

DATE: January 31, 2008

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Jim Armstrong, City Administrator

SUBJECT: WORKSESSION ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

As you know, we convened key members of our community in a worksession this morning aimed at improving coordination and collaboration of our various activities and program to reduce youth violence. The purpose of this memorandum is to share with you the results of that worksession. Attached are the following:

- The list of people who attended the worksession;
- Copies of slides from the PowerPoint presentation made to the group;
- The notes, taken by our staff, of the comments made by the participants; and
- A copy of the News Release that we have issued this afternoon.

In our opinion, this worksession was a necessary and important first step. The participants appreciated that we convened the meeting as they too have been struggling with the same challenge. As a result they came with good energy, wanting to work together to address the needs of at-risk youth and their families. The participants were also appreciative that this was a closed meeting without the media. As a result, they were able to engage in an honest and frank discussion about how the community can better deal with the complex issues of youth violence.

Based on the consensus reached at this worksession we will be pursuing the following next steps:

- We will form and then convene a core group of youth and family service providers, education institutions and community foundations to begin the process to develop a strategic plan to comprehensively address youth violence issues;
- We will also be engaged with others to produce a comprehensive directory of youth and family service providers;
- We will looking to support the continuation of successful programs and activities that are currently serving our at-risk youth; and
- We will be looking to reduce bureaucracy when working together with other agencies or non-profits.

We will also be reporting to and seeking direction from the Council as we proceed. In addition, a more thorough briefing by our staff and School District staff will be part of the Joint Meeting of the School Board and City Council

scheduled for February 29th. In the interim, feel free to contact Don Olson or me if you need additional information.

Attachments: Invitee List
 PowerPoint Presentation
 Worksession Notes
 News Release

CC: Camerino Sanchez, Police Chief
 Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Department Director
 Marcelo A. López, Administrative Services Director
 Don Olson, City Special Projects Manager
 Nina Johnson, Assistant to City Administrator