

**Madison Police Department and Project Hugs**  
**Strategies for our neighborhoods to combat gang activity**  
**(Detective George Chavez and Kathy Sorensen-Project H.U.G.S.)**

- 1) **Identify resources in your neighborhood that provide safe and positive alternatives to gangs.** *Neighborhood groups may want to make up flyers identifying the resources available in their area, send them to residents and list them on the neighborhood websites. Once neighborhoods identify their area resources they should be shared with other neighborhood groups to make this a citywide effort. If there aren't any positive alternatives in your neighborhood...create some. Always remember every one of you can be a resource.*
- 2) **Report Graffiti in your area.** *Take a photo and remove the graffiti as soon as possible. If the graffiti has been crossed out, letters backwards or ends in a K this is a sign of disrespect within the gang culture and should be photographed and reported to police. If you are unsure if the graffiti is gang related contact your Neighborhood Police District and ask to speak with the gang liaison to see if a report should be taken.*
- 3) **Develop a Neighborhood Watch Program to address ongoing problem areas within your neighborhood.** *Make contact with the police officers assigned to your neighborhood. They can be a resource in finding ways to deal with these problems. Problems can include needed lighting, late night gatherings at parks, open-air drug traffic, etc. Develop a system in your neighborhood that allows people to report these types of incidents and remain anonymous.*
- 4) **Visit the schools in your area.** *Get to know the staff, students and educational resource officer (ERO) assigned to the school. (If you have children in the schools this is essential.... but you don't have to have children there to be needed.) Get involved with your schools. Volunteer to read to elementary students, are you bi-lingual?.....tutor a student. Talk to the residents of your neighborhood and convey concerns to the school staff and school board. Support Anti-Gang Programs in your schools if they exist....if they don't exist....help to get them started.*
- 5) **Provide monthly educational/training programs to residents in your area.** *This can include researching resources that are already available in your area, but need to be more widely publicized. Also finding topics of interest and asking individuals or agencies to come and talk to your neighborhoods, such as; Computer Training (I-Safe America), Great Program (Gang Resistance and Education), developing language courses (Where is that bilingual resident?), Madison Police Department (What are city curfews? How can we make your home more secure? and so on).*
- 6) **Assist the police by reporting Curfew Violations, Trespass Violations and Disturbances.** *Don't assume someone else is going to report the incident. If information is not reported it makes it impossible to identify the problem and find resources to deal with the problem.*
- 7) **Neighborhoods should consider developing liaisons to assist with direct contact and outreach to all residents in their area.** *Family activities are a wonderful way to engage young people as well as parents. Plan a neighborhood picnic, holiday party or any event that will allow parents to network and families to enjoy time together.*
- 8) **Parents need to be involved to make a difference.** *If neighborhoods can assist parents with transportation, childcare or resource opportunities to help them become more involved with their children. Take time to get to know members of your neighborhood.*
- 9) **Your neighborhood will reflect the actions of the people in your area.** *If only a few individuals are creating the problems unfortunately your neighborhood may be reflecting the actions of just those few. If others create problems and you expect others to solve the problem, you will be waiting a long time to see change. Address the issues and focus on the problems, do not allow outside influences to cloud the true issue you are trying to address. Hold individuals accountable for their actions.*
- 10) **Everyone is being asked to do more with less today. Be Creative, Stay Focused, Work Together and Be Alert and Make People Accountable for Their Behavior!**