Vice Chair Robinson called the special meeting of the Youth Development and Violence Prevention Committee to order at 6:05 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

Members Present: Bill Bogaard, Jean Burch (Arrived at 6:41 p.m.), Consuelo Rey Castro (Arrived at 6:11 p.m.), Renatta Cooper (Arrived at 6:28 p.m.), Jacquelynne Corby, Jarvis Emerson, Victor Gordo, Ed Honowitz, Tim Kelly, Anna Pembedjian, Tom Selinski (as alternate for Esteban Lizardo) (Arrived at 6:47 p.m.), Jeanette Mann, and Jacque Robinson

Members Absent: Steven Madison and Esteban Lizardo

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Member Kelly, seconded by Member Mann, to approve the minutes of November 1, 2007 and December 6, 2007 as submitted. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: Members Castro, Cooper, Lizardo, and Madison).

Member Robinson requested an amendment to the minutes of November 15, 2007 that reflected Mr. Tony Massengale’s suggestion to the Committee that the Amer-I-Can program be utilized when expanding the interventionist program.

It was the consensus of the Committee to continue the approval of the November 15, 2007 minutes to the next Committee meeting.

PRESENTATION BY PASADENA POLICE DEPARTMENT ON RECENT ACTIVITIES

It was agreed by consensus to hold the report from the Pasadena Police Department to the next Committee meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chair Robinson welcomed the audience, provided an overview of the Committee’s charge and the work to date, and invited speakers in attendance to provide public comment on issues related to violence in the community, the impact of violence on the individual’s personal life, and any potential solutions and assistance that may assist with the issue of violence.
The following individuals spoke on the positive impact of the Neighborhood Outreach Workers (NOW) program on the community and at-risk youths; provided testimonials regarding personal experiences related to violence in the community; discussed educational options available to youth in the Pasadena area, which included comments regarding local community colleges and trade schools; provided information regarding the lack of employment opportunities; and described the types of programs available, and/or programs that are needed, to assist those living within communities affected by violence:

- Hugh Alexander, Altadena resident
- Tyre Davenport, community member
- Tanashia Seeley, Pasadena resident and Rose City High School student
- Tiana Oliver, community member and Glendale College student
- Keona Williams, Pasadena resident and John Muir High School student
- Aaron Raeshawn Smith, community member and Rose City High School student
- Eli Wright, community member
- Barbara Waffer, Pasadena resident and Pasadena High School student
- Joshua J. Jacob, Pasadena High School graduate
- Dante O’Neal, Pasadena resident and Rose City High School student
- Darren Golden, community member
- Damon Knighten, Pasadena resident
- Kevin Thompson, Monrovia resident and John Muir High School student
- Fumi Gakore, Pasadena City College student
- Ashley Jones, Pasadena City College student
- LaRonda Little, community member
- Mark Cole, community member

Some of the issues discussed by the Committee and the public comment speakers included the following:

- The impact of being incarcerated and the lack of integration programs for parolees.
- The need for additional resources to assist youth/young adult, such as mentoring programs, job training and internships, educational guidance, and support for parents in raising children.
- The need for funding community and school-based programs, such as sports, music and art.
- The need to provide youth/young adults with the means of expressing and venting anger in a positive way.
- The need for additional resources that would make the NOW program available seven days a week.
- The ability of NOW workers to reach out and encourage at-risk youth who would be otherwise inaccessible to many other agencies.
• The attraction that individuals felt towards gang life and the lack of consistent resources, activities, and community-based programs that may have provided alternatives to the gang lifestyle. Other factors leading to gang participation included feelings of loneliness, disruptions in the home, not having access to positive role models and mentors, poor decision-making on the part of the individuals, and the attraction that came with access to quick money and fast living.

• Challenges and frustration of former gang members and parolees when dealing with certain Pasadena Police Officers and Altadena Sheriffs due to their past affiliations or criminal background.

• The gaps in service for intervention or prevention type programs and the need for better outreach to the youth/young adults and younger children in the community.

• The attraction of vocational training institutions when seeking a degree or employment training, the methods used by vocational training institutions that appear to target certain types of students, the lack of employment opportunities available to students following the completion of vocational training courses, and the financial hardships created by student loans that many vocational training students face upon completion of these types of programs.

• The need for better outreach and information from local community colleges, as well as the impact regarding the negative perception by local area youth and young adults in attending Pasadena City College (PCC).

Member Emerson stated that he would advise Assemblyman Portantino regarding the Committee’s concerns with vocational training schools identified by speakers, the marketing tactics of such programs, and the need for possible regulating legislation.

Member Mann stated that PCC is about to initiate a program called The Ambassador Program to assist students with completing admission forms and encouraged those interested to consider attending PCC.

Mr. Rudy Carrasco, Executive Director of Harambee Ministries Center, provided an overview of the services provided by the Harambee program, noted the gaps in service for the age groups of 18 years and older, and the difficulty of reaching certain “pockets” of youth in the community. He also noted the importance of having programs that are sustainable and not personality driven. Mr. Carrasco introduced Malcolm Haroway, Blair High School student, and Keith Pretter, Maranatha High School student, who are examples of successful participants in the Harambee program.

Following discussion, the Committee requested that Mr. Carrasco provide the Committee with the list of service gaps that he has identified in his statements.
Ms. Yvette McDowell, City Prosecutor and NOW Program Coordinator, and Mr. Ricky Pickens, NOW Co-Founder, provided an overview of the NOW program, responded to questions relating to funding and the need for additional resources needed to support NOW, and noted that the NOW program is structured to bring resources to the youth and young adults but it is up to the program participants to take advantage of the opportunity.

