard Alliance for Community Strength (OACS).

BACKGROUND

The City of Oxnard joined the California Cities Gang Prevention Network in January 2007. In May 2008, the City of Oxnard formally adopted a Memorandum of Understanding with the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (the Institute), and the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) for this three-year project.

The Oxnard Alliance for Community Strength (OACS), formally known as the Community Action Partnership, is lead by Oxnard City Council representatives, Mayor Thomas E. Holden and Mayor Pro Tem Andres Herrera. The purpose of the collaborative with the County of Ventura (represented by Supervisor Kathy Long and Supervisor John Zaragoza) is to prevent violence in Oxnard, and better utilize resources. Further, OACS strives to reflect the voice of the community, and its aim is to include representatives from all sectors of the community. Within its membership, the structure of OACS is comprised of a policy team and a technical team. The policy team oversees the overall mission and direction of OACS. The technical team oversees the implementation of the policies and strategies of OACS.

The Institute and NCCD has launched a three-year, nationally recognized thirteen-city Gang Prevention Initiative. Participating cities include Fresno, Los Angeles, Oakland, Richmond, Sacramento, Salinas, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Rosa, Stockton, and Oxnard. The Network is supported by grants from the California Wellness Foundation, the California Endowment, The East Bay Community Foundation, the Richmond Children's Fund, and the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund. The project goals of the California Cities Gang Prevention Network can be summarized as follows:

- Reduce gang-related violence and victimization.
- Establish or improve a collaboration in each City that blends prevention, intervention, and suppression, and that involves City leaders and community stakeholders.
- Get in front of the gang issue before policies based on "fear" divert funds from essential infrastructure (such as schools, police, services for children and youth) to corrections,
- Identify and document City responses to key program and policy questions (e.g., essential approaches to anti-gang efforts; what doesn't work; who must be involved, etc.)
- Forge a vibrant peer-learning network among the 13 participating cities.
- Identify state policy and practice that would support effective community practice.

Teams from each city meet regularly to improve collaborative approaches, learn from other cities, document effective practices, and discuss lessons learned.

DISCUSSION

In architecture, a Blueprint describes a building or engineering plan, that is what a building will look like and how will it function. The purpose of the SAFETY Blueprint is to describe the range of elements needed in Oxnard to increase positive outcomes for young people, and consequently, to also reduce violence, shift social norms and promote safety for all. More specifically, it can inform and guide a coordinated and collaborative effort among multiple, diverse sectors and the community that spans a prevention, intervention, and enforcement/suppression continuum.

Initiated by OACS, the SAFETY Blueprint was developed in a six-month process with the participation and input of the OACS Strategic Planning Group and key community stakeholders. The Blueprint encompasses a broad range of objectives across the continuum of prevention, intervention and enforcement/suppression supported by strong community engagement. The objectives delineated in the Blueprint reflect the priorities that emerged in the planning process, which are supported by the recommended strategies to promote positive youth development and address violence in Oxnard. Additionally, outcome measures, which will indicate whether the objectives have been achieved, were identified and prioritized. Finally, successful implementation and sustainability of the Blueprint requires appropriate structures and systems are in place. The Blueprint concludes with broad structural recommendations, which aim to ensure that structural and systems supports are developed and well-coordinated.

As a part of the planning process, the OACS Strategic Planning Group developed a vision and shared values/principles, in which to guide and inform the implementation of the Blueprint. Thus, the Blueprint is grounded in the SAFETY Vision:

A thriving Oxnard in which
All people feel safe and
All young people have hope and opportunity
Supported by caring adults, strong families, and empowered communities.

The California Endowment provided funding for the Prevention Institute to assist the City of Oxnard in developing the SAFETY Blueprint. The Prevention Institute is a nonprofit national center dedicated to improving community health and well-being by building momentum for effective primary prevention.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no immediate financial impact associated with the adoption of the SAFETY Blueprint. Recommendations for costs associated with objectives and strategies of the SAFETY Blueprint will be considered with the development of the City's budget.

Attachment #1 - SAFETY Blueprint

Note: The SAFETY Blueprint has been provided to the City Council. Copies are available for review at the Circulation Desk in the Library after 6:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the Council meeting and at the City Clerk's Office after 8:00 a.m. on Monday.