

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:
September 15, 2005
9:30 A.M.

To: Board of Supervisors

From: County Executive's Office

Subject: REPORT BACK – Provide Recommendation For Systemic Approach To Gang Problems/Needs In Various Agencies

Contact: AnnMarie Boylan, Sr. Administrative Analyst (874-4627)

Overview

During the September 7, 2005 Final Budget Hearings Session, the County Executive's Office was asked to provide a recommendation for a systemic approach to the gang problems/needs discussed by the Sheriff's Department, Probation Department and District Attorney's Office.

Recommendation

Approve the County Executive's recommendation to immediately refer this issue of a systemic approach to the gang problems in our community to the Criminal Justice Cabinet and ask that they report back to your Board within sixty days with a recommended coordinated response strategy which recognizes the anticipated impacts to the various stakeholders in the criminal justice system specifically: the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney's Office, Probation Department, as well as the Public Defender's Office.

Measures/Evaluation

Not applicable.

Fiscal Impact

This report back addresses the policy issue regarding gang activity and the need for a coordinated response and allocation of our limited resources. This recommendation utilizes existing resources and can be implemented without additional financial impact.

BACKGROUND:

During the September 7, 2005 Final Budget Hearings Session, the Sheriff's department gave a presentation discussing the increase in gang activity with particular emphasis on the increase of gang activity in the Central Division. The Sheriff's presentation discussed the impact of the recent increase in officers assigned to gang detail by the City of Sacramento. This crackdown and increased police presence by the City has had the unintended consequence of pushing gang activity out into the unincorporated areas. The Sheriff requested an additional 10.0 officers for a

High Impact Motor Unit which would be deployed initially to the Central Division to augment existing resources in an attempt to curb the recent escalation in gang activity.

Subsequent testimony by the District Attorney spoke to the possible impacts of an increased Sheriff's presence in this area. District Attorney Scully pointed to the system-wide impact of such a unit and the increase in cases for the District Attorney's office and supervision cases for the Probation Department. Ms. Scully asked that the request be addressed by the Board in a holistic, systemic way that would address the needs of all the law enforcement partners: Sheriff, District Attorney, and Probation. The Chief Probation Officer, Verne Speirs, also subsequently requested 2.0 additional probation officers to address the increasing gang problem in the County.

DISCUSSION:

The testimony provided by the Sheriff's Department points to a significant and dangerous increase in the prevalence of gang activity, with specific emphasis on the Central Division. The testimony provided specific examples of how the violence perpetrated by these gang members is both blatant and indiscriminate and could easily hurt or kill an innocent bystander. With that in mind this is a significant issue and is definitely an issue to be addressed in a serious manner.

The subsequent testimony provided by the District Attorney raised some significant points that need to be addressed by all of the participating agencies. The County Executive's Office agrees and believes that in order to properly address this problem a coordinated effort must be developed by all members of the law enforcement system specifically: the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney, Public Defender and Probation. Any increased presence in law enforcement will impact all of the other resources in these other agencies and a coordinated response is necessary in order to adequately plan and respond to this activity.

The Criminal Justice Cabinet was formed in 1992 to provide a forum for addressing criminal justice issues and policies on a coordinated basis. With representatives from the Court, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation, law enforcement (both Sacramento City Police Department and the Sheriff's Department) as well as local cities and social service agencies, the Cabinet is composed of the principal members of the entire criminal justice community. The Cabinet meets on a monthly basis and its membership on this Cabinet is taken seriously and not typically delegated. These meetings are attended regularly by the District Attorney, Chief of Probation and other key stakeholders. The Cabinet is chaired by the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court. Involving the Criminal Justice Cabinet in this analysis/discussion will have the added benefit of involving the City of Sacramento Police Department, a major stakeholder in our community's efforts to address the gang problem.

It is the recommendation of the County Executive that the issue of developing a systemic response to the gang problem be immediately referred to the Criminal Justice Cabinet with a request that the Cabinet report back in sixty days with a recommendation of an approach to the increased gang presence that both addresses the problem in a coordinated manner and also recognizes the systemic impacts of the proposal. We believe that recommending the determination of a systemic approach to the gang problem to the Criminal Justice Cabinet is the appropriate course of action when dealing with a serious problem that impacts all facets of the

criminal justice system. This type of policy issue is exactly the type of issue that should be addressed by the Cabinet. Any recommendations as to a response and related funding should come from a coordinated planning effort with the opportunity for all parties to participate. With the Board's approval, a letter will be sent from the County Executive's Office to the Chair of the Cabinet asking for their prompt attention to this matter with the offer to provide any support necessary to assist them in development of their recommendations.

MEASURES/EVALUATION:

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS:

This report back addresses the policy issue regarding gang activity and the need for a systemic coordinated response. This recommendation utilizes existing resources and can be implemented without additional financial impact.

Respectfully submitted:

APPROVED:

GEOFFREY B. DAVEY
Chief Financial/Operations Officer

TERRY SCHUTTEN
County Executive