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One Gang Czar to Rule Them All

Alanna Lungren

Code Sections Affected

Penal Code §§ 13827, 13827.1, 13827.2 (new).
AB 1381 (Núñez); 2007 STAT. Ch. 459.

I. INTRODUCTION

Los Angeles, the largest city in California, encompasses nearly 500 square miles¹ and is home to over 700 gangs and 40,000 habitually violent gang members.² In Los Angeles County, thirty-eight percent of homicides in 2005 were gang-related.³ Combined, San Francisco and Oakland's gang-related homicide rate reached thirty-eight percent in 2005, trailed by Fresno at twenty-five percent.⁴ These numbers, although stripped of their emotional weight on paper, represent the very real epidemic of rising gang violence across California and illustrate the need for effective and coordinated solutions.⁵

One response cities such as Los Angeles have taken is allocating committees of experts to study the growing problem.⁶ The non-profit organization, the Advancement Project,⁷ completed such a study for the Los Angeles City Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Gang Violence and Youth Development.⁸ The report included findings that seventy-five percent of youth gang homicides in California occur in Los Angeles County, making the region a significant contributor to the state's overall gang violence problem.⁹ Further, in the Los Angeles area, the most difficult challenge in the fight against gang-related violence and increasing gang membership is the lack of a comprehensive and coordinated approach between public and private anti-gang strategies.¹⁰

1. HighBeam Encyclopedia, Los Angeles, <http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1O142-LosAngeles.html?refid=capsulepage> (last visited Dec. 22, 2007) (on file with the *McGeorge Law Review*).

2. ASSEMBLY FLOOR, COMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF AB 1381, at 4 (June 1, 2007).

3. Cal. Gang Reduction, Intervention & Prevention Program, Fighting Gangs in California, <http://gov.ca.gov/issue/anti-gangs> (last visited Dec. 10, 2007) [hereinafter *Fighting Gangs*] (on file with the *McGeorge Law Review*).

4. *Id.*

5. *See id.* (stating that the "number and size [of gangs] have increased dramatically in recent years").

6. ADVANCEMENT PROJECT, CITY OF LOS ANGELES GANG ACTIVITY REDUCTION STRATEGY: PHASE 3 REPORT: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 6 (2006), http://www.advanceproj.org/doc/p3_report.pdf [hereinafter *PHASE 3 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*] (on file with the *McGeorge Law Review*) (noting that Los Angeles has officially commissioned experts to study gang reduction strategies at least three times).

7. *See* Advancement Project L.A., <http://www.advanceproj.org/index.html> (last visited Dec. 22, 2007) (on file with *McGeorge Law Review*) (providing information about the project).

8. *See id.* (describing the city's three phase Gang Activity Reduction Strategy Project).

9. PHASE 3 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, *supra* note 6, at 1.

10. *See* ADVANCEMENT PROJECT, CITY OF LOS ANGELES GANG ACTIVITY REDUCTION STRATEGY: PHASE 1 REPORT: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 1 (2006), http://www.advanceproj.com/doc/gang_phase1.pdf [hereinafter *PHASE 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*] (on file with the *McGeorge Law Review*).

Throughout the course of the state's and its cities' efforts to curb rising gang violence, public and private organizations employed a range of prevention, suppression, and intervention strategies.¹¹ The broad spectrum of efforts to quell the rising gang-related violence in the Los Angeles area included the creation of specialized law enforcement units, such as the Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums (CRASH) unit and the Gang Unit in the Probation Department of Los Angeles County.¹² Throughout the implementation of such specialized gang units, officers often collected information on persons associated with gangs on index cards—developing this intelligence gathering into a gang-suppression strategy.¹³ The suppression-focused solutions resulted from tax cuts in the late 1970s, which decreased much of the funding for the area's gang prevention and intervention programs.¹⁴

In contrast, but another snapshot of the anti-gang effort, Father Gregory J. Boyle, founder of the organization Jobs for a Future/Homeboy Industries,¹⁵ focuses on “at-risk and gang-involved youth[s]” in order to “provide training, work experience, and . . . the opportunity for rival gang members to work side by side.”¹⁶ These examples of anti-gang strategies, although mere fragments of the overall effort, show the range that both public and private entities employ in the larger challenge of eradicating the gang epidemic.¹⁷

