

FEB 06 2009

MOTION

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Community-Based Gang Intervention Model (Model) consisting of a two-prong approach to reducing gang violence in Los Angeles, was adopted by the City Council on February 13, 2008. The Model provides a framework for the provision of hard-core gang intervention services and other services necessary for gang violence reduction. The City recognizes that a successful effort for gang violence reduction would include the implementation of the Community-Based Gang Intervention Model embraced and adopted in concept, and in practice, by law enforcement and other City departments. Therefore, a common understanding and belief that the Community-Based Gang Intervention Model is the foundation for a sound gang reduction strategy is of utmost importance.

What is innovative and noteworthy about the Model is that it was developed by community members, including gang intervention and prevention experts with input from researchers, academics, and other government stakeholders. While the Model lays the foundation for a successful gang intervention strategy, it also provides a framework that can be adapted to individual commissions and departments that regularly interact with gang-involved youth and gang intervention workers.

In light of the progress and the potential to significantly enhance gang violence reduction efforts, the City should request the LAPD to work with the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners and the Ad Hoc Committee on Gang Violence and Youth Development in reviewing the recommended police commission policy regarding Community-Based Gang Intervention for the purposes of incorporating the Community-Based Gang Intervention Model into the LAPD's policy manual, practices, and training curriculum.

As the civilian head of the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners' primary mission is to ensure that the Department performs to its fullest potential in helping make the City of Los Angeles the safest major City in the nation. As such, developing a common region-wide definition and understanding of community-based gang intervention would provide further clarity and instruction on how community-based gang intervention compliments the integral work of the Los Angeles Police Department in maintaining peace and safety throughout our City.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Los Angeles Police Department to work in conjunction with the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners and the Ad Hoc Committee on Gang Violence and Youth Development in reviewing and adopting the recommended Police Commission policy regarding interacting between LAPD and gang interventionists.

PRESENTED BY Tony Cardenas
TONY CARDENAS
Councilmember, 6nd District

SECONDED BY Bernard A. ...

ORIGINAL

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RECOMMENDED LOS ANGELES BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS POLICY REGARDING COMMUNITY-BASED GANG INTERVENTION

For the purpose of this policy, community-based gang intervention work is defined as a *“two-prong approach that provides hardcore, specialized, street-based mediation and mitigation to stop or prevent violence between gangs and the concurrent redirection of individual gang members and their families in ways that bring progress to themselves and their communities.”* (Los Angeles City Council File: 07-0071-S6)

The Los Angeles Police Department recognizes the importance of and wholeheartedly supports community-based gang intervention programs as a legitimate and effective contribution to public safety and violence reduction. Community-based gang intervention shall be utilized as an alternative to arrest, detention, and prosecution of minor offenses.

The Department recognizes the need for community-based gang intervention work to be independent of law enforcement in order to ensure credibility in community-based efforts to reduce violence and maintain peace. Community-based gang intervention agencies and their employees are not to be solicited or used as informants or considered to be a civilian arm of law enforcement.

The Department recognizes the need for community-based gang intervention to be administered by qualified agencies with a proven track record of providing intervention services within their specific geographic area, employing trained personnel, and having clear standards of professionalism, accountability, and oversight as defined by City policy and regulations.

The Department acknowledges that community-based gang intervention works directly with gang involved youth, young adults, and families in order to effectively reduce gang violence. As such, effective community-based gang intervention reaches out to, connects with, and serves youth and adults who claim gang membership, have close friendships/association with current or former gang members, and/or have family members, especially parents/guardians or siblings, who are current or former gang members.

The Department understands that community-based gang intervention agencies provide referrals to needed services and resources for purposes of redirecting gang involved individuals towards positive and healthy lifestyle choices. As such, the Department shall encourage officers to exercise their official discretion when enforcing conditions of probation or parole pertaining to conditions of association or adherence to curfews where an activity or event is legitimately organized by a community-based gang intervention agency for the purposes of promoting peace and where an individual's behavior is school, employment, or religious-related. In these circumstances, community-based gang intervention agencies must properly notify the Department in advance of such activity, event, or individual behavior.

The Department will collaborate with community-based gang intervention workers in the promotion of peace and reduction of violence and crime. Such collaboration should be centered at the Division level and include, but not be limited to: establishing uniform protocols for interaction between the Department and community-based gang intervention agencies, regular communication aimed at increasing community peace, effective community grievance mechanisms, inclusion of community-based gang intervention in academy trainings and roll-calls, increased communication between community-based gang interventionists and Gang Impact Teams and lieutenants, and joint social or recreational community events designed to build positive relationships and communication.