

SANDAG Public Safety Committee Agenda  
September 18, 2020  
Non-agenda public comment: Gang Statistics

I'm requesting that SANDAG cease the distribution of unproven "gang-related" crime statistics. I've addressed this issue with the Gang Commission Board and will continue to pursue a resolve through other avenues.

A criminal charge with a gang allegation, or the gang affiliation of an arrestee is not a conviction. Until a sentence has been executed that includes a gang allegation in the conviction there isn't a "gang-related" crime. San Diego's "gang-related" crime statistics are an inaccurate count of cases that haven't yet been brought before the Superior Court for arraignment. These numbers are provided by the San Diego Police Department's Special Operations Unit (formerly known as the Gang Suppression Unit or Gang Suppression Team), to the public on a monthly basis regarding crimes committed during the month. Law enforcement opinions are not criminal convictions. Something cannot be a statistic without a true finding in the conviction that supports the specific element of the statistic being calculated.

These statistics are the "evidence" that is used in determining the need for and/or funding of the 9 million dollar a year Special Operations Unit, other gang suppression programs & the continued use of Gang Enhancements, Gang Injunctions and Gang Indictments. All of these things are tools used to increase stops, detainments, searches, arrests, convictions and amplify jail and prison sentences.

In SANDAG's [City of Vista Gang Reduction report](#) there appears to be a consistent finding of positive outcomes in the numerous programs funded, that provide youth with life skills, mental health services and positive reinforcement approaches. This research would suggest that the pursuance of punitive criminal justice involved approaches through the "[vigorous prosecution of gang members](#)" (that is supported by the funding of the Special Operations Unit and other gang suppression programs & the continued use of Gang Enhancements, Gang Injunctions and Gang Indictments) would be counterproductive.

Information given out by trusted (thus far) bodies of officials to the county, state and country about San Diego should be true, impartial and unbiased. There are multiple reports and research that are current, detailed, supported and specific to San Diego. Resources such as the [SDSU Racial Profiling Report of 2016](#), the [CalGang Annual Audit](#) and the [R.I.P.A annual report](#) would be the obvious basis of funding for programs or supportive information for statistics.

Perpetuating false narratives and statistics that result in this system of mass incarceration and not in productive outcomes, comes with tragic consequences that impact everyone. SANDAG should be mindful of that.

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Pillars of the Community