The Advancement Project conducted an extensive survey of Los Angeles' gang epidemic and the region's efforts to combat the problem.¹⁸ The key finding pronounced in its report was the need for coordination among local and regional anti-gang efforts.¹⁹ And what is true in Los Angeles is likely true across the state.²⁰ The mandate of the Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy under

11. See ADVANCEMENT PROJECT, CITY OF LOS ANGELES GANG ACTIVITY REDUCTION STRATEGY: PHASE 1 REPORT 33-67 (2006), http://www.advanceproj.com/doc/gang_phase1.pdf [hereinafter PHASE 1 REPORT] (on file with the *McGeorge Law Review*) (discussing public and private efforts to end gang activity).

12. *Id.* at 2; Streetgangs.com, L.A. Police CRASH Unit, Sept. 30, 1999, <http://www.streetgangs.com/topics/1999/093099crashinla.html> (on file with the *McGeorge Law Review*).

13. See Telephone Interview with Brian Lungren, former Police Officer, City of L.A., in Sacramento, Cal. (Dec. 22, 2007) (notes on file with the *McGeorge Law Review*) (describing the patrol practices during initial implementation of CRASH which included noting the description of suspected and known gang members, their tattoos, and identifying information on index cards kept in recipe file boxes).

14. See PHASE 1 REPORT, *supra* note 11, at 2.

15. See ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, COMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF AB 1381, at 7 (Apr. 23, 2007).

16. Gregory J. Boyle, S.J., On Community in Diversity, http://www.udmercy.edu/udmcasts/by-date/2006/boyle_print.htm (last visited Dec. 22, 2007) (on file with the *McGeorge Law Review*).

17. See PHASE 1 REPORT, *supra* note 11, at 4-5 (describing a number of attempts to combat gang violence in Los Angeles alone).

18. *Id.* at 1.

19. PHASE 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, *supra* note 10, at 1.

20. See SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, COMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF AB 1381, at K (July 9, 2007).

In March of 2006, the Los Angeles City Council selected the Advancement Project Los Angeles (AP) to develop a citywide Gang Activity Reduction Strategy. In its Phase I report, AP noted certain key findings based on an examination of circumstances in Los Angeles but nonetheless equally

Chapter 459 is to meet the challenge of California's gang epidemic by creating an office which can coordinate the state's anti-gang efforts and serve as a clearinghouse for comprehensive strategies and best practices.²¹

II. BACKGROUND

Although there has been a general decline in crime across California's communities, gang related crime appears to disregard this trend, in some regions rising to extraordinary levels of violence.²² Gang-related crime and violence extends beyond urban areas, reaching into neighborhoods previously considered safe.²³ Individual cities and neighborhoods respond to the violence and gang presence in a variety of ways—with no one gang problem in one part of the state exactly similar to another community's challenge.²⁴ Because of the diversity among different communities' gang problems, intervention and prevention strategies should be tailored to gang issues unique to that region.²⁵ Although various organizations pursue different methods, they all share the same goal: to reduce the number of gangs, gang members, and incidents of gang violence.²⁶ However, shared goals may not be enough.²⁷ Many believe that California needs a statewide government entity dedicated to the task of "reducing and preventing violence and gang activity," a bureau which did not exist prior to the enactment of Chapter 459.²⁸

applicable to the state as a whole.

Id.

21. See SENATE FLOOR, COMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF AB 1381, at 2 (Sept. 8, 2007).

The Director shall communicate with local agencies and programs in an effort to promote the best practices for addressing gang violence through suppression, intervention, and prevention. The office shall develop a comprehensive set of recommendations to define its mission, role, and responsibilities as a statewide entity dedicated to reducing violence and the proliferation of gangs and gang violence in California communities.

Id.

22. ASSEMBLY FLOOR, COMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF AB 1381, at 5 (Sept. 12, 2007).

23. *Id.*

24. *Id.*

25. *Id.* at 6.

26. See SENATE FLOOR, COMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF AB 1381, at 6 (Sept. 8, 2007) ("California lacks a governance structure that administers the available funds and tracks the outcomes and effectiveness of programs that are aimed at reducing and preventing violence and gang activity.").

