



*Reducing Gang Violence and
Improving the Quality of Life in Watts*

Watts Gang Task Force Council
Betty Day, President



Councilman Joe Buscaino
Council District 15 – Watts Field Office

August 30, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

The Watts Gang Task Force stands in support of the resolution to commence the Fall school year **after** the Labor Day holiday each year. After a discussion of the movement to reinstate the traditional start of the LAUSD school year, along with an examination of the unintended consequences of an early end of the summer break, the WGTF Executive Board feels that a post-Labor Day start would be in the best interest of our youth.

In recent years, the LAUSD summer break has gotten shorter and shorter. The school year has ended later while the Fall start has begun earlier. Our children are often not allowed meaningful time to just be kids—to decompress from the rigorous school year and gear up, rested and refreshed, for the new school year ahead. We also believe that this early return to classes often denies our children the opportunity to reap the full benefits of any summer work experience they may have signed onto.

It is our belief that the current, abbreviated summer break period does not serve the best interests of the **whole** child—our children. Consequently, the Executive Board of the Watts Gang Task Force stands in support of a resolution that would (annually) restore the post-Labor Day commencement of the new school year.

Sincerely,

Betty Day
President
Watts Gang Task Force Executive Board

www.wattsgangtaskforce.org