

Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa's 2008 "Summer Night Lights" Program
Gang Reduction & Youth Development Zone

WHAT

The Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD), in partnership with the City's Department of Recreation and Parks, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), will launch the "Summer Night Lights" program - eight (8) weeks of expanded programming for youth and families, in eight (8) park facilities in the Mayor's Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zones. The 2008 "Summer Night Lights" program provides these fun-filled, positive opportunities for our young people living in the most crime-ridden communities throughout the City and will serve as a pilot for necessary programming in coming years.

WHERE

1. Baldwin Village/ Southwest – Jim Gilliam Park
2. Boyle Heights/ Hollenbeck – Ramon Garcia Park
3. Northeast – Cypress Park
4. Northeast – Glassell Park
5. Florence-Graham/ 77th Division – Mount Carmel Park
6. Newton – Ross Snyder Park
7. Pacoima/ Foothill – Hubert Humphrey Park
8. Ramona Gardens/ Hollenbeck – Ramona Gardens Recreation Center

WHY

Research has consistently shown that youth are most likely to commit violent crimes between the hours of 4 p.m. and midnight. Additionally, crime spikes during the summer months when longer daylight hours also result in youth searching for activities to cure restlessness and boredom. According to LAUSD, nine (9) additional middle and high schools across the City will transfer to a traditional school calendar this year. This means that 24,090 more students will be out of school looking for activities during the summer months.

WHO

A Program Manager within the Mayor's GRYD Office will oversee the program in their designated zone and convene an advisory group which will include key local stakeholders that will be involved in the planning and implementation process. Local stakeholders will include LAPD, LAUSD, Recreation and Parks, Cultural Affairs, Council District Offices, community and faith-based organizations, intervention workers, community residents, youth, business leaders, and others.

The "Summer Night Lights" program has three (3) major components:

1. **Extended Hours & Programming:** From July 4 - Labor Day, eight Recreation Centers will extend their hours until midnight, four nights a week (Wednesday - Saturday) and expand programming to include youth-centered recreational, educational and artistic activities to engage youth in positive activities during peak times for violence. Youth will conduct outreach from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and programming at the park will begin at 7 p.m. and go until 12 midnight.
2. **Youth Squad:** 10 community youth coordinators will be hired to create and staff the extended hours and programs. Community coordinators will be at-risk youth, ages 17-20, and will receive stipends for 10 weeks. Training for the Youth Squad will start two weeks prior to the kick-off. ***(Members of the advisory group will refer youth for these positions and will also have a say in which youth get hired. Youth will then be interviewed and LAPD will also be part of the screening process prior to hiring.)***
3. **Cease-Fire:** Interventionists will help maintain cease-fires on site ***(if applicable)*** at the Recreation Centers and in the surrounding community. They will assist in referring youth and in collaboration with recreation and parks staff, will assist in overseeing community coordinators and participate in the expanded programming