27. Press Release, Cal. Dep't of Corr. & Rehab., Governor Schwarzenegger Announces Initiative to Combat Gang Violence (May 25, 2007), <http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/News/2007%5FPress%5FReleases/Press20070525.html> [hereinafter CDCR Press Release] (on file with *McGeorge Law Review*) ("[T]he Governor has met with mayors, law enforcement, faith-based and community organizations, local officials and legislators to discuss how communities across the state are fighting gangs At every meeting the Governor heard about the same problems: lack of coordination between state and local agencies and programs, lack of funding, and lack of a comprehensive approach to anti-gang efforts.").

28. SENATE FLOOR, COMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF AB 1381, at 6 (Sept. 8, 2007); see also CAL. PENAL CODE § 13827(a) (enacted by Chapter 459) (creating the Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy).

The state's response to the call for effective solutions and leadership in the anti-gang effort includes Governor Schwarzenegger's comprehensive gang initiative, called the California Gang Reduction, Intervention, and Prevention Program (CalGRIP).²⁹ The 2007 measure directs

more than \$31 million in state and federal funding toward local anti-gang efforts, including intervention, suppression and prevention[,] . . . [which] will provide important job training and education programs, while at the same time giving tools to local law enforcement that will allow them to closely track gang leaders and make our streets safer[.]³⁰

These tools, such as stricter penalties for witness intimidation, should allow for an increase in the number of civil and criminal prosecutions of gang members.³¹ Further, CalGRIP's measures include plans to assign more California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers to gang zones to increase patrol presence.³² CalGRIP also "centralizes information for all law enforcement" by allocating funds for a law enforcement database, as well as for "a new, centralized Criminal Intelligence and Analysis Unit to gather gang intelligence from all thirty-three state prisons and disseminate th[e] information to local law enforcement."³³

CalGRIP's mandates include the development of a list of community entities that offer rehabilitation and job training for ex-gang members³⁴ and grant programs, supported by federal and state funds, to increase youth summer programs, at-risk youth initiatives, and job training placements for youths and adults.³⁵ The CalGRIP measures also provide tax credits for qualifying businesses in "Enterprise Zones" that hire certain program-certified former gang members.³⁶

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29. See Josh Richman, *Governor Rolls Out Anti-Gang Plan in Oakland Visit*, OAKLAND TRIB., May 25, 2007, at LOCAL.

[T]he governor's California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (CalGRIP) program involves better tracking of gang leaders in prison and on parole; letting prosecutors and city attorneys sue gang members for damages; doing more to protect gang-crime witnesses; creating a county-designation system to focus federal funds on high-intensity gang areas; and assigning 100 California Highway Patrol officers to gang-infested local streets.

Id.

30. Press Release, Office of the Governor, Governor Schwarzenegger Appoints Former U.S. Attorney Paul Seave as Anti-Gang Director (Sept. 4, 2007), <http://www.gov.ca.gov/index.php?press-release/7326/> [hereinafter Governor Press Release] (on file with the *McGeorge Law Review*).

31. See CDCR Press Release, *supra* note 27 (stating that CalGRIP permits civil suits and gives law enforcement tools to track gang members and protect witnesses).

32. *Id.* ("Under CalGRIP, 100 California Highway Patrol officers will rotate though [sic] 90 day deployments in HIGAs.").

33. *Id.*

34. *Id.*

35. *Id.*

36. *Id.*

The task of overseeing CalGRIP falls to the state gang czar created by Chapter 459 and appointed by the Governor.³⁷ The state director and the CalGRIP Advisory Committee, consisting of experienced law enforcement officials, community leaders, and education leaders, should help to further the objectives of the Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy (OGYVP) and “help build comprehensive, long-term strategies to fight gang violence.”³⁸

III. CHAPTER 459

Chapter 459 creates the Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy (OGYVP) within the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services.³⁹ Authored by Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez, Chapter 459 dedicates the OGYVP to “reducing violence and the proliferation of gangs and gang violence in California communities.”⁴⁰

