



United States  
Department  
Of Justice



U.S. Attorney's  
Office

Northern District of  
Indiana

5400 Federal Plaza  
Suite 1500  
Hammond, IN 46320  
219.937.5500

David Capp  
United States Attorney

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**POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS**

## Prosecutors say local gang ran \$100 million mortgage fraud Officials say 220 properties in San Diego County involved

Published by the North County Time on April 8, 2009

**SAN DIEGO, CA** Authorities said Tuesday that they arrested 24 people in connection with a wide-ranging real estate fraud that involved 220 properties across San Diego County and loans totaling more than \$100 million.

The defendants used fictitious loan documents and a fake construction company, defrauding banks into making loans for home improvement projects that were never built, officials said. A federal prosecutor said that the 24 were charged under anti-racketeering statutes that would carry maximum penalties of 20 years in prison.

By using the statutes originally adopted to bust organized crime, prosecutors said the government would be able to seek harsher penalties than if they pressed only bank fraud charges.

Keith Slotter, a special agent with the FBI who said he has worked white-collar crimes for 22 years, called the case "one of the most significant investigations I have seen" because of the racketeering charges for mortgage fraud activities.

According to the 83-page grand jury indictment, the defendants recruited "straw buyers," who lent their credit profiles but put no money down to close the mortgages used to purchase the 220 homes. Authorities said that a typical mortgage application requested funds for the completion of projects that would make the home handicapped-accessible. Those projects never existed, and the funds were instead redistributed among the defendants, authorities said.



Source: BankForeclosuresSale.com

*Continued...*

The scheme involved not only the buyer, but also real estate agents, appraisers and escrow agents, said Karen Hewitt, the U.S. attorney for San Diego. "From top to bottom, as I described the real estate industry, it was all implicated here," Hewitt said, adding that collusion among real estate professionals warranted the racketeering charge. "Everyone served their specific roles to make this enterprise work for the corrupt entities."

Some of the defendants were known street gang members, including the scheme's leader, Darnell Bell, aka "D-Bell," 38, of Chula Vista, authorities said. Another defendant, Ray Logan, used the alias "Jack Nasty." Bell is in federal custody serving a sentence under a conviction for selling cocaine, prosecutors said. Authorities said Bell took home at least \$9 million in profits through the purchase of the 220 homes.

Four North County residents and one Southwest Riverside County resident were among the 24 arrested: Anton Ewing, of Rancho Santa Fe; Dennis Tapia, of Oceanside; Dexter Holiday, of San Marcos; Keith Holiday, of Ramona; and Esteban Valenzuela, of Sun City, who acted as an appraiser, according to the indictment.

A North County Times investigation published in August centered on a string of transactions linked to two of the 24 defendants. Hewitt said law enforcement officials opened their investigation in November.



FBI Special Agent in Charge Keith Slotter announces charges in an alleged mortgage fraud ring  
Source: [VoiceOfSanDiego.org](http://VoiceOfSanDiego.org)

The newspaper's investigation found that Michael Ivy ---- who was indicted for recruiting buyers for the Bell operation, according to officials ---- purchased an Escondido condominium at an unusually high price. The grant deed on that sale, as with most of the sales at that condo complex, was notarized by Billie Bishop, another name listed in the indictment released Tuesday.

However, Bishop's arrest was only linked to work as an escrow officer, not a notary, and the Escondido condominium complex was not involved in the indictment announced Tuesday, said Todd Robinson, assistant U.S. attorney.

Also, the newspaper's investigation focused on the condo complex's development team, which was not mentioned in the indictment. The newspaper reported in August that the team apparently struggled for months to sell the condos, but was later able to find buyers at dramatically higher prices than those of comparable homes in the neighborhood at a time when the local housing market was collapsing.

James Tills, one of the real estate agents who helped sell the Escondido condos, told the North County Times last summer that Michael Ivy provided buyers for some of the condos that sold at unusually high prices. Tills was not mentioned in the indictment Tuesday. Tills said it was tough selling the Escondido condos as the region's real estate market crumbled.

