



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Supervisor Rubio Convenes Meeting to Address Gang Violence in Kern County

### *Rubio Holds Kern County Policymaker Gang Forum*

Kern County Supervisor Michael Rubio will host a Kern County Policymaker Gang Forum in McFarland on Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at the McFarland High School cafeteria. The purpose of the meeting is to bring Kern County policymakers—City Councilmembers, Mayors, City Managers, Police Chiefs and Supervisors—together to collaboratively begin to tackle the rising gang violence throughout Kern County.

The Kern County Board of Supervisors recently approved almost \$20 million to fund the Kern County Gang Violence Strategic Plan that Rubio spearheaded. By funding prevention and intervention—along with traditional suppression methods—Rubio expects a decrease in the tremendous spike in gang violence in our county.

Supervisor Rubio's commitment to create safer communities in Kern County, particularly gang abatement and other associated efforts, will be discussed. This gang forum dovetails Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's gang initiative that he recently released where local communities will be offered greater state resources to help combat the onslaught of gang activity. As a reminder, within that initiative, the Governor designated Kern County as a HIGA (High Intensity Gang Area) because Delano now ranks in the top 25 for the number of gang related homicides in California. Also, the Delano and McFarland areas are now the dividing lines between gang turfs in the Central Valley.

"I am truly looking forward to having Kern County policymakers and heads of law enforcement in one room," Rubio said. "We must continue to strategize to devise innovative ways to address this escalating gang violence in our community. As elected officials, it is our job to work proactively to protect residents that are increasingly living in fear in their own homes and communities."

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**WHAT:** Kern County Policymaker Gang Forum

**WHEN:** Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 6 PM

**WHERE:** McFarland High School (259 W. Sherwood Avenue in McFarland)