The office created by Chapter 459 seeks to promote public awareness on successful strategies to eradicate gang violence, and operate as a “clearinghouse” for best practices, strategies, designs, and models that organizations can access to support their localized efforts in the fight against gang-dominated communities.⁴¹ Under Chapter 459, the OGYVP must compile a statewide information database on California gang membership, which could include data on as many as 420,000 individuals.⁴² Chapter 459 requires the OGYVP to “establish an Internet Web site . . . that provides an Internet hyperlink to the various grants administered by the Office of Emergency Services.”⁴³ Additionally, Chapter 459 mandates the OGYVP to help governmental and nongovernmental organizations with anti-gang programming,⁴⁴ and to create long-lasting coordination strategies between “state, local, and regional entities.”⁴⁵

Further, Chapter 459 requires that the director be appointed by the Governor and “report directly to the office of the Governor.”⁴⁶ Chapter 459 mandates that

37. *See id.*

Under CalGRIP, the Governor will appoint a State Gang Coordinator in the Office of Emergency Services to: [c]oordinate anti-gang programs and grants at all state agencies[;] [s]erve as the state contact for local governments and community organizations[;] [c]ollect, evaluate and promote local best practices[; and] [t]rack all federal anti-gang funding and grants. The coordinator will be supported by a Task Force and Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

Id.

38. Governor Press Release, *supra* note 30.

39. CAL. PENAL CODE § 13827(a) (enacted by Chapter 459).

40. *Id.* § 13827(b)(2) (enacted by Chapter 459).

41. *Id.* § 13827(b)(4)(A)-(J) (enacted by Chapter 459).

42. *Id.* § 13827(b)(4)(A) (enacted by Chapter 459); Fighting Gangs, *supra* note 3 (“According to the Department of Justice (DOJ), there are more than 420,000 gang members statewide.”).

43. CAL. PENAL CODE § 13827.2 (enacted by Chapter 459).

44. *Id.* § 13827(b)(4)(D) (enacted by Chapter 459).

45. *Id.* § 13827(b)(4)(E) (enacted by Chapter 459).

46. *Id.* § 13827.1(a) (enacted by Chapter 459).

the OGYVP provide the Legislature with a report of its recommendations, upon collaborating with state and local stakeholders, for identifying the OGYVP's "mission, role, and responsibilities as a statewide entity dedicated to reducing violence and the proliferation of gangs and gang violence in California."⁴⁷

IV. ANALYSIS OF CHAPTER 459

The Legislature enacted Chapter 459 to streamline and buffer with resources the previously divided initiatives, programs, and government efforts working to stem gang violence.⁴⁸ Prior law did not provide California with an adequate structure to assist and inform gang prevention, intervention, and suppression efforts of private and public entities.⁴⁹ Chapter 459 creates a brain center from which the entire state can draw support and share guidance regarding the gang epidemic facing California's communities.⁵⁰ Instead of each county, city, or municipality reacting alone to gang proliferation and increased gang violence, Chapter 459 seeks to assist individual communities with educational resources, increased awareness of available funding, tools to evaluate strategies, and information on best practices.⁵¹

47. 2007 Cal. Stat. ch. 459, § 3(b)(3).

48. ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, COMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF AB 1381, at 3 (May 16, 2007). Prior to Chapter 459, gang-related initiatives and programs were receiving funding administered by separate sources. *Id.* The Office of Emergency Services administered funding to the following: (1) the Multi-Agency Gang Enforcement Consortium, a Fresno County-based program focused on gang crime arrests that receives funding from the General Fund; (2) the Gang Violence Suppression Program, a county-run grant program funded by the General Fund to develop coordinated gang responses by the criminal justice system to gang issues; (3) CALGANG, a database of cross-jurisdictional gang information maintained by the Department of Justice and funded by the General Fund; (4) the Anti-Gang Initiative, a federal grant program coordinated by the Office of the U.S. Attorney; and (5) the Six City Anti-Gang Initiative, a federal grant program coordinated by the Office of the U.S. Attorney for specific recipients. *Id.* at 3-4. In addition, the Corrections Standards Authority administered funding to the following: (1) the Community Delinquency Prevention/Title V Prevention Grants for At-Risk Youth, funded federally and targeted at youth delinquency; (2) the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention program, a federally funded program that supports gang prevention and intervention efforts; (3) the federally funded Juvenile Accountability Incentive, designed to provide grants for the formation of advisory boards aimed at preventing youth participation with gangs; and (4) the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act, which receives money from the General Fund and allows each county to determine the gang-focus. *Id.* at 4-5. Finally, the Department of Justice administered funds from the General Fund to the Gang Suppression Enforcement Teams, allowing them to provide state agent-assistance to local law enforcement. *Id.* at 5-6.

