



G.A.I.N.

GANG ACTIVITY INFORMATION NETWORK



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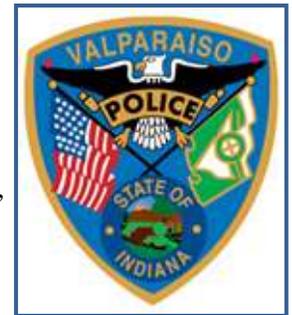
8 Facing Gang Activity Charges

Published by NwiTimes.com on January 20, 2010

Cops: 3 Juveniles Among Those Arrested in Brawl

VALPARAISO, IN | Valparaiso police said eight people face felony charges of criminal gang activity in connection with a large brawl that involved weapons last year near Kirchoff Park.

Police said they are charging Kevin Clowers, 23; Michael Griffey-Jr., 20; Christian Marshall, 18; Christopher York, 21; Ryan Tucker, 18; and three juveniles. Police said all eight lived in Valparaiso when the fight occurred May 28. The criminal gang activity charge is punishable by up to three years in prison.



The investigation into the fight began when Griffey reported a group of robbers attacked him and severely beat him while he was walking through Kirchoff Park. But police said further investigation revealed Griffey went to an arranged meeting and he and others there were "mutual combatants."

Valparaiso police Detective Dan Koepke said in court documents that Clowers, Griffey and one of the juveniles planned to beat up Marshall because of a previous drug deal gone bad.

They met at the park, and a fight ensued just south of the park. Police said at least one person used a stick as a weapon during the fight. At least a dozen more people showed up, one of whom was carrying a stick similar to an ax handle, police said.

Police said Griffey was apparently beaten with a stick and a rock during the fight. Griffey blacked out after the fight and was taken to a hospital for treatment. Police said the fight wasn't reported on the night it occurred. Griffey reported it two days later because he blacked out several times, had difficulty seeing out of his left eye and had a difficult time standing.

4 Motorcycle Gangs at Warehouse Party

Published by Post-trib.com on February 2, 2010

PORTAGE, IN| Stolen guns, body armor and a motorcycle, also suspected stolen, were confiscated during a multi-gang party at a warehouse at J&L Storage, 5675 Old Porter Road.

The caller, who informed police about the party at about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, said there were nearly 250 people present, underage drinkers, people doing illegal drugs and stolen motorcycles, according to the police report. The caller also warned "subjects at the party will shoot the police."

Portage, Burns Harbor and Ogden Dunes police departments, the Porter County Sheriff's Department and the Indiana State Excise Police crashed the party. Attendees lay on the ground as they were commanded and police found the warehouse decked out with a bar, DJ booth, lounge area with a TV and pool table. They also found firearms on the floor, discarded by unknown party-goers before anyone was patted down for weapons.

Police found a Springfield XD-40 with three rounds in the magazine, a Hi-Point 9mm rifle with a sawed-off stock and a small bag of marijuana on the floor. Three more handguns and two knives were found during pat-downs of the suspects. The body armor was found in the storage unit's office area. The one motorcycle that was impounded had an altered vehicle identification number.

Several of the party attendees were wearing leather vests featuring different gang patches -- including Braveheart, Wheels of Soul, Black Pistons and M.O.B. (Maniacs on Bikes) Squad, police said.

The Excise Police wrote nearly everyone present a summons for visiting a common nuisance. One woman was cited for underage drinking. Joseph Hopper, 26, of Valparaiso, the president of the M.O.B. Squad, was arrested on a Lake County warrant for failure to appear on a driving while having a suspended license charge.

Cops: Teen at Slumber Party Shot in Drive-by

Published by NwiTimes.com on January 16, 2010

Hammond police think motive is gang-related



HAMMOND, IN| A 13-year-old girl attending a slumber party was injured in an apparent drive-by shooting Thursday night, police said.

The Munster resident was treated at a local hospital for a gunshot wound to her shoulder and released, family members said Friday afternoon.

The girl and two friends were at a sleepover in the 1000 block of Chicago Avenue when bullets shattered an outside window at 11 p.m., police said, and one of them struck the victim.

