



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: August 19, 2008
Placement: Set Hearing September
2nd, 2008
Estimated Tme: 10 minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer
Director
Contact Info: Sharon Friedrichsen, 568-3107
SUBJECT: Consider and Adopt the Response to the Grand Jury Report on “Anti-Gang efforts in the City of Santa Barbara”.

Recommended Actions: That the Board of Supervisors:

Set a hearing to consider the response to the Civil Grand Jury report entitled “Anti-Gang Efforts in the City of Santa Barbara”.

- a) Adopt the responses as the Board of Supervisors' responses to the 2007-08 Grand Jury Report entitled “Anti-Gang Efforts in the City of Santa Barbara”, and
- b) Authorize the Chair to sign the letter forwarding the responses to the Presiding Judge

Summary Text:

On June 12, 2008, the Civil Grand Jury released a report entitled “Anti-Gang Efforts in the City of Santa Barbara”. The report includes one findings and one recommendation. The Probation Department is named as the responder to finding 5 and recommendation 5.

It is recommended that the Board agree with finding 5. It is also recommended that the Board determine that recommendation 5 has been partially implemented and will be fully implemented within 120 – 180 days.

Background:

The Grand Jury Report was released on June 12, 2008. In accordance with California Penal Code Section 933(b), the governing body of the agency (Board of Supervisors) must respond within 90 days after issuance of the report. Consequently, the Board of Supervisors' responses must be finalized and transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court no later than September 9, 2008.

The Department's efforts to intervene in the anti-gang efforts in the City of Santa Barbara and elsewhere on the South Coast involve both financial and in-kind contributions. Probation Department management and supervisory staff participate and collaborate in the City of Santa Barbara Short Term Strategy Steering Committee on Youth Violence, the City of Santa Barbara Long Term Strategy Steering Committee on Youth Violence, the Santa Barbara Fighting Back Task Force, La Casa de La Raza/UCSB task force, Community Collaborative Foundation meetings/events, South Coast Restorative Justice efforts, the Meth Task Force, the United Way Power of Partnership Initiative (POPI), and regularly scheduled gang intelligence meetings with South Coast law enforcement and school officials.

Additionally, the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, supported by the Probation Department, allocates funding to provide services, including mentoring for juvenile offenders with the Community Action Commission (CAC) Los Compadres gang intervention program and counseling with the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act funds support two School Based Probation Officers and one Early Intervention Probation Officer on the South Coast.

The new Youth Offender Block Grant (YOBG) funds provide the salaries of one Senior Deputy Probation Officer and one Community Transition Officer to engage, supervise, and intervene with the highest at risk juvenile offenders on the South Coast. A snapshot on July 15, 2008 shows that Probation Officers currently supervise 177 South Coast juvenile offenders who have gang terms and conditions with field visits, drug testing, and case assessment and management services. Probation Officers also refer gang members to programming for substance abuse, anger management, mental health, and mentoring in accordance with developed care plans.

In FY 2007-08, the Probation Department has implemented the Alternative Detention Program (ADP) at 4500 Hollister Avenue, which has expanded the interventions available to Probation Officers for holding minors accountable for their actions while simultaneously improving their education and diverting them from juvenile detention.

In addition to the traditional mentoring services offered in the community by outside organizations, Probation staff provides a quasi-mentor role during their day-to-day interaction with probation clients. This interaction occurs at locations and programs such as at the Counseling and Education Centers (CEC), and the Los Prietos Camp. Other opportunities include the culinary and vocational tech programs at Camp, motivational interviewing at the therapeutic justice courts and contacts made during home/field visits. Probation staff are frequently the only positive, constant, and motivating factor in a probationer's life.

The Department also has numerous trained active volunteers within the institutions. These volunteers give countless hours to the youth, including volunteering in the Alternative Detention Programs. These individuals are positive role models who encourage, guide and support.

The Community Action Commission's Los Compadres program is currently funded with Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act monies by the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, through the Probation Department. The Los Compadres program facilitates groups for juveniles at risk for or

participating in gang behavior at the Camp programs and in the community. The group, a maximum of 10 boys, is 10 weeks in length and is a closed group. Given the length and substance of the curriculum, relationships are formed and given the variety of services provided by CAC within the community, these boys often times maintain these contacts even after leaving Camp.

Las Comadres also facilitates groups for females at the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH). Given the transitory nature of this population, the groups are open. Through the YOBG grant, Probation will fund three Los Compadres staff in each region of the county. These staff will work with 45-60 at-risk youth countywide (15-20 per staff). YOBG will also fund three Probation Officers. This YOBG team, including Mental Health therapist and parents, will bring support, stability, accountability, and motivation to these youth.

The School Based Officers influence not only the youth on their caseloads, but interact and guide dozens of youth on campuses throughout the county on a daily basis. Additionally, as appropriate, Probation Officers refer to any one of the agencies listed below

- Y Strive for Youth, Inc.
- Community Action Commission Los Compadres / Las Comadres
- All-For-One Youth Mentoring
- Santa Barbara Fighting Back School Based mentor program
- Franklin Neighborhood Center Advisory Committee
- Santa Barbara Police Activities League
- FSA Big Brothers, Big Sisters
- Arts Mentorship Program
- Community Mediation Program of Santa Barbara County
- Boys and Girls Club of Santa Barbara

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: There are no fiscal or facilities impacts from the proposed recommendations.

The cost of implementing the response to the Grand Jury's finding is included in the Probation Department's FY 2008-09 Budget.

The FY 2008-09 Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) funding is being used to finance Juvenile Institutions Officers (JIO's) deployed as Community Transition Officers (CTO's) assigned to work countywide with pre and post Camp graduates. There will be an additional three YOBG enhanced officers deployed. These staff will assess and identify youth requesting mentors or youth who could benefit from mentors services and refer them to existing resources from Community Based Organizations. CBO's.

The pending enhancements to the Probations Departments website will provide a link to information on volunteer opportunities, including mentoring. Outreach will so be made by the Department to local

civic and service organizations to invite their members to participate in and positively influence the lives of youthful offenders.

Special Instructions:

The response of the Board of Supervisors must be transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court no later than September 9, 2008. The Clerk of the Board is requested to return the signed letter to Brenda Castillo, County Executive Office, for distribution to the Superior Court. The signed letter, written responses and a 3 ½” computer disc with the response in a Microsoft Word file must be forwarded to the Grand Jury.

Attachments: *

1. Letter to the Superior Court Judge with Board of Supervisors Responses
2. Grand Jury Report entitled “Anti-Gang Efforts in the city of Santa Barbara”

Authored by:

Richard Morgantini, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, County Executive Office, 568-3551.

cc:

Patti Stewart, Chief Probation Officer