

Building Safer Communities: The GOOD Initiative

A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO GANG PREVENTION IN DOWNEY

April 24, 2025
League of California Cities - City Leaders Summit

CITY MANAGER, CITY OF DOWNEY

Roger Bradley

MODERATOR

- Over 20 years of government experience
- Held multiple executive management positions in various California cities
- Currently serves as City Manager for the City of Downey
- Earned degrees in Political Science and Statistics with a minor in Business Management from Brigham Young University
- Holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from USC's Sol Price School of Public Policy
- Veteran of the United States Marine Corps



PAST GOOD VICE PRESIDENT, 10-20 CLUB FOUNDER

Darrell Jackson

- Founder and past President of the 10-20 Club Inc., established in 1992 to support at-risk youth aged 10-20 through interventions, mentorship, and wellness programs.
- Partnered with Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD), serving as First Vice President to combat gang activity through community engagement and early intervention initiatives.
- Former Major League Baseball pitcher for the Minnesota Twins (1978-1982)
- Collaborated with Downey Unified School District, Downey Police Department, and other local organizations to provide services such as anger management, substance abuse counseling, and educational support.



CHIEF OF POLICE, CITY OF DOWNEY

Scott Loughner

- Began law enforcement career with the Downey Police Department in 1999 as a Police Recruit
- Selected as Special Operations Sergeant in 2012, and promoted to Lieutenant in 2013
- Promoted to Captain in 2021, overseeing Administration and Detective Divisions
- Appointed Chief of Police in 2024
- Holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice from CSU Fullerton and an M.S. in Emergency Services Administration from CSU Long Beach, Graduate of the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute, POST Management Course, and Executive Development Course
- Serves as Second Vice President of Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD), a nonprofit organization focused on gang prevention and youth intervention.

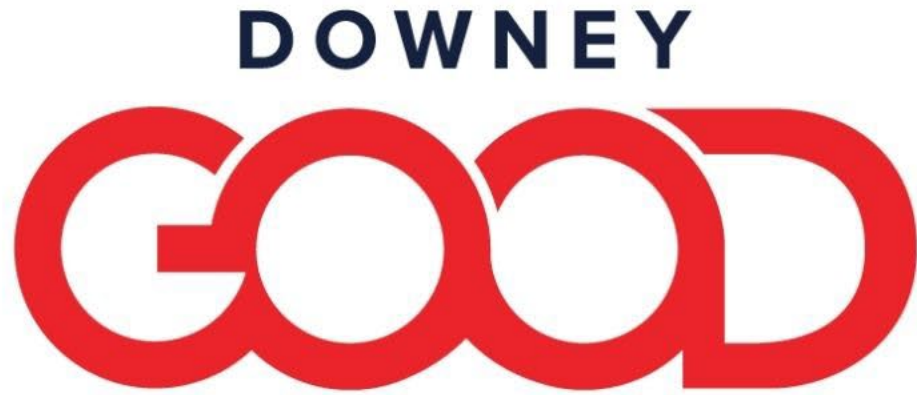


MAYOR, CITY OF DOWNEY

Hector Sosa

- Past President of Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD) and past President of Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis
- Longtime Downey resident of over 37 years; product of Downey Unified School District
- Served over 15 years as a coach and board member for West Downey Little League and Downey Junior Athletic Association
- Strong advocate of volunteerism, believing it is both a responsibility and moral obligation to give back
- Graduate of Cal State LA with a B.S. in Business Administration (Finance) and a minor in Economics
- City Council priorities include building partnerships with Downey Unified School District for youth success
- Financial Services Professional with New York Life.





WHO WE ARE

Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that focuses its efforts on raising awareness about the dangers of gangs and gang involvement, educating on ways to avoid such involvement, providing positive alternatives, and intervening in situations where guidance can promote responsible behavior. Our efforts unite local government, businesses, schools, civic organizations, and residents towards preventing youth gang activity.



OUR MISSION

To keep gangs out of Downey. To accomplish this mission, we focus on preventing our youth from joining gangs by providing the necessary resources and funding in keeping gangs out of Downey.



History of Gangs out of Downey (GOOD)

DARRELL JACKSON

Origins of GOOD

ADDRESSING GANGS THROUGH GRASSROOTS COLLABORATION

- Gang activity rose in Downey during the late 1980s, mirroring regional trends
- GOOD was launched in 1989 by residents responding to public safety concerns
- Programs focused on youth mentorship, counseling, and positive alternatives
- Collaboration with Downey Police Department strengthened prevention and enforcement efforts
- Built on early partnerships between schools, law enforcement, and local leaders
- Launched programs like the 10-20 Club to support at-risk youth



Evolution Through Partnership

FROM A LOCAL INITIATIVE TO A TRUSTED COMMUNITY ASSET

- Expanded services to include intervention and diversion programs
- Increased coordination with the City and Downey Police Department
- Professionalized structure with formal programming and outreach
- Integration of best practices from national gang prevention models
- Deepened partnerships with schools, parents, and community groups
- Provided programs to fill gaps in youth services and family support



Key Achievements

IMPACTING LIVES AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

- Significant reduction in gang recruitment and activity in Downey
- Positive outcomes for youth through mentoring and case management
- Consistently supported and highlighted by City leaders and local partners
- Youth engagement in leadership and civic activities
- Continued community trust and support for GOOD's mission



The City and Police Department's Role

SCOTT LOUGHNER, CHIEF OF POLICE



Downey's Commitment to Youth and Safety

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN YOUTH-FOCUSED PUBLIC SAFETY

- Dedicated officers assigned to gang prevention and community outreach
- Joint efforts with GOOD to identify and assist at-risk youth
- Rapid graffiti removal and neighborhood patrols deter gang activity
- Participation in GOOD-hosted forums and youth mentorship events



Police-Community Collaboration in Action

PREVENTION THROUGH ENGAGEMENT AND VISIBILITY

- SRO Program: Officers in schools fostering trust and early intervention
- Kids & Cops Day fosters friendly, informal interaction with police
- Officers participate in GOOD programs as mentors and supporters
- Focused deterrence, after-school activities, and collaboration with Downey Unified
- Community outreach events engage youth in positive activities and raise awareness



Model Practices in Action

A PUBLIC SAFETY FRAMEWORK GROUNDED IN BEST PRACTICES

- Intervention, prevention, and diversion strategies in place
- Alignment with National Gang Center recommendations
- Support for after-school activities and family-based services
- Emphasis on culturally responsive and trauma-informed approaches
- Rapid response to issues, including graffiti removal within 24 hours



GRAFFITI HOTLINE



 (562) 923-4484 

GOOD Members and Council Perspective

HECTOR SOSA, MAYOR



The Role of GOOD Volunteers

VOLUNTEERS, MENTORS, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

- GOOD members and volunteers are the backbone of the initiative
- Past presidents and residents serve as role models for youth
- Members lead outreach, support, and advocacy for youth
- Deep personal investment in improving outcomes for local youth
- Consistent presence at GOOD events and youth-centered efforts



City Council's Longstanding Support

A UNIFIED APPROACH TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND YOUTH WELLNESS

- Council has prioritized youth safety and gang prevention
- Budgetary and policy support for GOOD's operations and outreach
- Council champions events like Kids & Cops Day and Backpack Distribution, as community staples



Vision for the Future

STRENGTHENING WHAT WORKS, BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS

- Continued expansion of intervention and family-based services
- Deeper school engagement and mentorship pipelines
- Sustained commitment to graffiti removal and clean neighborhoods
- Future collaborations with regional and state partners
- Ensuring the next generation of GOOD leaders continues the mission



For more information

www.downeygood.org

Q & A