Police had no suspects late Friday but said they could not discount a gang-related motive for the shooting because the older brother of the slumber party's hostess is a known gang member who currently is in jail and charged with the November murder of a Munster man.

Antonio "King Tonio" Ruiz Jr., 19, whose last address was the Chicago Avenue house, faces counts of murder, attempted battery and criminal recklessness in the death of Robert Martinez, 18.

Witnesses in that incident told police that two groups of people with ties to competing street gangs exchanged words with each other outside a nearby convenience store, and Ruiz fired several shots at a car in which Martinez was a passenger, killing Martinez.

LaPorte Man Stabbed, Beaten in Possible Gang-linked Attack

Published by NwiTimes.com on January 5, 2010

LAPORTE, IN| An 18-year old man was seriously beaten and stabbed in the latest of a recent series of possible gang-related acts of violence in LaPorte.

Michael Ungerank Jr., 18, of LaPorte, was admitted to LaPorte Hospital with a severe head injury along with two 1-inch wide stab wounds to the back, police said.

The investigation shows Ungerank and six friends were in a vehicle that stopped about 3:30 a.m. Sunday in the 600 block of Linwood Street. Police said the occupants stepped out of the vehicle to talk to someone when several individuals rushed out of a house with red bandanas over their faces. The victims fled down an alley on foot to get away.

"We do have active gangs in LaPorte. This is a problem we're very concerned about and trying to deal with," said Tom Heath, LaPorte assistant police chief.

Strong leads on those responsible are being pursued, police said. Police recovered broken pieces of a police baton along with an ice scraper and broken pocket knife blade.

Gary Cop Takes Part in TV gangs Expose

Published by Post-trib.com on January 10, 2010

GARY, IN| On the first day of class at the Cook County Sheriff's office in Chicago, Gary Patrolman Arthur Lemme recognized some familiar faces. Although they're members of Chicago-based gangs, Lemme knew them from his work as a patrol officer in Gary.

"Gangs don't have borders anymore. What they're doing doesn't always relate to where they live," he said.

Lemme, a four-year veteran of the Gary Police Department, completed a two-day session offered by Cook County on ways to obtain and interpret information about gang activity. The work by Cook County's Gang Intelligence Unit is being featured on an MSNBC series, "The Squeeze".

"Four episodes have been shot and MSNBC is planning them for a regular rotation, most likely every Friday night. We're also in talks for a second season," Cook County police spokesman Steve Patterson said.

The Gary Community School Corp. sponsored Lemme's attendance in the class. As a security officer who visits all school buildings, Lemme is familiar with the potential problems gang members can cause inside and outside the classroom.

"We're collecting information, taking pictures of gang symbols and trying to establish gang hierarchy," Lemme said. "I'm going to attempt to make charts of the graffiti I see, as well as the people and where they fit into the organization."



The television show depicts veteran investigators quizzing young men who were recently arrested about their gang involvement. Sometimes the information results in the interruption of a drug deal, arrests or the discovery of a hidden cache of weapons.

As the operation grew more successful, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart decided to share the information with other police agencies.

"We're inviting suburban officers to come to this training because we recognize the spread of Chicago gangs is going deeper into every community," Patterson said.

"Gangs don't see city limits, county lines or even state lines and know that officers from one agency might not talk too often with officers next door."

Lemme said he looked at a chart of mug shots and recognized people he'd encountered in Gary working in the schools or on his midnight patrol shift. "They were living here but conducting their business in Gary. This is good information to have," he said.

Patterson, a former Post-Tribune reporter, said graffiti often carries more information than just marking gang territory.

"Someone may see graffiti pop up on a garage and think nothing of it or even an officer might think it's simply local gang tags. But these free classes show officers how we go into jail and work informants to develop hierarchy charts for local gangs, find out where they're headed and any information they might have on recent crimes," he said.

Lemme said the graffiti information was especially valuable to him. "Now when it starts popping up, I'll understand what's being said."



