

*Los Angeles City Council's
Ad Hoc Committee on Gang Violence and
Youth Development*

- Final Committee Report -

Presented by Los Angeles City Councilman

Tony Cardenas, Chair

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Deputy: John White

Thank you to:

- **Ad Hoc Committee Members: Janice Hahn, Jose Huizar, Ed Reyes, and Herb Wesson**
- **The Mayor's Office of Gang Violence and Youth Development**
- **Dr. Annalisa Enrile (USC) and Dr. Jorja Leap (UCLA)**
- **Candace Kaminsky (USC) and Jessica Nolan (UCLA)**
- **The 70 individuals interviewed, including various City and County Departments, Law Enforcement Agencies, Prevention, Intervention, and Re-Entry Service Providers, and Youth and Families directly impacted by youth violence**

Methodology of the Report

- **The report provides an overall assessment of the GRYD implementation approach based on:**
 - Extensive literature review
 - Synthesis of all relevant reports and citywide policies
 - Members of the Community Engagement Advisory Committee
 - 70 qualitative community and departmental interviews
 - Hundreds of hours of testimonies received during four years of Ad Hoc Committee meetings

Who Wrote the Report?

- **The report was written by:**
 - The Office of Councilman Tony Cardenas with input from members of the Los Angeles City Council and the Ad Hoc Committee on Gang Violence and Youth Development
 - UCLA and USC conducted 70 qualitative community and departmental interviews

Purpose of the Report

- The report concludes over four year's of Ad Hoc Committee work by highlighting successes and challenges of the city's current gang violence reduction approach.
- On March 31, 2010, the City Council will reassess the long-term placement and strategy for the City's overall violence reduction approach.

Major Accomplishments

Ad Hoc Committee on Gang Violence and Youth Development

- **The report highlights some of the Ad Hoc Committee's major accomplishments which included the following legislation:**
 - the creation and passage of the country's first ***Community-Based Gang Intervention Model***, which is now a federal bill sponsored by Congresswoman Diane Watson
 - The country's first gang injunction removal process
 - First Source Hiring Ordinance that provides meaningful youth employment alternatives

Major Accomplishments

Ad Hoc Committee on Gang Violence and Youth Development

- **Citywide Youth Development Reports:** The Ad Hoc Committee commissioned both the Advancement Project and City Controller's Reports.
- **Increased Community Engagement:** The Ad Hoc Committee enacted citywide, community-based advisory committees (Community Engagement Advisory Committee) and convened meetings throughout Los Angeles.
- **Institutionalized Collaboration and Increased Understanding of the Importance of Intervention with the Los Angeles Police Department**

Major Accomplishments

Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development

- The report highlights some of the Mayor's GRYD Office's major accomplishments which included
 - Collaborated to Create Accountability and Infrastructure
 - Policy Shift Toward Evidence-Based Practices
 - Collaborated to Further Professionalize the Field of Intervention

Major Accomplishments

Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development

- Additional accomplishments include:
 - Use of the Community-Based Gang Intervention Model
 - Summer Night Lights
 - Prevention, Intervention, and Re-Entry Programs Under a Single Structure

**"The one thread in all the reports
was creating a new department.
They may disagree on other
aspects, but this is the single
unifying thread."**

**- Jorja Leap,
Adjunct Professor
UCLA Department of Social Welfare
Daily News, 11/23/09**

Recommendations

1. Begin the Transition Process of All Gang Violence Reduction Services into an Existing or Newly-Formed City Department

- Currently, the GRYD Office selects the evaluation contractor. This oversight and evaluation should shift to the elected City Controller, the CAO, and/or the CLA, who reports to both the Mayor and City Council
- Begin discussions with the County Board of Supervisors and LAUSD to develop an “Independent Regional Youth Development Commission” that would create regional goals, objectives, and evaluations

Recommendations

2. Increase and Improve Collaboration with LAUSD, LA County, Juvenile Courts, and Other Local Government Agencies

- Establish MOU's and/or other agreements with the County of Los Angeles, LAUSD, and the Juvenile Courts to ensure that regional collaboration is occurring and that services are provided across jurisdictional boundaries
- Work with the County Probation Department and County Public Defender's Office to create confidentiality waivers allowing juveniles to be referred to rehabilitative services and to safeguard the emerging field of intervention

Recommendations

3. Increase and Improve Citywide Collaboration

- Develop a formal communication system between the GRYD Office, Council Offices, and City Departments
- Set up formal data-sharing protocols and amend current City funded service provider contracts to include MOUs between contracted agencies to increase referrals and collaboration

Recommendations

4. Increase and Improve Wrap-Around Services

- Develop a formal referral mechanism so the GRYD Office can begin tracking the number of successful referrals as well as placements into existing City programs and/or other community-based agencies
- Monitor and track the Mayor's Office and CDD's collaboration to ensure that youth deemed at-risk of joining gangs are provided with resources even if they do not pass the YSET Tool
- Citywide collaboration needs to improve

Recommendations

5. Improve Overall Programmatic Development and Implementation of the Mayor's Gang Reduction and Youth Development Office

- Amend the YSET to allow for more discretion to agencies and opportunities for youth to be served
- Institutionalize the concept of the Summer Night Lights program into the Department of Recreation and Parks
- Re-implement a Citywide "Safe Passage" Model

The following challenges provide an opportunity for all of us, the Mayor's Office, the City Council, and the community to work together to reduce violence and increase peace in every neighborhood in Los Angeles.

Structure of the GRYD Office

- **Accountability and Transparency**

Council can only request information or permission to audit GRYD's financial and/or programmatic decisions

- **Political Nature of GRYD**

Impediment to transparency

- **Areas Outside of GRZ's**

Addressing violence outside of GRYD Zones is drastically reduced due to limited resources

- **Administration**

Difficulty in administering contracts and delay in reports (high turnover rates, misunderstandings between GRYD and CAO / contractors)

Lack of Complete Wrap Around Services

Leads to countless individuals not getting services and missed opportunities to reduce violence

- **Need to Provide Services that Address Root Causes**
(Unemployment, Housing, Economic Distress, Poverty...)
- **Focus on Re-Entry Services**
- **Recognize the Overlap Between Domestic Violence and Gang Violence**
- **Provide Gender Specific Services**

Collaboration

The purpose and focus of collaboration is short of where it needs to be with the following entities:

1. City Council Offices
2. City Departments (CDD)
3. Contracted GRYD Agencies
4. Los Angeles Unified School District
5. Los Angeles County Agencies
(Probation Department)
6. Community Members

Youth Services Eligibility Tool

Prevention agencies use the YSET to determine which youth are most likely to join gangs and thus, qualify for GRYD prevention services.

- 1. Qualifications for services are too restrictive**
- 2. Over reliance on the tool and lack of discretion given to LAUSD and prevention agencies**
- 3. Almost half of all youth who have taken the YSET have not been provided services
(It appears that the County is not going to utilize the YSET in their own violence reduction efforts)**

Evaluation Design

- 1. Evaluation does not assess the effectiveness of the actual GRYD Office** or other youth development programs provided by City Departments that serve at-risk youth.
- 2. GRYD Zone Boundaries will not be Assessed for Relevancy.** Zones should be assessed to determine if they encompass a vast enough area of Los Angeles' hot spots to address the needs of community residents living outside of the zones.

**Today, we have more accountability and
transparency.**

**Today, we have a more comprehensive
approach to reducing gang violence.**

**But we have barely touched the surface.
The level of violence in our City is
unacceptable.**

We still have much more work to do.

Thank You