Omar Shamburger spoke on the need for coordinating a yearly event that would be dedicated to teaching cultural history to the community and its youth. Member Cooper offered to assist in developing such an event.

Jaron Williams, Neighbors Acting Together Helping All (NATHA) Program Youth Leadership Group Coordinator and graduate of John Muir High School, spoke on his experiences growing up in the community.

LaWanda Sanford, NOW Program, spoke of her family’s personal experiences and the impact that crime and violence has had with one of her sons being incarcerated.

Jason Sanford, Pasadena resident, spoke on his experiences growing up in Pasadena and his efforts to give back to the community through his basketball tour, “Balling for Peace”. He provided information regarding the next basketball performance scheduled at PCC on Saturday, December 22, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. in which he invited interested individuals to attend.

Jerron Johnson, a Marshall student, spoke of his perspective of violence in the City and his desire to refrain from gang activity.

Paul Scott Sr., Pasadena resident, spoke on the need for crime prevention and proper education, as well as providing community programs for at-risk youth that coincide with school activities.

Tim Rambo, Pasadena resident, sought support and financial resources for programs such as the Villa Parke Boxing program and placing General Education Development (GED) Certification Programs at every community center. He also spoke on the need for affordable housing, providing real job training programs, the need for a comprehensive placement of services including those addressing mental health issues, and encouraged members of NOW to participate in the Citizens Police Academy.

Reverend Sylvia Johnson expressed her concerns regarding issues in the community and provided a written statement to the Committee noting that the family component needs to be addressed in future action.

Following public comment, the Committee recognized and stated their appreciation to the Flintridge Foundation, Ms. Lisa Wilson, and Mr. Jamie Potter for providing the food for the meeting.
Each Committee member expressed appreciation for those in attendance and those that spoke on the topics of youth violence, noting it was the most valuable meeting and provided an opportunity to learn from those who are impacted and living in the community. The Committee invited the youth/young adults and the community to continue to participate in the process in order to assist the Committee in their charge.

The Committee also thanked Mr. Pickens, Ms. Yvette McDowell, and Mr. Horace Wormley for their powerful work in the community with the youth/young adults through the NOW program.

Member Cooper indicated her support for future meetings in locations that are more convenient for community members.

Member Corby stated that Senator Scott’s office would look into the concerns regarding private institutions and trade school recruiting methods.

Member Selenski suggested that the information provided to the Committee should be forwarded to the respective governing/appointing bodies in order to gain support for programs that provide job training, identifying existing service gaps, emphasize the need for inter-agency and inter-governmental linking of resources, and create opportunities and programs that provide early counseling, more sports, music/art, adult education and ROP opportunities.

**REPORTS FROM ELECTED BODY REPRESENTATIVES RELATED TO THEIR REPORTS ON THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION TO THEIR AUTHORITATIVE BODIES**

It was agreed by consensus to hold this item to the next Committee meeting.

**DISCUSSION OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES’ “BEYOND CITY LIMITS – CROSS-SYSTEM COLLABORATION TO REENGAGE DISCONNECTED YOUTH”**

It was agreed by consensus to hold this item to the next Committee meeting.

**CONSIDERATION OF CHANGING THE COMMITTEE’S REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE FROM TWICE A MONTH TO MONTHLY MEETINGS, WITH SPECIAL MEETINGS AS NEEDED**

Ms. Pope Givens reported that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Probation Department, the County Mental Health Department and the Department of Children and Family Services have responded to the letters from the Committee. She introduced Lieutenant Cheryl Newman from the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department, who will be attending future meetings on behalf of Sheriff Lee Baca, to assist
in the issue of violence in the Pasadena/Altadena communities. Ms. Givens also introduced Mr. Lyn Tower of the Los Angeles Mental Health Department and Ms. Maria Franco of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, noting they have all made a commitment to be available to assist with the work of the Committee.

Following discussion, it was moved by Vice Chair Robinson, seconded by Member Gordo, to cancel the January 3, 2008 meeting and meet on January 17, 2008 with the location to be determined. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: Member Madison).

Member Kelly requested that an advanced copy of the Probation Department Report, which is scheduled to be agendized for the January 17, 2008 meeting, be distributed to the Committee in advance to allow for study and review.

Member Gordo noted it would be helpful to ask our state representatives to speak to the state legislative offices with regards to some of the questions and issues that were raised regarding private vocational training institutions and how they are regulated and to have a written report on the status of any proposed legislation.

Member Emerson indicated he would provide as much information as possible by the January 2008 meeting.

In response to Member Honowitz’s request for a staff report on the NOW program in order to get data on the funding sources, the number of people involved, and any future plans the City may have to work with the program, Mr. Pickens and Ms. McDowell noted they would be prepared to present the information by the January 2008 meeting.

Vice Chair Robinson indicated she would obtain information on the Harambee and NATHA programs for the Committee’s packets.

Vice Chair Robinson reported on a coalition known as the Pasadena Peace Building Coalition, which is in the process of applying for the Governor’s Cal Grip Grant and will work together with the NOW program, as well as look into expanding gang intervention programs throughout the Pasadena/Altadena area. She noted that an answer should be received by the end of January 2008 regarding whether or not the grant was approved.

Member Pembedjian asked the Committee to consider moving the regular time of the meeting to 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.

The Chair stated the Committee could take it under advisement and include it in the structuring of future meetings. He wished everyone a happy holiday and asked that the Committee commit themselves to the issues that have been discussed in the year 2008.
ADJOURNMENT

On the order of the Chair, the regular meeting of the Committee adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Bill Bogaard, Chair
Youth Development and Violence Prevention Committee

Beverly Bogar, Recording Secretary