

MAYOR'S
GANG PREVENTION
TASK FORCE
Reclaiming Our Youth

Mayor's Press Conference
August 3, 2011
9:00 AM
Community Media Center
1075 Mendocino Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA

CONTACT: Ellen Bailey, Gang Prevention Services Manager

PHONE: (707) 543-4321 EMAIL: ebailey@srcity.org

SUBJECT: **3rd Annual Gang Prevention Awareness Week in Santa Rosa, August 5-13**

The City of Santa Rosa's Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF) is planning the third annual community ***Gang Prevention Awareness Week, August 5-13, 2011***. The purpose of *Gang Prevention Awareness Week* is to raise community awareness about gangs in Santa Rosa as well as to educate the community about the many efforts that have been made to stop gang violence since the MGPTF was formed in 2003 and how community members can become involved.

In 2002, our police department and community came to the realization that "We cannot arrest our way out of our gang problems—it takes the entire community to reclaim our youth and our neighborhoods from rising gang violence". Since then the gang prevention effort in Santa Rosa has continued to gain momentum through the work of the MGPTF and resources made available through the 2004 voter approved Measure O public safety tax initiative.

Several FREE family events will be taking place during *Gang Prevention Awareness Week* to showcase the important work being done by the MGPTF, the Recreation and Parks Department and the many non-profit organizations that have provided programs and services:

- ***City Council Proclamation***, Tues, August 2, 4:00 PM, City Hall
- ***Press conference***, Wed, August 3, 9:00 AM, Community Media Center, 1075 Mendocino Ave
- ***Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force, Resource Fair***; Friday, August 5, Roseland University Prep back to school orientation, 100 Sebastopol Road
- ***Movie in the Park***, "RANGO", Northwest Park, 8:30 PM
- ***Double Punches Boxing Club Exhibition*** at the Santa Rosa Plaza, Sunday, August 7, 12:00 – 4:00 PM
- ***South Park Summer Day & Night Festival*** family event at Martin Luther King Park, Saturday, August 13, 2:00 11:30 PM

Please join City of Santa Rosa's Mayor Ernesto Olivares, Chief of Police Tom Schwedhelm, representatives from community based organizations providing gang prevention/ intervention services and youth program participants at this press conference. For more information regarding these activities or for media inquiries please contact Ellen Bailey, Gang Prevention Intervention Services Manager at (707) 543-4321.

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415 Steele Lane
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
707-543-3457
GangPrevention.srcity.org

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