Cal City Man Guilty in Student's Shooting Death

Published by NwiTimes.com on January 28, 2010



MARKHAM, IL | The first of eight men charged in a 2007 gang-related shooting that left a 16-year-old Calumet City girl dead has been convicted of murder.

A jury on Tuesday found Kevin Kerby, 23, of Calumet City, guilty of murder, attempted murder and aggravated battery with a firearm in the Nov. 24, 2007, death of Melody Elias, and the shooting of a then-19-year-old man.

The seven other men charged in the case include Malaquies Gutierrez, 19, Lewis Crenshaw, 20, and Oscar Chaves, 22, all of Calumet City; Esaias Frazier, 20, and Albert Redmond, 20, both of Dolton; Llewellyn Peed, 21, of Hammond; and Miguelangel Garcia, 29, of Harvey.

A couple of days before the Calumet City shooting, Kerby's car was set on fire outside of his Calumet City home, prosecutors said.

Kerby gathered fellow Latin King gang members and said he wanted to shoot Latin Dragons gang members, whom he held responsible, authorities said.

The night of the shooting, the group drove in four separate cars when one of the men saw a car thought to be driven by a 19-year-old male member of the Latin Dragons, authorities said.

With one of the four cars parked in a nearby alley as a lookout, the three others boxed in the 19-year-old driver, who was with Elias, a student at Thornton Fractional North High School in Calumet City, prosecutors said. Kerby jumped out of the car and began shouting, "I'm gonna kill you ... dragon killer, dragon killer, (expletive)," prosecutors said.

Garcia got out of a car, pulled a semiautomatic pistol and shot several times at the passenger side of the victims' car, prosecutors said. As the driver managed to pull around the cars and flee, Garcia continued to shoot, knocking out the rear windshield, authorities said.

The driver, who investigators said may have been peripherally involved with gangs at some point, then drove Elias to St. Margaret Mercy Healthcare Centers in Hammond, where she was pronounced dead. The driver underwent surgery for gunshot wounds to both hands.

Kerby is scheduled to be sentenced Feb. 26. The remaining defendants are scheduled to appear in court next month.

Two Men Arrested in Deadly Indy Robbery

Published by WishTv.com on January 7, 2010

Suspected Robber, 16, Killed by Homeowner

INDIANAPOLIS, IN Metro Police have arrested two men in connection with a deadly shooting where a robbery victim fought back.

Jose Arrieta and 23-year-old Pedro Perez, both of Indianapolis, are facing charges of robbery and murder. Police arrested them both Thursday. Police also interviewed a 17-year-old girl involved in the crime but have not arrested her.



Police said just before seven o'clock Tuesday morning in the 4600 block of East 21st Street, Arrieta, Perez, 16-year-old Guadalupe Jimenez and one other woman tried to rob the Duarte family at gunpoint. Police said Miguel Duarte struggled with Jimenez, who was holding a gun to Duarte's wife's head.

Police said Jimenez shot Duarte in the face but Duarte fought back, got the gun and shot Jimenez dead in his living room.

In October, the prosecutor's office charged Jimenez with criminal mischief for scratching MS-13 gang graffiti on a school door. MS-13 is the name of a recognized gang.

According to police reports, Guadalupe's mother reported her missing last February. Police listed Guadalupe as a runaway.

Berwyn police gang unit makes impact

Published by chicagotribune.com on January 6, 2010

Undercover Investigations Rise; Felonies and Misdemeanors Drop

Berwyn, IL | Crime is down and arrests are up a little bit in Berwyn since a new gang tactical unit hit the streets in August.

"Something had to be done," said Berwyn Mayor Robert Lovero. "Berwyn isn't the Wild West, and these gang members aren't going to be allowed to destroy our community."

Berwyn Detective Roger Montoro, coordinator of the tactical unit, remembers an incident in which a child was almost shot in gang crossfire in October. Montoro said the child was in his home near 19th Street and Scoville Avenue when a bullet shattered a window and barely missed his head.

Montoro said a feud between two gang members, who live across the street from each other -- resulted in the shooting, which left one of the gang members with a gunshot wound in his arm.

