

Mayor's Task Force Meeting Notes
Minami Community Center | July 17, 2017

Call to Order: Councilmember Mike Cordero

Attendees: (see sign-in sheet)

1. Status of the Objectives and Overview of the Next Three Months

- **Councilman Cordero:** The task force is three months into developing the plan. The objectives for the six-month project included community forums which have wrapped up. Mr. Olivares invited the Committee to suggest a change in course of action if needed for the remaining three months. He invited the Committee to think about community input ideas and how they may relate to a budget. He also stressed constant communication with clients and the community—an important part of the process.
- The first two objectives are completed, and data-gathering is underway, according to Mr. Stillwell.

2. Public Comment

- **Joana Barrera:** Present to hear what the task force has been working on. She is interested in how the Committee will spend funding, especially towards youth programs and connecting youth to their families. She believes it is important for the sitting community leaders to outreach to the community and gain input so as to not reinvent the wheel moving forward.
- **Gale McNeeley:** Thanked the Committee for its work and commitment. He wants direct community involvement. Would like to see One Community Action with a seat at the table. Stakeholders should have a seat at the table, including One Community Action and the parents of the victims. Youth should be a part of the Committee; Central Coast Future Leaders membership includes youth from all over the city and have been trained and in leadership. He wants to see youth from every neighborhood on the Committee. Mayor Patino said the 20 murders could not have been prevented. However, youth were a resource not called upon, the murders could've been prevented because youth (at Buena Vista Park) knew what the violence was about and who was killing whom. Had open communication with the Northwest and West Park gangs been established, the violence could've been prevented. A Committee on youth violence with youth participation might be the best outlet for solutions, and open community input is necessary for ending the violence.
- **Abraham Melendrez:** Representing CAUSE, and praised Gale's words. Acknowledges that the Committee is made up of effective players that belong at the table, but youth and parents should also be at the table, along with indigenous communities and organizations like Central Coast Future Leaders. He asks the Committee, not the Mayor and staff, to consider outreaching, and including parents and youth at the table.
- **Raye Fleming:** Represents a program called Liberty Tattoo Removal. Would like to collaborate with the Committee on tattoo removal (she

collaborates with Probation Department). She may be reached at (805) 554-2498 extension 11.

- **Arnulfo Romero:** Mr. Romero spoke in Spanish, hence the italicized translation.

“Good afternoon, my name is Arnulfo Romero. I am here to speak about this Committee—Mr. Haydon said to the media that One Community Action was not invited to sit as part of the Committee due to a lack of experience in dealing with drugs and youth. An interesting claim, considering the representative from St. John Neumann sits on the Committee representing himself and not the St. John Neumann Church according to the priest. There is something weird about this Committee, and that is not right. One Community Action created a survey that I leave with you now, we had a meeting where The Sun publication and Channel 12 News were invited neither showed, as you can see nobody cares to listen to us. Mr. Haydon, why did you say that we do not represent the community? You were a part of the One Community Action meetings, you know what we are about. Mr. Olivares, here is the survey for you and the Mayor, Mr. Lavagnino, and Teresa Reyburn of which none are present. This Committee is said to be growing, but it looks like it is quite the opposite. It is incredible to see that the Mayor, Supervisor Lavagnino, and Teresa Reyburn (key players of the Committee) are not present today. I am noticing that there is no prioritizing of the Latinos. One Community Action will no longer be a part of this Committee, we will solely work to research and get community input and relay it to the agencies that care for the information we gather. Our community speaks Spanish, where are the Spanish-speakers on this Committee? Regardless, I thank you for allowing me to speak without cutting me off at the three-minute mark like Mayor Patino tends to do when she is present. We want to help and support, we will continue to hold meetings and gather community input and relay it to you because we want what’s best for OUR community. Thank you.”

- **Ernesto Olivares:** Reaffirmed that community input is important to curbing youth violence, and it is important to bring many community agencies to tackle this issue not only law enforcement (law enforcement is a partner to finding a solution, not the solution). The plan will be actionable and not something that will be kept on a shelf gathering dust. This project is a process, the community does have to be involved, but imagine the size of the table if everyone was sitting on it. Nobody in this room is an expert on violence prevention, but we’re all contributing a piece to that violence prevention. This is about the kids, about a safer and brighter future for youth.
- **Councilmember Cordero:** I see the Sheriff and the Superintendent—the people sitting at the table are the people that can deliver—the high-level managers and decision-makers who do not have to go back and get permission to execute policy and provide resources. These are the people we want at the table.

- **Rick Haydon:** The reason why this Committee was formulated was because the Mayor and the City Council wanted agencies represented that have a history of working with at-risk youth. The Mayor and the Outreach Coordinator have been going to the community and speaking to youth, at-risk youth, and even youth from the Boys Camp. To answer Miss Joana's question, the City has spent \$416,000 on youth-related programs not including staff time (Abel Maldonado Community Youth Center, Safe and Strong sites, ASES). The City Council has authorized additional youth sports for this fiscal year and a gang-resistance educational police officer for the elementary schools. The Santa Maria Police Department did have open lines of communication with Northwest and West Park to attempt to gain intelligence and mitigate the violence.
3. **Technical Committee Designees** – The technical committee is the operation team that is doing the work in the community (boots on the ground).
 - **Appointment** – Appoint staff who will have contact with youth and can better analyze and assess what they observe, and how to interact with them. Invite first responders.
 - **Roles** – Examine internal policies to see if things can be done more effectively within respective agencies.
 - **Responsibilities** – Appointed staff must demonstrate confidentiality and trust to handle sensitive issues and build relationships with clients so as to make referrals. Required to attend technical committee meetings.
 - **MOU**
 - **Meeting Format**
 - **Link to Advisory Committee**
 4. **Community Forums Overview**
 - Responses from community forums were categorized into the following categories: keeping youth safe, programs, after-school activities, concerns, making a difference, and identifying the gaps. Mr. Olivares asked for the Committee's input in preparation for the August Retreat.
 - 5 Community Forums, 6 Youth Outreach Activities
 5. **August Retreat – August 14, 2017**
 - The August Retreat will be taking place on Monday, August 14th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Minami Community Center, located at 600 West Enos Drive. There will be breakout sessions, members of the public may attend certain breakouts. The Committee will discuss the ideas from the community forums, analyze the responses, and brainstorm solutions for the plan.
 6. **Future Meeting Schedule**
 - Monday, August 14th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Minami Center.
 - Monday, September 18th at 1:30 p.m. (location TBD).
 - Monday, October 16th at 1:30 p.m. (location TBD).
 7. **Report from the Agencies and Data Sharing**
 - Lt. Cohen talked about the importance of data-sharing. He thanked the agencies that have already sent data, and right now the Santa Maria Police Department is working on sifting through the data and organizing it.

- The Probation Department categorized probation by zip code, and the Northwest Quadrant probation cases is equal to the other zip codes combined.
- In the last 18 months, the City Attorney's Office has issued 5,500 citations for various violations, Lt. Cohen's team will sort out the relevant citations for mapping them out.
- Lt. Cohen asked agencies to share data by August 7th if they could to have some tangible numbers for the August 14th retreat.