

Nation of Islam Western Region Minister Tony Muhammad disagreed, stating, "This is a systemic problem which continues to occur, showing us that this is taking place in all of the schools, and saying that it is an isolated incident is a lie."

Jefferson High-tenth grader Kenneth Beavers admitted that Blacks and Latinos frequently have "beefs" or disagreements there, but said that they do not involve as many students claimed by the media. "It's sometimes one or two, or about five, but a whole lot of us are watching, but we're not all fighting," he said.

At least 22 students were detained by police after last Thursday's brawl, and according to a LAUSD spokesperson, all of them have been expelled from the school.

L.A. City Councilman Bernard Parks called for fair media reporting of the problems plaguing Black and Latino students. "It's important that we cover this incident because it is serious, but it is also important that we cover the day-to-day activities in which it appears that for most of the year many of these young people are getting along. They're socializing in parks; they're socializing in schools, so we need to give that balance in reporting."

Rowena Lagrosa, Los Angeles Unified School District 5 Superintendent said that in addition to the safe passage program, school administrators will embed human relations skills and training into the school's curriculum and instructional day to help students improve their outlook and better relate to each other.

In all, Villaraigosa assigned more resources, more recreation through area parks, crisis counselors and continued police protection on campus, at least five officers throughout the end of the year, and beginning next year, as an initial approach to the problem.

Kenny Mitchell, founder of Gangster's Anonymous, a 12-step gang rehabilitation program, said that the problems stem from a gangster's mentality that is being taught to the youth. "Our children have to recognize that this behavior is not normal. It's criminal, and it centers on a mental illness that is turning from criminal retaliations to racism," he said.