"It's very unfortunate," said Montoro. "Parents living on the block were afraid to let their children go outside to play. We're lucky the child wasn't shot."



Berwyn Police Juvenile Detective Joe Robinson searches a vehicle while on patrol. About 98 percent of crime in the suburb is committed by gang members or associates of gang members, police say.

Lovero said he came up with the idea for the unit about two years ago and began moving forward with his plan after ousting the previous mayor in April. The unit has about 20 officers and detectives.

Berwyn Deputy Police Chief Joseph Drury said police officials sat down with the new mayor to share crime data indicating about 98 percent of crime in the suburb is committed by gang members or associates of gang members.

Lovero said he wanted police to make sure the new unit was proactive, contending that the former drug unit spent too much time reacting to crime rather than attempting to prevent it. So police officials worked to execute more search warrants as well as increasing their investigations on gangs and gang leaders.

The gang unit has executed 20 search warrants, according to police officials. Only two were executed in the eight months before the unit's formation. Ten undercover investigations are

going on in the city now, Drury said.

Records supervisor and Berwyn police officer Joseph Fitzgerald said felonies fell from 70 to 63, in August and September 2009, as compared with the same months in 2008. Misdemeanors also dropped, from 199 to 152, in that period.

Fitzgerald said statistics also show the unit is responsible for more arrests. Comparing January through September of 2008 with the same months in 2009, aggravated battery arrests jumped to 55 from 43; burglary arrests went to 26 from 18; and arrests for thefts to 94 from 77.

Montoro said the tactical unit focuses on intelligence along with interrogation and undercover operations and has been able to create a list of alleged gang members in the community and surrounding area.

"If someone is shot in Cicero, for example, we look at our list and decide who they might retaliate against," said Montoro. "We know everything about them, their enemies and who they might go after next." Montoro said one gang member -- who was wounded from a bullet that grazed his head -- was brought to the police station in hopes of trying to stop him from seeking revenge.

"He told us he will continue to shoot people, but not in Berwyn," said Montoro. "I asked, 'Why not give it up totally?' The gang member said, 'That guy shot me in the head, and I got to go back and get him.' It turns out the gang member shot him (his alleged offender) in Chicago." Drury said unit officers are trying to develop a dialogue with gang members.

"The more sensitive and customer-oriented you are with violent people, the more information you're going to get out of them," he said.

"Many of these people have drug addiction problems and, in some cases, mental disorders. We offer them help. We'll make a deal with them to get them help. In turn, they often give us tips." Those tips often enable police to build enough information to ask a judge for a search warrant, police said. The unit has had some success in seizing drugs in the community.

A gang member-turned-informant helped police bust one of the largest drug operations in the city's history Nov. 2. Berwyn officers along with other state and local law enforcement officials raided a home in the 2200 block of South Ridgeland Avenue and seized 355 marijuana plants valued at nearly \$290,000, in addition to more than 300 grams of cocaine, other illegal drugs and 10 guns.

Four days later, the unit served another warrant at a home in the 2500 block of Highland Avenue and found 100 pounds of marijuana, some cocaine and drug manufacturing equipment. Lovero said he is happy with the unit's success so far.

"I think we put together a good team who knows how to read the minds of these criminals," he said. "We're not going to sit around anymore."



On Los Angeles Bus Tour, an Insider View of Gang Life

Published by NyTimes.com on January 16, 2010

LOS ANGELES, CA "If nobody moves, nobody is going to get hurt," Alfred Lomas, tattoos scrawled along his arms and neck, announced from the front of the bus just before it departed. "Just move all your money to the front." Pause.

"Just a joke!" he said, as titters of laughter filled the bus, which was embarking on the inaugural run of LA Gang Tours, one of this city's more unusual offerings for visitors.

Mr. Lomas, 45, a former gang member himself, is the organizer and chief guide of the tour through streets that figured in the formation of the city's infamous street gangs.

While some in Los Angeles debated whether the tour was insensitive or ingenious, it made its first monthly run on Saturday with a nearly full 56-seat coach.

