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## Staff Report

SS ITEM NO. 8

**To:** Lemoore City Council  
**From:** Kimberly Morrell, Chief of Police  
**Date:** February 10, 2009  
**Subject:** Update on Commission on Gang Awareness Recommendation

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### Discussion:

On February 19, 2008, former Council Member Ed Martin presented to Council the recommendations of the Commission on Gang Awareness, please refer to copy attached to this report. The Final recommendation included four sections. Below is progress which has been accomplished on each.

*a. Continue to work with other local, state and federal sources to obtain funds to improve public safety with an emphasis on youth safety.*

The Lemoore Police Department along with all the other county law enforcement agencies received a federal earmark to pay for an additional officer to be added to the Narcotics task force, which essentially doubles the task force size. We are presently in process of applying for the second part of the earmark which would pay for an additional officer for each agency to add to the gang task force. We believe that by adding to these important county wide tasks forces we can improve safety especially the safety of our youth.

*b. Join forces in regional or county wide effort to fight problem. Solicit input from Kings County Hanford, Corcoran and Avenal in effort to create a regional understanding for public safety with emphasis on youth crimes, gangs.*

October 14, 2008, former Council Member Ed Martin appeared at the Kings County Board of Supervisors meeting and requested that County of Kings co-ordinate this effort. The Board of Supervisors agreed and adopted a resolution to establish a county wide Committee on Gang Awareness. Rebecca Campbell from Kings County Administration is awaiting advice from County Counsel regarding Brown Act issues prior to moving forward.

I believe that all the agencies coordinating with SMART software technology will improve our communication between agencies to fight crimes, youth violence and gangs.

The partnership of all three cities, Corcoran, Hanford, and Lemoore, software has moved forward with the design process. The implementation dates have been delayed until possibly late April, however, the continued support and anticipation for the software is ongoing.

*c. Include in the vision of the Lemoore Recreation Department the mission of working with kids and gangs in effort to stem youth violence. Recreation department would work with the Lemoore Police Department, local schools, faith based organizations, business and churches to achieve this goal. Included in the goal is working to establish youth oriented programs as Big Brothers/Big Sisters; mentor programs; gang awareness in local school to include emphasis on GRIP and GREAT.*

The Lemoore Recreation Department has developed programs that will attract the attention of at risk youths such as Boxing and Wrestling. These programs will continue to grow as funds will allow. A Flag Football league was also developed for those young people who cannot or prefer not to play at the high school level, swimming lessons were expanded to ensure that more low-income families have access to not only this opportunity but to all of our programs.

Day camp this year teamed up with the GREAT Program to provide a free program for local fifth and sixth graders through a partnership with Kings County Probation Department. We were able to instruct participants on the dangers of gang involvement, and drugs and alcohol. If the grant funds are available this year we would love to continue the program.

We have utilized the generosity of a local churches young adult group to supervise our youth dances.

We helped a local young adult soccer league find a place for their games and although this is a work in progress we feel with the proper facilities this can reach a great number of our target group.

The Lemoore Police Department will be replacing the current Youth Development Officer (YDO) at Liberty School and we will be researching which program Dare, GRIP or GREAT will be most effective for the YDO to teach to the elementary schools.

*d. Increase the Community Participation budget to help address the needs of the city, schools, and other relevant organizations to address the concerns of gangs and youth violence.*

In 07-08 budget, the City of Lemoore gave \$4,300 to LHS for GRIP. In 08-09 budget, the City of Lemoore increased the Recreation Department budget by \$5,000 for Anti-Gang type programs, such as GRIP. Funds remain available.

**Budget Impact:**

None.

**Recommendation:**

None.