

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

**Subject**

Legislative Policy: Criminal Gang Activity

**Policy  
Number**

M-53

**Page**

1 of 2

**Purpose**

To establish the Board of Supervisors' legislative policy regarding criminal gang activity, and to provide guidance to the County's legislative representatives when advocating the County's interests to legislators, other elected officials and policy makers.

**Background**

Gang activity is criminal and threatening to the public. Residents should feel safe to walk through their communities, without fear of encountering gangs or gang activity. Territorial conflict between gangs is no longer limited to geographic "turf" but now includes economic and criminal enterprises. These often violent enterprises include narcotics trafficking, human trafficking, homicide, and physical assault.

Non-violent street gang activities, such as graffiti tagging have had negative economic impacts and have caused physical deterioration in many neighborhoods. Recognizing that graffiti tagging is a visible sign of gang affiliation, the Board of Supervisors supports legislation that increases penalties for violating graffiti laws.

Legislative proposals attempting to provide solutions for gang problems must be comprehensive in approach and must include adequate funding for law enforcement, probation supervision, witness protection, gang prevention and suppression services, and behavioral health prevention and treatment services.

**Policy**

The legislative policy of the Board of Supervisors regarding criminal gang activity is to:

1. Support legislation to fund the prevention, intervention and suppression of gang activities.
2. Support legislation to fund countywide inter-agency gang suppression task forces to further enhance the various specialized programs in law enforcement, the courts, and probation, which specifically address hard-core gang members.
3. Support legislation to fund countywide witness protection programs staffed by trained prosecutors and police officers with sufficient expertise in the legal, physical and administrative aspects of witness protection.
4. Support legislation to create a statewide organized crime intelligence information network.
5. Support legislation to fund programs that identify and address the causal factors that lead to gang involvement.

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

**Subject**

Legislative Policy: Criminal Gang Activity

**Policy  
Number**

M-53

**Page**

2 of 2

6. Support legislation to provide adequate funding for the development of programs addressing criminal gang activity.
7. Support legislation to provide maximum flexibility in use of state and federal funding to permit local officials to develop programs that respond to the unique gang problems of individual communities.
8. Support legislation to increase penalties for repeat offenders of graffiti laws.
9. Support legislation to allow a public entity to recover reward costs paid out by the public entity for information leading to the conviction of the graffiti violator.
10. Support legislation to provide full restitution for graffiti victims from the parents or guardians of a minor found guilty of violating graffiti laws.
11. Support legislation to reduce gang violence through law enforcement intervention and prevention efforts including the creation of new criminal gang offenses and enhanced penalties.
12. Support legislation to facilitate prosecution of juvenile gang members who commit serious acts of violence.

**Responsible Departments**

Chief Administrative Office  
Office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs

**Sunset Date**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-21.

**References**

Board Action 8/9/88 (36)  
Board Action 1/10/89 (57)  
Board Action 4/13/99 (42A)  
Board Action 1/13/04 (13)  
Board Action 12/9/08 (33)  
Board Action 10/28/14 (21)