A good many of the seats were occupied by journalists, but the tour also attracted a crowd of the curious, including a real estate agent, a German college professor and tourists from Australia.

Mr. Lomas's sometimes humorous, sometimes somber commentary highlighted a dozen locales that played a prominent role in the formation of the city's street gangs, or had some criminal notoriety.



They included the Los Angeles County jail; a mostly dry concrete riverbed favored by graffiti taggers; and the sheriff's station used by the National Guard as a staging post during the 1965 Watts riots.

Although passengers had signed releases warning of possible dangers and Mr. Lomas said he had reached agreements with several gangs not to harass the riders, the only perilous moment came when a car skidded long and loud next to the bus as it negotiated a freeway.

"What's the main purpose of graffiti?" one man on the tour asked, sending Mr. Lomas into a long explanation that touched on recognition and the "symptom to an underlying disorder."

At a few stops, several former gang members aboard the bus took the microphone to testify to life on the streets, something several tourists said they found to be the most riveting part of the tour. "How you all doing?" began Frederick Smith, 38, who described himself as a Crips member better known as Scorpio. "I grew up in the projects all my life. I'm a product of the streets. I grew up in the business, as you say."

He said he had recently been paroled from a federal prison after serving nearly 14 years for drug dealing. Now, he said, he has started a nonprofit group, Parolees for Peace that confronts gang members bent on mayhem.

"I say, 'Why you doing that shooting?' he said. "I am a product of Watts, and I am trying to do what's right now." There was hearty applause for Mr. Smith and, later, for the others who told similar stories of trying to turn their lives around.

Mr. Lomas beamed. He said that the tours (\$65, lunch included) would turn over any profit to help give gang members jobs; the five who joined him on Saturday received a stipend, he said, adding that he hoped that the tour, heavily subsidized now by financiers affiliated with the Dream Center, a Christian-based social service center where he works, would grow big enough to finance a gang- and crime-related museum and other initiatives.

Mr. Lomas said his goal was to raise awareness and educate the public, not to exploit or glamorize. The next tour was scheduled for Feb. 20.

On TV screens in the bus on Saturday, Mr. Lomas showed a 2008 documentary, "Crips and Bloods: Made in America," which traces gang development over the past five decades to neglect, deprivation and police antagonism in forgotten corners of the city.

Still, some people in the community have expressed concern that the tour glamorizes gangs or amounts to a "slum tour," putting poverty and criminal elements on display. Parts of the tour will do little to dampen such feelings.

As the bus riders peered out the windows in air-conditioned comfort, their views included homeless people pushing carts; men idling on sagging porches; and rundown storefronts.

Mr. Lomas said that he had taken pains to be sensitive and that although he had considered driving through two housing projects considered home to large gangs, he had changed plans and now only included a “snippet” of one. The few people who were outside that project when the bus passed paid it no mind, except for one woman who stared, mouth agape.

At the end, Mr. Lomas and the gang members posed, a few awkwardly, for pictures in front of a graffiti mural at a community center as tourists snapped away in news conference fashion.

The tourists said the tour had been an eye-opening experience that gave them entree to a world they would probably never have visited on their own.

One passed along a tip to Scorpio about getting a financial backer for his nonprofit group. Another promised to offer marketing pointers to Mr. Lomas.

“I was skeptical at first, and thought it would be a ‘titillating’ tour, like how the 1920s New Yorkers used to slum in Harlem,” said Sieglinde Lemke, a professor at a German university who took the tour as part of her research on poverty.

“But I think they are on to something with their plan, helping gang members. Maybe I am naïve, but it is a vision.



L.A. Gang Tour points of interest

44 Accused Gang Members Arrested in Charlotte area

Published by WECT.com on January 27, 2010



CHARLOTTE, NC | U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced Wednesday morning the arrest of hundreds of gang members, associates and other criminals during "Project Big Freeze."

According to ICE, 517 suspects were arrested in 83 cities across the country. Forty-four of the arrests were made in the Charlotte region including Gastonia (28), Charlotte (9), Bessemer City (4), Mount Holly (2), and Stanley (1). An additional 10 arrests were made in the Winston Salem area.

