



## NEWS RELEASE

**City of Santa Barbara**  
City Administrator

Contact: Don Olson  
Phone: 805-564-5312  
Fax: 805-897-1993  
[DOlson@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:DOlson@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
6/17/2008

### **COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS CALL FOR STRATEGIC PLAN TO END YOUTH VIOLENCE**

**SANTA BARBARA, CA – 6/17/2008** – On January 31, 2008, the City of Santa Barbara convened a stakeholder meeting to identify ways to improve communication, coordination and collaboration on youth violence issues. “I’m pleased that we had an energetic and candid dialogue among community representatives that are working on youth issues,” said Jim Armstrong, Santa Barbara City Administrator.

Forty representatives representing youth and family service providers, community foundations, and government agencies attended the meeting. A list of agencies represented is attached.

The stakeholder group agreed that:

- The City of Santa Barbara will convene a group of community leaders to prepare a strategic plan to comprehensively address youth violence issues. Community leaders will include representatives from youth and family service providers, education institutions, and community foundations;
- A comprehensive directory of youth and family service providers would be made available to improve services; and
- Service providers and government agencies would take steps to reduce bureaucracy when working together to assist at risk youth.

The group engaged in a thoughtful discussion on the various causes of youth violence, the need to break down bureaucratic barriers to meet youth and family needs, and how to build on the existing programs, services, and lessons learned from previous collaborative efforts.

Frank Banales, Executive Director of the Zona Seca, explained to the group “that it was important not to leave out any of the few service providers that work directly with high-risk kids to help prepare the strategic plan.”

Ben Romo from the Santa Barbara County Education Office reflected that “the approach and facilitation provided by the City today inspired the confidence necessary for local agencies and nonprofits to work toward the creation of a comprehensive strategic plan with the City as one of the partners and supporters of that effort.”

Sharing in the positive dialogue, Babatunde Fodayemi, former Pro-Youth Coalition Executive Director and current Collaborative Communities Foundation Associate, said that “when Santa Barbara comes together, we have the power to make changes.”

For more information about next steps to begin the strategic planning process with community agencies, contact Don Olson, City Special Projects Manager, at 564-5312.

## AGENCIES REPRESENTED IN YOUTH VIOLENCE WORKSHOP

All for One  
Boys and Girls Club  
City of Santa Barbara  
Community Action Commission  
Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse  
County Probation Department  
El Puente Community School/Santa Barbara, SBCEO  
Family Services Agency  
Fighting Back  
Housing Authority  
Hutton Foundation  
JS Bower Foundation  
Just Communities  
Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission  
La Casa de la Raza  
Orfalea Foundations  
Santa Barbara City College  
Santa Barbara County Education  
Santa Barbara County Sheriff  
Santa Barbara Foundation  
Santa Barbara School Districts  
Santa Barbara County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Department  
Superior Court of California  
United Way  
YMCA  
Zona Seca

###