"And so I called Mike Ivy, and he said, 'Yeah, I've got enough buyers to buy all of them up,'" Tills said last summer. "And I said, 'That's great. In this market, that's great.'"

**For related story see:** <http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid={3D53121F-FB4C-4D4F-86E3-5F6B51545E8B}&siteid=nbkh>

## Three arrested after Goshen gang drive-by shooting

Published by the South Bend Tribune on April 30, 2009

**SOUTH BEND, IN**| Two adults and a juvenile were arrested early Thursday after a gang drive-by shooting in Goshen's 300 block of South Seventh Street. No one was injured, according to police.

Just after 3 a.m., occupants of a house in that block were awakened by people pounding on the front door. The occupants didn't answer the door and then heard gunshots, according to Goshen Police Adjutant Joe Brown, the department's public information officer.

At the same time, Goshen Police Capt. Mike Miller heard gunshots and saw a vehicle flee South Seventh Street at a high rate of speed. He pursued the car and stopped the driver. Several weapons were found in the car and near the scene.

- A 17-year-old male was arrested on preliminary charges of criminal gang activity and criminal recklessness with a deadly weapon.
- Marcos Martinez, 19, of Goshen, was arrested on preliminary charges of criminal gang activity and operating a vehicle while intoxicated.
- David Mendoza, 21, of Goshen, was arrested on a preliminary charge of criminal gang activity.



## Second teen arrested in fatal shooting

Published by the NWI Times on May 1, 2009

**HAMMOND, IN**| A teenager wanted by police since last year in connection with the shooting death of a Robertsdale boy was arrested Wednesday near the scene of the August crime.

The 15-year-old Chicago resident was with a group of young people around 5 p.m. in the 1900 block of Warwick Avenue, police said, near the former home of John Shoulders, 15, whose bullet-riddled body was found nearby in a neighbor's driveway on Aug. 22.

Gang Unit officers checking the youths' identification were given different names by the teenager, who was taken into custody on a false informing charge, police said. An additional charge of assisting a criminal in the perpetration of a murder was filed after the teen's real identity was determined.

The 15-year-old, whose name was not released, is being held in the Lake County Juvenile Center, with a hearing date yet to be set.

A 16-year-old Crown Point resident who surrendered to authorities in September, Martin Villalon Jr., will be tried as an adult for the shooting, and was charged with murder in Lake Criminal Court earlier this month. Villalon faces 65 years in prison if convicted.

Police said both suspects in the murder are believed to be associated with a Chicago-based criminal gang which has recently been establishing a presence in Northwest Indiana.



## Gang member gets 40 years in shooting

Published by the Journal Gazette on May 2, 2009

**FORT WAYNE, IN**| Anthony Parish claimed he wasn't aiming for Andrea L. Terrell when he shot into a car last October. He was trying instead to kill the driver of the car, Patrick Long.

He explained himself Friday during his sentencing hearing, moments before Allen Superior Court Judge Fran Gull sentenced him to prison for 40 years in the first of three serious felony cases pending against the 19-year-old.

Parish pleaded guilty in April to attempted murder and aggravated battery in the shooting of Terrell on Oct. 1. A confessed member of the D-Boys gang, Parish was the passenger in a car that pulled alongside Long's car on Hessen Cassel Road.

According to Allen County Deputy Prosecutor Jason Custer, Parish saw Long's car, turned around and pursued it before he opened fire. Parish missed Long but hit Terrell, 32, in the stomach, according to court documents.

Since his arrest in connection with Terrell's shooting, Parish has been charged in two other shootings – attempted murder in one and murder in the other. He already has a 2008 conviction for criminal recklessness, accused of firing a gun at another person.

"It's almost as if this defendant thinks this is the Old West," Custer told Gull during the hearing. "His actions and his history show he is not fit to be a member of society."

