

**Strategy for Safe Streets and
Neighborhoods**

PREVENTION, ENFORCEMENT, RE-ENTRY

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CONTINUING EFFORTS AT COMBATING GANG VIOLENCE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2007

10:45 am – 12:00 noon

LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

VIOLENT CRIME IN NJ

- **Between 2001-2005, Statewide adult arrests increased in two categories**
 - Murder increased 8% (236 to 255)
 - Weapons increased 23.7% (3674 to 4544)
- **Between 2001-2005, Statewide juvenile arrests increased in three categories**
 - Murder increased by 15% (25 to 30)
 - Robbery increased by 22.4% (1176 to 1439)
 - Weapons increased 16.4% (1720 to 2002)
- **Majority of violent crime occurs in 20 municipalities**
 - 78.9% of all murders
 - 54.8% of all arrests with firearm
 - 81% of all gang related homicides
- **Magnified by the number of offenders returning to these communities**

11/13/2007

GOAL

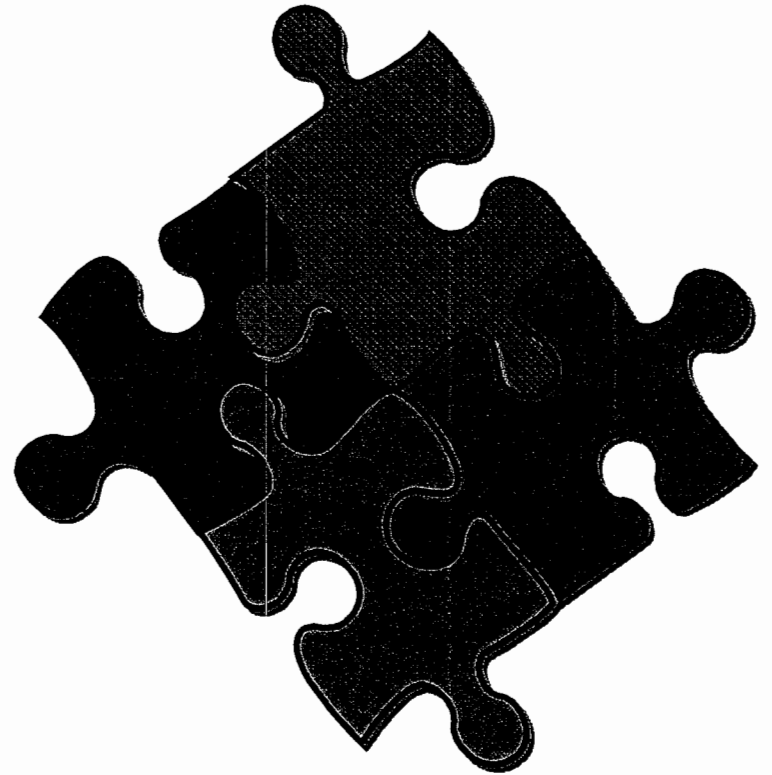
*To reduce violent crime and
recidivism in New Jersey.*

A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

- **The lack of a state policy or plan to address gang violence, delinquency prevention and re-entry has made it difficult to address these problems**
- **Based on principles of “good government”:**
 - *Use of data to solve problems*
 - *Local empowerment*
 - *Better communication among state, county and local partners*
 - *Accountability and Best Practices*

THE STRATEGY FOR A SAFER NEW JERSEY

- Three-pronged Approach
 - **Prevention**
 - **Enforcement**
 - **Re-entry**
- Emphasis on violent crime
 - **Gangs**
 - **Guns**
 - **Drugs**
 - **High Rates of Recidivism**



PREVENTION

STATE COORDINATION AND LEADERSHIP

- **Coordinated Funding**
- **Funding Guide**
- **Prevention Coordinating Council**
- **Grant Coordinating Sub-Committee**
- **Coordinator of Prevention Strategies**

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

- **Local Level Planning and Implementation**
- **Community Tool Kit**
- **SMART System**
- **Family Centers**
- **Expansion of After-School Academic Enrichment Programs**
- **Summer Jobs and Year-Round Career Development**
- **Youth Corps After Hours**
- **Community Justice Coordinators**
- **Gang Awareness Training**

