



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT
Brent Ives
(209) 740-6779

Mayoral Candidate and current Tracy Councilman Brent Ives announces his 6-Point Plan to halt gang activity in Tracy.

October 19, 2006 - Tracy, CA. – Tracy Councilmember and Mayoral candidate Brent Ives released a comprehensive 6-point plan today that would address the concerns about the influx of gang activity and gang members in and around the Tracy community.

“Tracy is a family community. That community has increasingly been threatened by the influx of gang activity, gang members and gang wannabes. Today I’m unveiling a 6 point plan I will aggressively pursue as Mayor to combat this growing problem in our town,” said Ives.

Ives praised the work of the police department in combating this problem but said that current resources and focus need to be increased. Ives said his main goals would be increasing visible police presence in neighborhoods, incorporating tactical strategies and the latest crime fighting tools, as well as efforts to prevent young people from joining gangs.

Included in the Ives plan would be a cooperative strategy with the Tracy School Districts to catch and eliminate gang influences in local schools. “Our schools need to be safe havens for children to learn and grow. Unfortunately, recent incidents continue to make us all concerned about the safety of our kids in schools. As a School Board member, I pledge to work cooperatively with Brent Ives as Mayor to stop any gang activity from taking hold in our schools”, said Joan Feller, Tracy School Board Member.

“I’m glad to see someone addressing this issue and offering a solid plan to attack the problem,” said Steve Abercrombie, the long-time head of the Tracy DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education). “For those of us on the front lines, we see the problem everyday. We need a Mayor like Brent Ives who knows what to do and can work with the people who can address the problem.”

“Councilman Ives has been a consistent and strong supporter of the men and women in the Tracy police department,” said TBD, President of the Tracy Police Officers’ Association. “Brent Ives 6 point plan is well conceived, thoughtful and appropriate to combat the influx of gang activity in and around Tracy. It is just one more reason why our organization strongly endorses and supports Brent Ives for Mayor. He cares about and clearly knows how to tackle more than one problem in Tracy at a time. His opponent is a single issue candidate out of touch with the real problems in Tracy.”

Local business leaders also praised the Ives emphasis on eradicating gangs. “In order to keep Tracy a place where new businesses will locate, we have to be a safe community,” said local business owner TBD. “Brent is the only candidate for Mayor who has a plan to address this problem and the experience to implement such a plan. That’s one reason why I, and many local business owners, support Brent Ives for Mayor.”

Ives commented, “In order to successfully protect our neighborhoods and our children, and prosecute the offenders, we must take a forceful and tactical approach to fighting crime. That’s why I’ve developed this 6 point plan. I urge all Tracy residents to review it on my website at www.BrentIvesForMayor.com.

Brent Ives 6-point plan to halt gang activity in Tracy:

1. **IMMEDIATE RESPONSE** – Immediately address and challenge gang activity, clean-up graffiti, and empower neighborhood watch groups with a Police Department hot-line in order to report suspected gang activity.
2. **ZERO TOLERANCE** – Those who have been arrested for gang related crimes, or are suspected of having gang connections will be investigated by a specially trained Tracy Police Department Gang Task Force. We will seek federal and state funds to pay for this new unit and the additional officers we will need.
3. **PROTECTING CHILDREN** – Increase police patrols around our schools before school hours, and after school, when children are most at risk for being victimized and/or harassed. Work cooperatively with the School District to develop joint community partnerships to eliminate gang beginnings and footholds at their root.
4. **PARTNERSHIP WITH PROSECUTORS** - In conjunction with local prosecutors and the District Attorney’s Office, increase penalties for gang related activities within the City of Tracy and throughout San Joaquin County.
5. **INCREASED POLICE PATROLS** – Increase the number of police officers patrolling our neighborhoods and the downtown business district. Tracy police officers will also be required to be specially trained to identify and suppress gang activity.

6. **GANG ALTERNATIVES** – In addition to stopping gang activity and drug use among young people, provide meaningful alternatives for young people such as job training programs, and supervised educational and recreational activities.

Brent Ives is a current member of the Tracy City Council, a native of Tracy, and graduate of Tracy High School. Prior to his election to the City Council, Brent served as a Planning Commissioner, Parks & Recreation Commissioner, and a co-founder of the ACE Train System in 1994.

Brent and his wife have two children, four grandchildren and the entire family still lives in Tracy.