Parish was subdued during the hearing, sitting in the jury box with his hands folded on his lap. A tattoo reading "RIP TRELLE" was visible on the right side of his neck – a likely reference to 18-year-old Contrell L. Brown, who was shot to death in 2008.

In January, prosecutors charged Parish with murder, felony murder, robbery and two counts of carrying a handgun without a license in the August shooting of Antoine J. Woods, 30, on New Haven Avenue. Woods was found dead inside a car parked outside a club with gunshot wounds to his face and side. After Woods' death, Fort Wayne police detectives received numerous calls saying Parish was the shooter and had been spotted wearing Woods' necklace, according to court documents.

Then in March, prosecutors charged Parish with attempted murder, aggravated battery and carrying a handgun without a license, accusing him of shooting 41-year-old Dennis Salley in August in the 400 block of Suttentfield Street. According to court documents, Salley was walking near Caroline and Suttentfield streets just before midnight Aug. 6. He passed a group of men near a car, and they began to call out to him, according to court documents. The group of men began fighting among themselves and one of the men, later identified as Parish, came at Salley, firing a gun. Salley ran and later realized he had been shot. He made his way to the porch of a nearby home with gunshot wounds to his chest, stomach and legs, according to court documents.



Anthony Parish

## Gang-related shooting takes the life of another CPS student

Student is 31st of city public schools killed since the fall

Published by the Chicago Tribune on April 4, 2009.

**CHICAGO, IL** | Lois Davis rushed out of her apartment moments after her grandson was killed this week in what police said may have been a gang-related shooting.

“They tore him up. There wasn’t anything I could do for him,” Davis said Friday after Tommie Williams, 18, was shot about 5 p.m. Thursday near East 61st Street and South Cottage Grove Avenue.

Williams, a sophomore at Chicago Vocational Career Academy, was the 31st Chicago public school student slain this school year.



“It happened not far from here [the family’s apartment],” recalled Davis, who had been Williams’ guardian since he was 3 and lived with him in the 6000 block of South Cottage Grove. “Neighbors came by, banging on the door, telling me there was a shooting.”

Davis arrived too late. Williams was pronounced dead at Stroger Hospital less than an hour after the shooting, officials said.

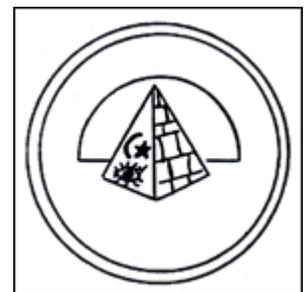
The grandmother said she was told that two young men from the area, who weren’t part of the group to which Williams and his two younger brothers belonged, went after Williams and his companions.

Williams was standing in a group of seven or eight young people when a dispute broke out, and one of the young people pulled a gun, said Police Investigative Services Deputy Supt. Steve Peterson. Shots were fired, the group scattered and Williams had been shot, he said.

At a news conference Friday on Chicago’s crime rate, Peterson said Williams was an admitted member of the Black P Stones gang. Williams had arrests from unlawful use of a weapon to possessing cannabis, theft and trespassing, police said.

But Davis said though her grandson socialized with friends who said they were gang members, “he hung around with them because he grew up with them,” not because he was an active gang member.

Williams was a sophomore at Chicago Vocational, said Chicago Public Schools spokeswoman Monique Bond. But his grandmother said he was a junior. Davis said Williams took interest in working on diesel engines in his classes. He was the middle of five children, with two sisters, ages 21 and 19, and two brothers, 16 and 15, she said.



Black P Stone drawing.  
Source: Florida DOC

“He was just a fun guy,” Davis said. “All the girls liked him because he was a good-looking boy. He was always joking around. He had a beautiful smile.”

Davis said she has been trying to find a way to move to another neighborhood because of violence in the area.

No arrests had been made as of Friday evening. Calumet Area detectives were reviewing video from city surveillance cameras, Peterson said.