BEST PRACTICES AND EVALUATION

- **Primary and Secondary Prevention Programs**
- **Intervention Programs**
- **Truancy Pilot**
- **Gang Prevention and Intervention Programs**
- **Annual Conference on Model Programs and Best Practices**
- **Restructure Research and Evaluation Division**
- **Develop Evaluation and Benchmark Component**

NEW AND EXPANDED PREVENTION INITIATIVES

- **Boys and Girls Club Gang Prevention Through Targeted Outreach Model**
- **Trooper Explorers and Youth Leadership Programs**
- **Youth Jobs and Training Initiative**
- **Evidence Based Truancy Pilot Program**
- **Youth Corps After Hours**

NEW AND EXPANDED PREVENTION INITIATIVES (cont'd)

- **Governor's Youth Camp**
- **Mentoring Initiatives**
- **21st Century Learning Centers**
- **NJ After 3**
- **Youth ChalleNGe Program**
- **State Gang Awareness Training**

NEW AND EXPANDED PREVENTION INITIATIVES (cont'd)

- **Gang Resistance Education**
- **Stationhouse Adjustments**
- **Community Markets and Gardens**

LAW
ENFORCEMENT

INTELLIGENCE LED POLICING

- **Local Gang Assessments**
- **Increased Use of ETRACE and other National Databases**
- **Technology Template**
- **Regional and State Data Collection**
- **Mandatory Reporting of All Shootings**

INVESTIGATIONS

- **Information Sharing and Coordination**
- **Focus County Narcotics Task Force
Guns, Gangs and Drugs**
- **Shooting Response Teams**
- **Target Violent Gangs and Gun
Traffickers**

PROSECUTION

- **Mitigation Witness Intimidation**
 - Evaluate Existing Programs
 - Housing Vouchers
 - Minimize Civilian Witnesses
- **Use Existing and New Tools to Vigorously Prosecute**
- **Leadership**
 - Statewide Coordinator for Gangs, Guns and Other Initiatives

RE-ENTRY

STOP THE REVOLVING DOOR

- **Each Year:**
 - About 16,000 Offenders are Released
 - Most Return to New Jersey Communities
- **Within Five Years:**
 - 65% Of Adult Offenders will be Arrested
 - 55% Will be Convicted of a New Crime
- **Research Shows:**
 - Concerted and Coordinated Reentry Efforts can Reduce Re-Offense Rates

COORDINATE AND CREATE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR REENTRY

- **Oversight and Accountability**
- **Appoint a full-time Coordinator to Oversee State's Reentry Efforts**
- **Employ Objective and Measurable Benchmarks and Goals**

LAUNCH A REENTRY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

- **Provide Comprehensive Reentry Services for up to 1,300 Offenders**
- **Assess Individual Risks and Needs**
- **Increase Preparedness Throughout Incarceration**
- **Job Assistance and Health Care**
- **Ensure Housing Availability**

INCREASE SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH RETURNING HOME FROM JJC INSTITUTIONS

- **Establish a Pre-Release Center at the New Jersey Training School for Boys**
- **Establish a One Stop Career Center at the New Jersey Training School for Boys**
- **Provide Vocational Training Programs to Closely Align Course Offerings to Workforce Demand Occupations**

ADDRESSING UNIQUE NEEDS OF REENTERING EX-OFFENDERS

- **Provide Adult Inmates Leaving the DOC with a Valid Photo ID that will be Recognized by the MVC**
- **Implement the STARS course**
- **Review and Revise Vocational Programs Offered in Correctional Institutions**
- **Develop and Distribute a Guide that will Assist Those Returning to the Community in Obtaining Employment**

MODIFY CERTAIN BARRIERS TO REINTEGRATION

- **Collateral Consequences**
- **Expand Eligibility for Drug Court**
- **Allow Judicial Discretion in Imposing or Remitting Certain Fines and Penalties**
- **Modify Expungement Statute to Promote Employability**