

How to bring West Sac together

Re "West Sac harassment claimed," Sept. 11: It is troubling that West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon and City Council members did not attend the town hall meeting. The organizers of the meeting, none of whom are gang members, held the meeting because the city leaders will not talk to the community.

In 2005, the League of United Latin American Citizens Lorenzo Patiño Council suggested that the West Sacramento Police Department involve interested community members from the Broderick and Bryte areas to serve on a task force that invites public comments and input -- as community members can provide important feedback to the police, thus avoiding a generic and potentially racist description of gang members.

The La Raza Network has announced that if city officials are serious about addressing the problems, they must do the following: First, create a citizen advisory commission to deal with police misconduct, the gang injunction and a general lack of communication between the community and law enforcement. Second, overhaul the process of delisting -- in which people can prove they're not gang members -- so it no longer contains offensive and incriminating questions. Third, drastically revise or abolish the gang injunction.

The community must demand true leadership from its representatives, beginning with the mayor. We offered solutions, the injunction was overturned, and now the city leaders want to bring it back.

- Rebecca Sandoval, Sacramento