

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL **DATE:** November 16, 2009
FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: FINAL REPORT FROM CITY COUNCIL YOUTH, FAMILIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS AD HOC COMMITTEE

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1) Receive the final report from the City Council Youth, Families and Neighborhoods ad hoc committee consisting of the Gap Analysis and Recommendations prepared by Harder and Company;
- 2) Direct staff to pursue and return to the Public Safety Committee within 120 days with a report on the potential for an existing nonprofit entity to serve as the community-based institutional home and convener of organizations directly addressing community violence, as recommended in the Gap Analysis report.

Background:

On April 7, 2008 the City Council approved the creation of the Youth, Families and Neighborhoods ad hoc committee. Building on the efforts of the multi-jurisdictional Committee on Youth Development and Violence Prevention, the purpose of the Youth, Families and Neighborhoods ad hoc committee was to prepare a set of recommendations that will promote sustainable community-wide policy and infrastructure that support a safe, healthy and nurturing community where youth and young adults can develop and thrive.

Recognizing the broad initiative before it, the Committee narrowed its focus to emergent and young adults between the ages of 17 and 25; the age group that was particularly involved in the spike in crime and violence that gave rise to this effort. The Committee sought to focus attention in the areas of:

- Community Violence Intervention and Prevention (as related to gangs)
- Public and Mental Health
- Positive Parenting and Family Strengthening
- Youth and Young Adult Employment

Recognizing that Pasadena is a service-rich community the Committee engaged a qualified consultant, Harder and Company, to undertake an inventory of current youth/young adult services, identify gaps in those services, and provide recommendations for strategic initiatives to resolve gaps in service.

Based on their analysis, the Harder and Company report (Attachment A) makes six recommendations:

1. The City Council should continue to supply leadership for policy, funding and accountability for an ongoing Pasadena youth and young adult violence prevention initiative.
2. The City Council should support a community-based institutional home for the nonviolence initiative, with strong ties to Pasadena government and to grassroots organizations.
3. The City Council should continue to build the capacity of government and community programs to address issues of violence for the targeted age group.
4. The City Council should encourage the lead agency, with paid staff, to establish a working collaborative among programs and institutions involved in the violence reduction initiative.
5. The City Council should ensure that the City government is represented on the initiative collaborative to help the lead agency and collaborative articulate coordinated roles for government, nonprofit services and the private sector.
6. The City Council should ensure that benchmarks for initiative results are realistic for 2, 5 and 10-year timelines.

The City Council continues to provide leadership in the provision of services for youth and young adults including those aimed at violence prevention. One prime example which was called out in the report is the funding of the Neighborhood Outreach Workers (NOW) program.

It is appropriate to note a few updates since the time Harder and Company conducted its analysis, including upcoming projects that address identified gaps.

- The NOW program contract with Western Justice Center Foundation concluded on June 30, 2009. Since that time, NOW has been reconfigured and currently operates on a smaller scale under the City's Human Services and Recreation Department while additional funding is being pursued.
- Building rehabilitation funding has been secured and efforts are underway to create a new Teen Center at the former Omuwale Community School site adjacent to La Pintoresca Park.
- Vision 20/20 continues to develop with leadership from the Flintridge Foundation, including finalizing and implementing a new training institute for direct service providers working in the field of violence prevention and intervention.
- Between Summer ROSE and the Foothill Workforce Investment Board summer youth employment programs, more than 300 Pasadena youth ages 16 to 24 worked an average of 150 hours in a wide range of public and private settings over Summer 2009.

Three of the remaining five recommendations concern the establishment of a lead agency, preferably an existing nonprofit, to serve as the community-based institutional home and convener of organizations directly addressing community violence.

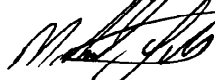
Staff believes these recommendations should be pursued further and to this end recommends that within 120 days a report be made to the Public Safety Committee regarding the potential of an existing nonprofit entity to serve in this capacity and to identify any related costs.

Finally, although the City's financial challenges are significant, as departments continue work plans in the current fiscal year and begin planning for next year, attention will be given to those services dedicated to children and youth, with particular attention towards those services focused towards the 17- to 25-year-old age group.

Fiscal Impact:

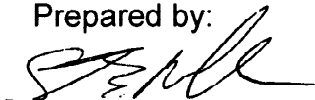
There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation. Should the staff recommendation be approved any associated costs will be reported to the Public Safety Committee within 120 days.

Respectfully submitted,



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City Manager

Prepared by:



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Concurred:



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