

**TOPPENISH CITY COUNCIL**  
**Study Session Minutes**  
**May 7, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Jiménez called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Clara Jiménez and Councilmembers Loren Belton, Zachary Dorr, Derald Ortloff, Randy Taylor, and Blaine Thorington.  
Absent: Councilmember Mark Oaks.  
Staff Present: City Manager William C. Murphy (CM Murphy), Police Chief Adam Diaz, and Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Heidi Riojas.

**YAKIMA COUNTY GANG COMMISSION**

**Report and Power-Point Presentations by Yakima County Commission Chairman Kevin Bouchey; Lee Murdock, County Human Resource Department; Harold Delia, County Court Administrator; and Randy Town, Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission.**

Yakima County Commission Chairman Bouchey reported on the background for the collection of data to create the Yakima County Gang Assessment. Chairman Bouchey stated that the assessment will be a tool to move forward with the planning to address current gang problems in Yakima County.

Lee Murdock, Yakima County Human Resource Department, presented a power-point presentation summarizing the data collected from over 5,000 people surveyed to create the countywide gang assessment. Ms. Murdock stated that the assessment protocol followed the outline by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Comprehensive Gang Model and that poverty was a leading contributor countywide to gang problems. Ms. Murdock summarized the key findings that poverty is a ripe environment for gang activity and for the high rate of at-risk youth.

Harold Delia, Yakima County Court Administrator, reported that Title 5 Federal Funding comes from the Gang Initiative and enables Toppenish to participate in the 21-month grant to provide \$15,020 to hire a Vista Volunteer, \$15,030 to hire Steven Magallan, an experienced community mobilization planner, and \$10,500 for the City to use for the strategic planning for the Toppenish Committee to develop and establish priorities for the community program.

Chief Diaz reported on the success of the volunteer program established to address juvenile crime with the Cops & Shops program in Spokane. Steven Magallan reported that the first small grant is to be used for the strategic planning to select programs that will make the biggest impact for Toppenish and to plan so the program does not rely solely on grant funding for sustainability. Chairman Bouchey stated that the Gang Court is successful because it is utilizing existing services and resources. Mr. Magallan stated that the first thing Toppenish needs to work on is forming the committee consisting of key stakeholders and to identify and recruit volunteers. Mr. Magallan suggested a proposed deadline for the Toppenish Strategic Plan to be September 1, 2012.

## **COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Jiménez stated that she will be attending the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments General Membership Meeting on May 16, 2012 in Grandview at the Grandview Community Center and asked if anyone else will be attending the meeting. Councilmembers Thorington and Dorr responded that they will attend the meeting.

Mayor Jiménez requested to be registered for the Association of Washington Cities Annual Conference in Vancouver and asked if anyone else plans to attend. No other Councilmembers requested to attend the conference.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

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CLARA R. JIMÉNEZ, MAYOR

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HEIDI RIOJAS, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CITY CLERK