



**Office of the Mayor
City of Los Angeles**

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

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**MAYOR'S GANG REDUCTION OFFICE REPORTS SIGNIFIGANT
PROGRESS IN NEW STRATEGY'S FIRST SIX MONTHS**

In report to City Council, L.A.'s gang reduction director reports significant progress on over 90% of City Controller's "Blueprint for Change" recommendations for more efficient and effective gang reduction programs

LOS ANGELES – Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development today reported major progress on the City's new consolidated gang prevention and intervention strategy.

Speaking before the City Council, Gang Reduction Director Rev. Jeff Carr said the Mayor's new targeted approach to reduce gang violence and keep kids out of gangs had made significant strides in its first six months, and helped achieve record lows in gang homicides during the summer of 2008 – including an 86% reduction in gang homicides in neighborhoods suffering most from gang violence.

"We have set in motion major institutional changes which we believe will provide far more effective, transparent and accountable means for the City to reduce gang violence and keep our kids from joining gangs," said Rev. Jeff Carr. "Our objective has been simple: marshal as many resources as possible, as quickly and effectively as possible, to the kids and neighborhoods with the greatest risk and greatest need."

In February of 2008, in response to a growing consensus that the City's gang prevention programs were in serious need of reform, City Controller Laura Chick issued a "Blueprint for Change" containing more than 120 specific recommendations to provide more efficient and effective gang prevention and intervention services. Rev. Carr reported that – in its first six months – the Mayor's Office had either fully implemented or made great progress in implementing over 90% of those recommendations.

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In an effort to more effectively reduce and prevent gang crime, Mayor Villaraigosa, Chief William Bratton and City Controller Laura Chick sought a major reorganization of the City's gang prevention and intervention programs to compliment enhanced suppression efforts by the Los Angeles Police Department.

In July of 2008, the Mayor and the City Council established the new Gang Reduction and Youth Development office under the Mayor's authority to establish greater coordination, oversight, accountability within the City's gang reduction efforts.

As part of the Mayor's consolidated plan, the City's LA Bridges gang prevention and intervention programs were discontinued, and the \$13 million in city funds were redirected through a rigorous data-based process which targeted services in the twelve neighborhoods with the highest levels of gang violence.

In the summer of 2008, the gang reduction office raised private funds to keep City parks open until midnight - helping to record the City's safest summer in more than 30 years.

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