

RESOLUTION

Avis Ridley-Thomas

WHEREAS, Avis Ridley-Thomas, since its inception in 1989, has served as Director of the Dispute Resolution Program of the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney which specializes in mediation, violence prevention, cross-cultural relations and has provided consultation, training and support to institutions, businesses, organizations and communities throughout the Southern California region; and

WHEREAS, Avis Ridley-Thomas has also worked as a civilian Hearing Examiner for LAPD, an arbitrator for the National Futures Association and the Better Business Bureau, and served as Consumer Services Coordinator and Victim Witness Services Coordinator in the Office of the City Attorney; and

WHEREAS, Avis Ridley-Thomas chaired the California Advisory Committee on Sexual Assault Victim Services and the South Central Los Angeles Domestic Violence Task Force; helped establish the Rosa Parks Sexual Assault Crisis Center; and assisted in efforts to establish the Loved Ones of Homicide Victims and the Martin Luther King Dispute Resolution Center; and

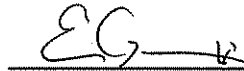
WHEREAS, Avis Ridley-Thomas has received many acknowledgements and accolades for her leadership and contributions towards the resolution of conflicts and her commitment to providing cross-cultural understanding and awareness from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Association of Black City Attorneys' *Unsung Hero Award 2011*, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund's *A Black Woman of Achievement 1998*, the Women's Studies Program of California State University at Northridge *Phenomenal Woman 1996*, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference *Rosa Parks Award 1995*, the Southern California Mediation Association *Healers of Conflict Award 1994* and along with her husband, Los Angeles County Second District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, the Jenesse Center's *Silver Rose Award 2010* and the Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles' *Angel of Peace Award 2003*; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Los Angeles City Council hereby congratulates and commends Avis Ridley-Thomas for her 30 years of exceptional achievements and dedication to improve the quality of life for all and extends best wishes for continued success in all of her future endeavors.

PRESENTED BY:

  
COUNCILMEMBER HERB J. WESSON, JR.  
10<sup>th</sup> Council District

SECONDED BY:

  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT ERIC GARCETTI  
13<sup>th</sup> Council District

ALL MEMBERS

**ADOPTED**

MAR 25 2011

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

R E S O L U T I O N



Gang Alternatives Program (GAP)

WHEREAS, the Gang Alternatives Program (GAP) was created in 1986 as the outgrowth of the work of the Harbor Youth Violence Reduction Roundtable, jointly sponsored by the United Way and the County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1980s, Los Angeles Police Department statistics showed the Harbor Area had a high level of gang activity and resulting crime—higher than virtually all other parts of the County. In 1986, the Round Table was convened to examine the gang problem, identify the causes of youth violence, and determine what local strategies could be developed to effectively address this problem. GAP was formed as a result of this meeting; and

WHEREAS, the original components were to have a classroom curriculum based on the Paramount, CA Gang Resistance Is Paramount (GRIP) model; a graffiti clean up service in the Harbor Area of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, originally the fifth grade was the target group for the program, but that was quickly changed to fourth grade when testing revealed too high an incidence of gang involvement already at the fifth grade level. For the first fifteen years, GAP kept to its two-pronged approach and stayed mainly in the Harbor Area, employing between three and seven employees; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the program began to expand. It also began to look at the broader gang prevention corpus of programs and research. As a result, GAP continuously adopted the program elements and best practices from around the country as evidenced in program evaluation and research; and

WHEREAS, the current components of the GAP program are: a school-based youth gang prevention curriculum for 2nd, 4th, and 6th grades; a court approved parent and teen education program; a graffiti prevention education program; an extensive graffiti abatement program; a bulky items pick up program; community beautification; youth job training and development; case management; after school programs; outreach and referral services, and the Gangfree Life®; and

WHEREAS, since 2000, GAP has grown from 7 to 83 employees. GAP now serves the LA Arts District, Baldwin Hills, Boyle Heights, Carson, Compton, Del Aire, El Monte, Gardena, Harbor City, Harbor Gateway, Hawaiian Gardens, La Rambla, Lennox, Lomita, Long Beach, Lynwood, San Pedro, South El Monte, South Gate, Watts, and Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, the Gangfree Life® and gangfree.org were launched in September, 2008. The goal was to create an online presence that could reach our current GAP communities and to extend The Gangfree Life® outside the classroom. Their purpose is to also educate community members, parents, and youths on the realities of gangs, and offer the gangfree experience to those out side our immediate service area:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this resolution the Los Angeles City Council does hereby congratulate Gang Alternatives Program (GAP) on the occasion of it's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and commends its dedication and commitment to keeping kids gangfree. Thank you for all you do.

Adopted: March 25, 2011

Presented by: Janice Hahn  
Janice Hahn

Seconded by: All members  
All members

**ADOPTED**

MAR 25 2011

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

ORIGINAL