

**SIMI VALLEY TASK FORCE ON HEROIN PREVENTION – MEETING NOTES**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012**

- Task Chairman Mike Judge called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Keith Mashburn led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pat Montoya was absent from the meeting; all other Task Force members were in attendance.
- Members of the public made statements during Public Comments, summarized as follows:
  - Need for more statistics and data collection to make the system more effective.
  - The need for alternative activities such as youth centers.
  - Focusing on the issue of life and death and stopping the demand for drugs.
  - Not One More has been in existence for three months and reported on members in treatment, a support and grief network has been created.
  - On May 16, a public meeting will be held by Not One More at the Simi Valley Town Center.
- The April 30, 2012 Meeting Notes were reviewed and received by the Task Force.
- Interim Police Chief Ron Chambers presented information on Police Department Programs, Narcotics Enforcement, Statistics regarding Drug and Alcohol Arrests, On-Campus Enforcement, and Strategies for the Future.
- Director of Community Services Debbie Solomon presented information on the Teen Assistance and Resource Program, Youth Employment Service, Youth Services and Resources, Citizen Advisor Program, Simi Valley Youth Council and forums for community input. The presentations were followed by a question and answer period.
- Mike Sedell stated the City spends \$1.2 Million on youth related programs, and stated the Task Force could make recommendations to the City Council for changes if desired. Bob Huber requested that at the next City Council Meeting, discussion take place on the advertising of heroin prevention utilizing the Simi Valley Bus Shelters, and for the establishment of priorities regarding City services provided to the Simi Valley Unified School District. Youth Council Members Joshua Huddleston and Joshua Galanti answered questions from the Task Force and expressed the need to create a Student Drug Task Force on school campuses. Susan Klimusko requested assistance from the Youth Council Members to get the word out to students to help create Public Service Announcements and phone and computer applications regarding drug education.
- Members of the public addressed the Task Force as summarized below:
  - Will the City continue the TARP Program? Suggestion for actors to come to schools to demonstrate the effects of drugs and associated problems.
  - The need for probation officers to be more involved, and longer probation for those cited.
  - Funds spent by the School District on drug related programs was questioned.
  - Hear young people's stories and ask why or what would have stopped them from using drugs. Young people need to hear stories regarding drugs from the young. Peer support groups are important.

- Young people are the answers to the problem. Listen to kids to understand. Some programs work and some do not and it is important to make changes to reach the kids.
  - Create Bully-free zones in schools, using video cameras on campus and classrooms.
  - Information needs to be sought from addicts and students. Need for the right environment to get kids involved to share experiences. Find out what issues are to bring forward for discussion to find a solution. Problem is getting worse and the system in place is not working.
  - Social networking sites are good areas to reach students and adults in regards to creating an application for information on drug awareness. Target leaders in social groups to get the word out.
  - Recommendation for actual users of drugs to explain the true stories and effects of drug use is important. The need for substantial help programs to curb kids from returning to drugs. Teen Challenge and Dream Center programs are effective.
  - Implementation of the CCU program is needed.
- Kate O'Brien requested that a presentation by Not One More (NOM) be made at the next Task Force meeting.
  - Bob Huber stated he would like to have a discussion regarding the Youth Summit recommendations on outside agency programs such as Every 15 Minutes, Scared Straight and D.A.R.E on the Task Force agenda for the next meeting.
  - Bob Huber stated he would like to invite a Ventura County Probation Officer to give a presentation on its programs.
  - Mike Sedell stated many presentations are scheduled for the next meeting. It was requested that the NOM presentation be given at a later date.
  - It was the consensus of the Task Force to set May 30, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. as the next meeting date.
  - The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.