49. *See id.* at 3 ("Current gang efforts are divided between several departments . . ."); *see also* SENATE FLOOR, COMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF AB 1381, at 6 (Sept. 8, 2007) ("California lacks a governance structure that administers the available funds and tracks the outcomes and effectiveness of programs that are aimed at reducing and preventing violence and gang activity.").

50. *See* ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, COMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF AB 1381, at 1 (May 16, 2007) ("This bill creates the Office of Statewide Violence and Gang Prevention (OSVGP) within the Office of Emergency Services, and requires the Office to coordinate and assist schools, parents, community groups and law enforcement agencies with information and strategies to address gang involvement and violence.").

51. *See* Fighting Gangs, *supra* note 3 (stating the need for a comprehensive approach and statewide framework in order to combat gang violence); *see also* SENATE FLOOR, COMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF AB 1381, at 6 (Sept. 8, 2007) ("[A]n entity is needed to serve as an informational clearinghouse which provides access to

Supporters of Chapter 459 focus on the need for such an office, praising the coordinated approach and commending the consolidation of responsibility in the anti-gang effort.⁵² In addition, supporters believe Chapter 459 creates an increased level of accountability through the existence of a “high profile point of focus for . . . oversight and coordination.”⁵³ Since the Office of Criminal Justice Planning, which dissolved in 2003 for mismanagement of funds, there has not been an “obvious entity in which to house the administration of gang prevention programs.”⁵⁴ Many of those programs relating to federal and state grants under the Office of Criminal Justice Planning’s administration shifted governing offices.⁵⁵ For example, grant programs funding juvenile drug courts, mental health services, truancy prevention programs, and others that lack a gang-centered mission, shifted from the Office of Criminal Justice Planning to the Corrections Standard Authority (CSA), and others shifted to the Office of Emergency Services (OES).⁵⁶

Some critics of Chapter 459 question the necessity of a statewide office dedicated to gang and youth violence prevention assuming control over grants and programs that do not relate solely to gang issues.⁵⁷ Those opposed to a complete consolidation of juvenile justice grants assert the efficiency of the

current studies, best practices and policies, and provides the ability to network with other entities throughout the state.”).

52. Letter from Andrew K. Antwih, Chief Legislative Representative, Office of the Mayor, Antonio R. Villaraigosa, City of Los Angeles, to Assembly Member Mark Leno, Cal. State Assembly (May 14, 2007) [hereinafter Antwih Letter] (on file with the *McGeorge Law Review*); Letter from Edward E. “Ned” Dolejsi, Executive Dir., Cal. Catholic Conference, to Assembly Member Jose Solorio, Cal. State Assembly (April 16, 2007) (on file with the *McGeorge Law Review*).

53. Antwih Letter, *supra* note 52.

54. ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, COMMITTEE ANALYSIS of AB 1381, at 2 (May 16, 2007).

When the Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) was abolished, effective January 2004 (largely as a result of long-standing concerns regarding organizational and fiscal malfeasance) the programs and grants administered by OCJP were subsumed by CSA and OES. Neither CSA nor OES, however, are designed for planning and policy development. Both entities succeed in administering grants, and CSA has a long record of serving as a liaison between state and local corrections, but neither has experience in program development. The Department of Justice (DOJ) administers the Crime and Violence Prevention Center (CVPC), which serves as the Attorney General’s voice on crime and violence prevention on issues, policies and programs, with the goal of creating and promoting effective prevention policies and strategies for law enforcement and communities to reduce and prevent crime and violence. CVPC, however, has not been active in statewide policy development.

Id.; see also Andy Furillo, *Audit: Defunct Agency Misplaced Millions*, SACRAMENTO BEE, Feb. 3, 2005, at A1 (describing the OCJP’s accounting problems).

55. ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, COMMITTEE ANALYSIS of AB 1381, at 2 (May 16, 2007).