An ICE official said Project Big Freeze focused specifically on gangs with ties to drug trafficking organizations.

ICE says street gangs are often tied to foreign-national members and they are involved in a variety of activities including human smuggling and trafficking, narcotics smuggling and distribution; identity theft and benefit fraud; money laundering and bulk cash smuggling; weapons smuggling and arms trafficking; cyber crimes; export violations and other crimes.

"Project Big Freeze, is the largest nationwide ICE-led enforcement operation targeting transnational gangs with ties to drug trafficking organizations," said Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for ICE John Morton.

"Through gang enforcement operations like Project Big Freeze, ICE continues to target and dismantle transnational gangs to rid our streets not only of drug dealers, but the violence associated with the drug trade."

Of the 476 arrested, 151 were U.S. citizens and 366 were illegals who will face deportation now or once their criminal prosecution is complete, authorities said.

Fifty percent of the people arrested are members or associates of gangs with ties to drug trafficking in Mexico, South America and Asia.

The following list shows the country of citizenship for those arrested: Mexico 270, United States 151, Dominican Republic 18, El Salvador 16, Honduras 11, Guatemala 10, Portugal 4, Ecuador 4, Vietnam 3 and Jamaica 3.

The suspects were members of a variety of gangs including Surenos (SUR 13), Bloods, ONU Affiliates, Crips, Mexican Posse, MS-13, Eastside Rivas, Latin Counts, Nortenos and Mexican Mafia.

Since its inception in 2005, ICE agents have arrested 16,144 street gang members and associates. Of those arrested, 202 were gang leaders and 2,898 were MS-13 gang members or associates authorities say.



ICE agents arrest a Nortenos gang member in Phoenix as part of Project Big Freeze, a nationwide enforcement operation targeting gangs with ties to drug trafficking organizations.

Brockton Cops Eye City Gangs as They Probe Recent Killings and Drug Dealing

Published by wickedlocal.com on January 23, 2010

BROCKTON, MA | Amid the clutter in a Walnut Street basement, narcotics detectives found three spiral notebooks on a desk near the stairs. Inside were handwritten rules and regulations for the Folk Nation, an alliance of street gangs based in the Chicago area.

"It was like a blueprint for them," said Lt. Paul Bonanca, the detective who supervised the raid that netted 10 arrests Friday. It was the most recent gang-related literature found by narcotics detectives who are also uncovering a growing number of guns in raids.

Throughout the city, investigators are keeping tabs on the latest crop of gangs; many are armed and tied to drug dealing. "Guns and drugs often go hand in hand," Bonanca said.

Law enforcement agencies and investigators are now trying to learn if gangs or gang members dealing drugs were responsible for any of the four homicides so far this year.

"Although sometimes these people are in gangs, the actual motive sometimes can be personal in nature and not have anything to do with a gang," Brockton police Capt. Emanuel Gomes said.

But the timing of the most recent brazen, daylight killings here triggered fear that innocent bystanders may fall victim or may have already.



“It is no longer an issue about shootings when the crowded bars evacuate in the early-morning hours,” Mayor Linda Balzotti said.

In the most recent killings, a brother and sister were found shot dead in a Nilsson Street apartment Thursday morning. Maria A. DePina, 29, and her brother, Jorge, 26, were found in her second-floor apartment by Jorge DePina’s girlfriend, the mother of his 4-year-old twins, shortly after 9 a.m.

Jorge DePina was found in a bedroom, possibly shot as he slept, his brother Jonathan DePina, said. Maria DePina was found in the kitchen, he said. Jonathan said his sister, a single mother, worked hard at a nursing home, stayed to herself and never caused any problems.

Jorge DePina had associated at one time with individuals from the city’s Tremont Street gang and had gone to the police station last month with a person who was shot in November, according to a police report filed in the earlier case. Jonathan DePina said his brother was not in a gang but knew some people who hung out on Tremont Street. The double-killing came days after the daylight shooting of 23-year-old Moses Vicente on Hancock Street.

Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz said the gun-toting criminals are getting brazen and the community needs to come forward with information about who is doing the shootings.

“You don’t get much bolder than shooting someone at 8 or 9 in the morning in a residential area,” Cruz said. “If that doesn’t get people’s attention, I don’t know what will.” While investigators try to identify the killers, extra city and state police patrols are hitting the streets. Also, special units including narcotics detectives are intensifying investigations.

“There is a big concentration in the unity of efforts,” Capt. Gomes said. One day after the DePina siblings were killed, narcotics officers raided 121 Walnut St. and arrested 10 people on cocaine and marijuana dealing charges.

The investigation by Detective Jeffrey Costello followed several reports of shots fired on the street and the arrest last month of a man who ran into the house with a gun, Bonanca said.

The gang at the Walnut Street house dubbed themselves “D block” or “Dub” and had been the source of problems in the neighborhood for some time, Bonanca said.

Those arrested Friday were Marcia Fernandes, 17, Antone Jeremiah, 17, Marcus Solivan, 17, Jaymes Williams, 17, Joseph Burke, 19; Joshua Taylor, 18; and a 16-year-old boy. They were all charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and conspiracy to violate the drug laws. The 16-year-old will face the charges in Juvenile Court.

Also, Errol Augustine, 56; Francisco DeBarros, 18; and Marcus Fernandes, 28, were charged with possession of crack cocaine with intent to distribute and conspiracy to violate the drug laws.

Mexican Posse Head Nabbed in Drug Bust

Published by Fdlreporter.com on January 27, 2010

MILWAUKEE, WI Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen announced today the arrest of 21 known gang members and associates in an operation undertaken last week in metropolitan Milwaukee. Fourteen of those taken into custody are Mexican nationals and known members of the Mexican Posse street gang.



Twelve are in the U.S. illegally; two are lawful permanent residents whose criminal histories render them eligible for deportation. The remaining seven were arrested by the Milwaukee Police Department on outstanding warrants and state drug charges.

Among them, individuals with outstanding warrants, some facing new drug charges and immigration violators. “Milwaukee and Wisconsin residents are 21 times safer today than they were last week. Criminal illegal aliens come not to contribute to Wisconsin but to unlawfully enrich themselves and destroy lives,” Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen said in a press release.

“They threaten public peace, law enforcement, the criminal justice system. I’ve ensured that Department of Justice resources are available to combat this threat. We will work with ICE to remove these unwelcome guests. I am grateful to the agents and officers that execute these dangerous arrests of known criminals with no ties to Wisconsin except their criminal activity,” said Van Hollen.

Most of those arrested have extensive criminal histories; some of their convictions and arrests include: carrying a concealed weapon, theft, robbery with use of force, reckless use of a firearm and drug possession.

Among those arrested in the Milwaukee area were: A 26-year-old illegal alien from Mexico who was arrested on January 20. As a Mexican Posse member, his criminal history includes convictions in Milwaukee for theft-movable property and additional arrests for possessing cocaine with intent to deliver, carrying a concealed weapon, and violating a restraining order. He remains in ICE custody pending removal from the United States.

Also on January 20, agents arrested a 40-year-old illegal alien believed to be a leader of the Mexican Posse gang in Milwaukee. He is in the U.S. illegally and has prior convictions for drug possession and was previously arrested for attempting to flee law enforcement. He remains in ICE custody pending removal from the United States.



Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen

Transnational street gangs have significant numbers of foreign-national members and are frequently involved in human smuggling and trafficking; narcotics smuggling and distribution; identity theft and benefit fraud; money laundering and bulk cash smuggling; weapons smuggling and arms trafficking; cyber crimes; export violations; and other crimes with a nexus to the border.

Like any street gang, these transnational gangs also have a propensity toward violence. Their members commit a number of violent crimes including robbery, extortion, assault, rape and murder. Nearly 50% of those arrested nationwide are members or associates of gangs with ties to drug trafficking cartels in Mexico, South American and Asia.

