

PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to gang activity in the West San Fernando Valley.

Recommendations for Council action:

1. NOTE and FILE Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) report to the Board of Police Commissioners dated March 15, 2017, relative to gang activity in the West San Fernando Valley.
2. REQUEST the LAPD and the Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) to report relative to the process and funds required to expand the Devonshire-Topanga GRYD Zone to include the West Valley Area or to create a new GRYD Zone for the West Valley Area.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the LAPD. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

In its report to the Board of Police Commissioners, LAPD states that there are approximately 16 active street gangs that claim territory west of the 405 Freeway, in the San Fernando Valley. These gangs engage in crime such as murder, assault with a deadly weapon / shootings, robbery, criminal threats, and extortion. Other criminal activities include narcotics sales, vandalism, vehicle theft, burglary/theft from motor vehicles, residential and commercial burglary, and more recently, identity theft and mail theft. According to LAPD, violent gang crime increased by 63% from 2014 to 2015 in the Devonshire, Topanga, and West Valley Areas. The violent gang crime rate in these areas held steady from 2015 to 2016.

At its meeting held April 24, 2017, the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee discussed this matter with representatives of the Mayor's GRYD Office and LAPD. Councilmember Blumenfield was in attendance to join the discussion. From 2014-2016, the crime rate decreased overall in the San Fernando Valley according to LAPD representatives. However, during this same period of time, crime increased in the West San Fernando Valley. One possible cause of the increase in crime is the implementation of Proposition 47 which resulted in the early release of convicted criminals back into the community. Committee members stated that budget savings realized by the State of California should have been passed down to local law enforcement and used to hire more parole officers.

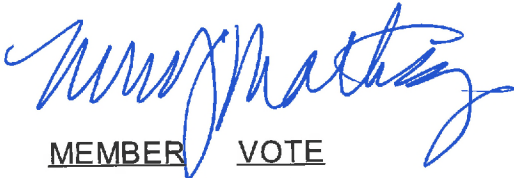
The GRYD representative stated that an increase in funding allowed the Topanga Canyon / Canoga Park GRYD to add more intervention services. The findings of a recent study found that GRYD program services prevent assaults and homicides and reduce gang membership. The determination to establish or expand a GRYD is based on crime and gang data, the impact of gangs on the community, and other observations.

Committee members went on to discuss LAPD's work with other nearby law enforcement

agencies and expanding the existing West Valley GRYD or adding a second GRYD for other West Valley Areas. Committee recommended that Council note and file the LAPD report and request the Mayor's GRYD Office and LAPD to report relative to the process and funds required to expand the Devonshire-Topanga GRYD Zone to include the West Valley Area or to create a new GRYD Zone for the West Valley Area.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC WORKS AND GANG REDUCTION COMMITTEE



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
BUSCAINO:	YES
MARTINEZ:	YES
PRICE:	YES
O'FARRELL:	ABSENT
RYU:	YES

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-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-