Los Angeles City Council’s Ad Hoc Committee on Gang Violence and Youth Development
Community Engagement Advisory Committee’s
“Community-Based Gang Intervention Model: Definition and Structure”

Compiled by the City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission and
prepared by and agreed upon by the Los Angeles Archdiocese Office of Restorative Justice,
Cease Fire Committee, City of Los Angeles Commission on the Status of Women, Communities in Schools,
Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission,
Divine Forces Media, Girls and Gangs, H.E.L.P.E.R. Alliance, Homies Unidos, Maximum Force Enterprises,
Pat Brown Institute, SEA-Gang Intervention, Sin Fronteras, Sunrise Outreach Center,
Tia Chucha’s Centro Cultural, Toberman Settlement House, Unity One, Venice 2000, Watts Gang Task Force,
Youth Justice Coalition, and former State Senator Tom Hayden.
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Los Angeles City Council’s Ad Hoc Committee on Gang Violence and Youth Development

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Community Engagement Advisory Committee

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Gang Intervention Definition

Gang Intervention is a two-pronged approach that provides hardcore, specialized, street-based mediation and mitigation to stop or prevent violence between gangs and the concurrent redirection of individual gang members and their families in ways that bring progress to themselves and their communities.

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The above-mentioned services are in no particular order and are conducted within the community and in the juvenile halls, camps, youth authority facilities, county jails, and state prisons.
I. OVERVIEW

The Community-Based Gang Intervention Model provides a flexible infrastructure and blueprint for adequately understanding gang intervention and creating the appropriate mechanisms and systems to support and grow the field of gang intervention.

The goal of community-based gang intervention is to reduce violence and restore justice. This work places gang interventionist specialists in the public safety arena with the specific objective of reducing and stopping gang-related and gang-motivated violence and crime. Community-based gang intervention requires ongoing attention and maintenance by skilled intervention specialists who have a personal understanding of gang life from the inside out and therefore have the greatest likelihood for gaining trust and confidence from active and former gang members. Law enforcement plays a critical role in any community-driven plan, however, community-based gang intervention must not be law enforcement driven. Gang membership and gang violence are symptoms of larger societal and community conditions. Therefore, our systemic and programmatic response must be aimed not simply at the symptoms, but toward providing communities with all the gang-responsive and gang-specific individual and family support services needed for individuals and their families to remain and thrive in their neighborhoods.

II. COMMUNITY-BASED GANG INTERVENTION MODEL EXPLANATION

Community-based gang intervention is comprised of a variety of activities that focus on and engage active gang members, their close associates, and gang members in and returning from confinement.

Hardcore, Specialized, Street and Detention/Prison-Based Services
Community-based gang intervention involves proactive responses to gang activities on several levels: 1) the regional level to promote and coordinate peace truces and/or ceasefires between groups, 2) the neighborhood/street level with active gang members individually, and 3) within the community and the juvenile halls, camps, youth authority facilities, county jails, and state prisons. On the group level, intervention work engages gangs and/or gang leaders to promote, negotiate, and maintain understandings or agreements that prevent violence; intervention workers mediate and decrease intensity of and/or manage ongoing conflict between gangs. On the individual level, intervention workers also assist gang members either in or returning from incarceration with successful transition and integration into their communities and provide ongoing access to social services for them and their families.

Gang-Responsive/Specific Individual and Family Services
Gang-responsive/specific individual and family services complement the demanding work done on the streets. Unfortunately, the majority of these services have been unresponsive to the specific needs and problems plaguing gang-involved youth and their families. Gang intervention work has too often been undermined by either the absence of or ineffectiveness of these services. This committee is not recommending the continued funding of existing social services that do not have specific methods, protocols, and procedures for servicing gang-involved youth. Rather, funds must be provided to agencies that clearly demonstrate specific responsiveness to gang-involved youth and their families.

III. POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE COMMUNITY-BASED GANG INTERVENTION MODEL

Recommended uses of the Community-Based Gang Intervention Model beyond the services provided include:

- Policy and Legislation
- General Education
- Program Development
- Funding
- Training
- Evaluation
- Media and Research

IV. DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNITY-BASED GANG INTERVENTION AGENCIES

Intervention agencies perform at different levels that can be defined as Level 1 through Level 5, with Level 5 agencies performing at the highest level. This means that these agencies are directly involved with active gang members and as the result of that involvement are responsible for reducing gang-related violence and preventing gang-motivated murders.
The activities of each level of intervention agency are defined below:

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<tr>
<th>LEVEL DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>FUNCTIONS</th>
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| **LEVEL 1:** These agencies have no "license to operate" in any targeted community (with any particular gang). They provide no direct contact with active gang members in the streets. These agencies conduct no street outreach to gang members and do not serve gang members that do not seek their assistance. | • Community-Building Activities (i.e. working with community associations, community clean-ups, interaction with local schools, etc.)  
• Provision or Referral to Wrap-Around Services (i.e. family crisis, substance abuse, tattoo removal, housing, etc.)  
• Safe Passage  
• Support Victim Assistance |
| **LEVEL 2:** These agencies may have an individual on staff that has indirect contact with a community. They may provide programs that encourage individuals to discontinue involvement with gangs. | • All activities in LEVEL 1  
• Ability to participate in a network of other organizations  
• Limited counseling services for gang members  
• Programs that eliminate barriers to successful re-entry into mainstream society |
| **LEVEL 3:** These agencies have direct contact with a single local community. They have at least (1) staff member that is a Certified Gang Intervention Specialist. | • All activities in LEVEL 1 and 2  
• Fully-functional agency (i.e. fiscally, administratively, programmatically, functioning board of directors, centralized location)  
• Conduct mediation on behalf of a single community  
• Promote, negotiate, and maintain cease-fire agreements for a single community  
• Direct violence intervention in a single community  
• Prevent future violence or retaliation by a single community  
• Ability to mobilize a single community for intervention activities (i.e. inter-community sports competitions, support for intervention efforts and causes)  
• Have access to and actively utilize a network of other intervention agencies and individual intervention specialists |
| **LEVEL 4:** These agencies directly engage in promotion, negotiation, and maintenance of cease-fire agreements between multiple communities. They have positive results from their efforts to reduce gang-related violence. They have an effective network of intervention specialists that can directly engage other communities in intervention activities. They have multiple staff members that are Certified Gang Intervention Specialists. | • All activities in LEVELS 1 through 3  
• Conduct mediation on behalf of multiple communities  
• Promote, negotiate, and maintain cease-fire agreements for multiple communities  
• Direct violence intervention in multiple communities  
• Prevent future violence or retaliation by multiple communities  
• Ability to mobilize multiple communities for intervention activities (i.e. inter-community sports competitions, support for intervention efforts and causes)  
• Receive and respond to requests from law enforcement and public officials regarding gang-related violence |
| **LEVEL 5:** These agencies have a proven success records in lowering crime rates and incidences of gang-related violence and killings. They have multiple staff members that are Certified Gang Intervention Specialists. | • All activities in LEVELS 1 through 4  
• 24-hour emergency response to gang-related violence, killings, or law enforcement/public official requests  
• Provide organizational incubation and mentoring for other intervention agencies |