Under Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen’s leadership, the Wisconsin Department of Justice has become a more active partner and participant in these cooperative enforcement operations concentrating on criminal aliens. Since October 2008 when this partnership began 319 criminal illegal aliens have been arrested.

“The success of this operation speaks for itself. These criminals are now out of Wisconsin neighborhoods and off the streets,” said Attorney General Van Hollen. He went on “I am grateful to the ICE officials with whom we have and will continue to work cooperatively.”

Sheriff Raids Biker Gang House: Authorities Serve Warrants on Outlaws, Two Arrested

Published by KnoxNews.com on January 1, 2010



Suspects sit in custody outside a house at 205 Clifton Road the Knox County Sheriff's Office raided the local "clubhouse" of the Outlaws Motorcycle Club.

KNOX COUNTY, TN | The Knox County Sheriff's Office dropped a different kind of ball on the heads of a notorious motorcycle gang on New Year's Eve, sending at least two of them to jail for allegedly threatening an undercover officer and stealing his vest last month.

A SWAT team armed with concussion grenades and assault rifles raided the clubhouse of the Outlaws Motorcycle Club's Knoxville chapter off Western Avenue, swiftly handcuffing more than a dozen leather-clad bikers and at least two women as they were celebrating with booze, sandwiches and vegetable plates, authorities said.

"These guys are a menace to society," said Knox County Sheriff Jimmy "J.J." Jones. "Everything they stand for is illegal."

Jones said the Outlaws are involved "in every illegal activity known to man," including prostitution, weapons violations and drug trafficking.

The raid was the culmination of a 14-month long probe in which an undercover Sheriff's Office deputy successfully penetrated the motorcycle club, eventually becoming a "full-fledged member" after he was recruited into the gang by its regional president, Mark "Ivan" Lester, Jones said.

The deputy, who wasn't named Thursday, reported that he had seen "numerous incidents among the bikers involving drugs including cocaine, OxyContin, hydrocodone, and marijuana, and weapons such as semiautomatic pistols, and Uzi automatic weapons, and grenades," according to a written statement handed out after the raid.

The search warrant that was executed at the clubhouse Thursday was triggered by an incident in December involving Lester and the Knoxville chapter's president, Kenneth Foster, Jones said. Lester and Foster allegedly threatened the undercover officer with a semiautomatic pistol and demanded his vest, Jones said. The officer, "fearing for his life," turned over the vest to the two men.

On Thursday night, several dozen heavily armed SWAT team members and other deputies converged on the house at 205 Clifton Road where the group made its headquarters, Jones said. Police knew the club was planning a New Year's Eve party and it was expected that most club members would be there.

The officers used concussion grenades to "stun and disorient" the house's occupants before bursting in, Jones said. Knoxville Police Department Chief Sterling P. Owen IV said that police had control of the house in "under a minute."

"Nobody got hurt, on either side," he said. Both Lester and Foster were captured at the clubhouse, and both were charged with aggravated robbery and aggravated kidnapping. Their bonds were set at \$3 million each, the Sheriff's Office said.

Officers with Kennewick’s Criminal Apprehension Team then arrived at the scene and received a telephonic search warrant to enter the home, Valdez said.

Once inside, police allegedly found 14 “highly uncooperative,” and intoxicated men and women. Valdez said some of them were identified as Mexican Pride/Sureños gang members.

A number of the people had to be medically cleared for injuries suffered in the fight before being booked into the Benton County jail, he said.

Joshua Lee Acevedo, 20, received three staples for a head injury. It is his home where police said the fight broke out. Also injured was Andres Ray Rodriguez, 25, who got four staples for a cut to his head, police said.

Washington State Patrol troopers and Benton County sheriff’s deputies helped transport all the suspects to jail. The investigative hold for each suspect ranges from minor in possession/consumption of alcohol and possession of marijuana to maintaining a public nuisance and obstructing.

From the Editors

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. We are always trying to improve the quality and effectiveness of our newsletters and information.

If you have any comments, suggestions or articles that can be used in the “G.A.I.N.” Newsletter, please send them to:

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