

LOG CABIN RANCH UPDATE

- On January 8th 2007, Representatives from the Department of Public Works, SF Parks and Trust, our Judges, the CPO, and Toni Powell held a 3 hour meeting at Log Cabin Ranch School/HVR.

Currently the City of San Francisco is contracting private FloristsGreenhouses to grow specific plants/trees that are then re-planted in the San Francisco community (i.e. parks or residential neighborhoods). Preliminary determinations were made regarding restoring LCRS' horticulture area and with the assistance of DPW and SF Parks and Trust staff, teaching our young men how to grow specific greenery which would allow the City to be more self sufficient in this area as the contracts can be awarded to the Ranch. This will also support the Mayor's goals regarding the environment and possibly save funds as the work would be conducted on City property.

Both of the above entities expressed serious interest in hiring these trained youth upon their graduation from LCRS. A follow-up meeting was held 1-19-07. At that gathering, more specific assignments were given. The next meeting is scheduled for 2-9-07.

- Acting Director of Architecture for the City, Mark Dorian provided us with the plans for the renovation of the Dormitory. A private study area w/be adjacent to each resident's immediate sleeping area with a portion of the Dorm being reserved for group meetings or individual counseling. A restroom which meets ADA requirements will also be added. A meeting was held 1-26-07 to finalize blueprints.
- Chief Siffermann and Toni Powell met with representatives from Writers Corp to discuss how a poetry/prose journal that was created by LCRS youth could be incorporated into custodial programs as a writing outlet.

On January 30, 2007 four youth participated in a Poetry Reading in San Francisco. A featured Poet, San Francisco youth as well as our Ranch youth shared their poetry.

A similar gathering will take place at the Ranch on February 22, 2007, between Log Cabin Poetry Students and students from Santa Fe, New Mexico. This is our second year having this interaction.

- In an effort to reach the Department's goal of treating the whole family whenever possible, Director Powell met with minority Elementary school Principals and representatives from several faith-based organizations in the BVHP district to strategize on how best to help the City's younger population. The option of Faith-based representatives/members "adopting" a school and consistently visiting and mentoring students was explored. Oftentimes residents of LCRS have younger siblings who attend these schools. Early intervention can assist in deterring a young person from gravitating towards delinquent behavior as well as assure family members that we care about the whole family unit and aren't just interested in "law enforcement"(true caring encourages consistent compliance)
- On February 7, 2007, Ranch Supervisory staff and Director Powell met with representatives from CRN (Community Response Network) a collaborative of several community based organizations located in the Mission District. The objective of the meeting was to share the Ranch's needs, hear what CRN had to offer, and begin formalizing a plan that would be beneficial to our Latino residents. Highlighted in this meeting were goals to establish gang/conflict mediation groups on site, have even more events that are akin to the Latino culture, and utilize CRN staff to support existing contractual personnel in encouraging, engaging, mentoring and supporting Ranch graduates in fulfilling the goals established in their individualized after-care plan.
- All Pre-vocational and Vocational Classes are in full swing. Two classes were conducted during the Winter Break. An Entrepreneur Class sponsored by Turning Heads and a 40-hour Employment Workshop taught by staff from the Northern California Service League. NCSL will now provide direct employment opportunities upon graduation for all residents who completed the class.
- Carpentry class-taught by a journey-man started 1-8-07 for 8 residents. The students are very excited about this as is the instructor. Discussions about utilizing acquired skills to make bookshelves for our renovated dorm and other minor repairs have been discussed.
- The current count is 31.