56. *Id.*

57. Letter from David Steinhart, Program Dir., Commonweal, to Assembly Member Mark Leno, Cal. State Assembly (May 14, 2007) (on file with the *McGeorge Law Review*).

CSA's administration of some of the federal funding programs that could potentially fall within the scope of the OGYVP.⁵⁸

However, these concerns appear to be addressed in Chapter 459's mandate that the OGYVP, in defining its grant administering responsibilities among others, collaborate with state and local stakeholders to determine the most effective and appropriate role for the office in this regard.⁵⁹ There is no one-size fits all solution to the gang problem across the state, and Chapter 459 reflects this understanding through its emphasis on collaboration.⁶⁰

For that reason, it appears that the OGYVP's purpose would be to serve as a place for local organizations to go to when in need of recent studies, current data, funding resources, and information sharing about successful programs in other areas of the state, rather than as a statewide office directing the actions of localized efforts.⁶¹ If the OGYVP succeeds in its objectives to collaborate with law enforcement, faith-based, community, and educational leaders on the most effective ways to guide gang prevention, intervention, and suppression resources and practices, then there will exist an unprecedented state-level powerhouse of leaders and information dedicated to the revitalization of neighborhoods, and of lives, once dominated by gang violence.⁶²

V. CONCLUSION

Prior to Chapter 459, with the exception of the disbanded Office of Criminal Justice Planning, no California office dedicated to gang violence prevention existed.⁶³ Regional and local organizations, both private and public, offered

58. *Id.*

59. CAL. PENAL CODE § 13827(b)(4)(A)-(J) (enacted by Chapter 459); *see also* Governor Press Release, *supra* note 30 (explaining that "the Governor also appointed . . . CalGRIP Advisory Committee members," who represent a broad spectrum of stakeholders from across California).

60. *See* SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, COMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF AB 1381, at L-M (July 10, 2007).

Given the enormously complex nature of the gang and violence problems facing California, the author and/or the Committee may wish to discuss whether the initial focus of the new Office this bill proposes should be narrowed to developing, in collaboration with a wide range of local stakeholders, a comprehensive blueprint for its mission as a statewide entity dedicated to violence and gang prevention in California. As currently drafted, the bill contemplates a broad range of initiatives relevant to the problems of gangs and violence. However, the state might better marshal its resources and ultimate effectiveness if the statewide entity created to address these issues is itself developed in concert with local partners.

Id.

61. *Id.* at C (noting that the OGYVP should "[p]rovide public education on effective programs, models, and strategies for the control of violence and serving [sic] as a clearinghouse for information on gang violence prevention issues, programs, resources, and research").

62. *See* CDCR Press Release, *supra* note 27 ("A growing number of Californians are living a nightmare trapped inside their homes, afraid to come out unless they absolutely have to . . . So today I am announcing a coordinated, multi-faceted, anti-gang initiative that focuses on the three strategies everyone agrees work best: suppression, intervention, and prevention." (quoting Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger)).

63. *See* Richman, *supra* note 29 (indicating that a "multipronged statewide effort to crack down on gang

services and extended efforts to reduce gang domination of neighborhoods and of youth gang involvement.⁶⁴ The OGYVP's goal to "eradicate the root causes and conditions that trigger street gang activity and support entrenched neighborhood violence" may prove elusive.⁶⁵ But, with the energy of a commissioned office, plus the effort and cooperation from many experienced advisors, the OGYVP just might succeed in its mission to allow individual cities and communities to address their own specific needs, while simultaneously coordinating violence and gang prevention, intervention, and suppression efforts.⁶⁶

violence . . . is unprecedented").

64. See PHASE 1 REPORT, *supra* note 11, at 33-67 (discussing public and private efforts to end gang activity in Los Angeles).

65. 2007 Cal. Stat. ch. 459, § 1(b).

66. See ASSEMBLY FLOOR, COMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF AB 1381, at 4-5 (June 4, 2007).

"This bill will serve all these communities by creating a clearing house that can provide them with information on programs and research, help in accessing existing federal and state resources they are unaware of, and help create a network for local governments, private and non-profit service providers, educators, law enforcement, and individuals looking to get involved in their community."

Id. (quoting Assembly Member Fabian Núñez).

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