## Gangs behind city killings

5 of 11 homicides in '09 are blamed on 'loosely organized groups,' chief says.

Published by the Dayton Daily News on April 17, 2009

**DAYTON, OH** Police Chief Richard Biehl will not identify what gangs are involved in the city's latest shootings that claimed the lives of Christopher "B-Money" Hinton and Thomas "Tom-Tom" Watson. Biehl said he does not want to legitimize a gang whose street credibility might soar in the wake of a deadly shooting.



Dayton, Ohio Police Chief Richard Biehl  
Source: Dayton Daily News

"These street gangs, per se, are loosely organized groups with fluid memberships," he said. "But we realize we have these groups out there."

Five of the city's 11 homicides this year are gang related, including Hinton's (No. 10) and Watson's (11), Biehl said.

"At this time last year we had nine homicides where we identified five of those were group related," he said. "We have data of the last three and half years that shows 30 percent of all homicides are group related."

City Manager Rashad Young, who was at College Hill Park on Thursday, April 16, after the Watson shooting, said it's not his concern if the shootings are gang related.

"Let's call them gangs. Now what?" Young said. "How they are classified is something I don't really pay attention to. The focus ought to be on a community-centered response."

Biehl has established a gang unit within the Dayton Police Department that works with community leaders to combat gang activity. The move is in collaboration with anti-gun violence initiative Biehl implemented in November. He echoed Young's appeal to the community that it must get involved to help weed out gang activity and help detectives solve the city's two latest killings.

Watson's killing wasn't the Watson family's first tragic brush with gun violence. The same uncle playing basketball on Thursday with Watson was in the K9 Club on Germantown Pike in 2007 when Watson's father — also named Thomas Watson — was shot to death by two gunmen. The younger Watson was shot in the stomach in 2006 inside the Foundry Night Club in Dayton.

Homicide detectives said Tom-Tom Watson also was involved in the drive-by shooting death of Maurice Alford last year, but was never charged. Alford's death led to the retaliation slaying of LaQuan Sanford in May. Alford's brother, Antonio, was sentenced in March to 36 years to life for Sanford's murder. Sanford's father and Montgomery County prosecutors said Antonio Alford mistakenly thought Sanford was related to Tom-Tom Watson.

Biehl would not say if Alford's and Sanford's slayings are related to Watson's death.

"People involved in these incidents of crime have lived in a way that puts them in position to be a victim of a violent crime," he said. "We ask these types of individuals to change their lifestyles."



## Gang leader sentenced: Latin King gets 20 years for drug conspiracy

### Judge ignores prosecutor's plea, sentences gang's No. 2 to minimum sentence

Published by the Chicago Tribune April 4, 2009

**CHICAGO, IL** Ignoring a plea by a prosecutor to send a signal of zero tolerance for street gangs, a federal judge Friday sentenced the "Supreme Inca," the No. 2 leader of the Latin Kings street gang, to the minimum 20 years in prison for drug conspiracy.

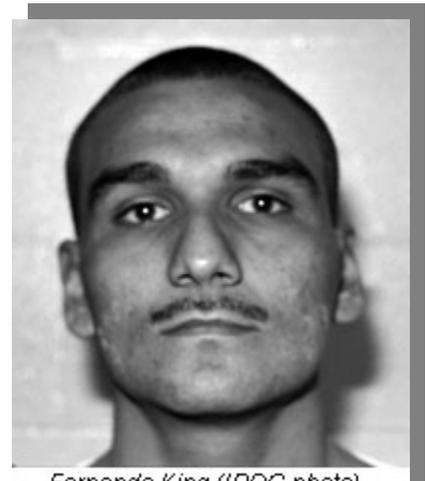
While acknowledging Fernando King, 38, was the leader of a gang responsible for narcotics trafficking and murder, U.S. District Judge David Coar said King could be sentenced only for the crimes for which he was convicted and not the broader destruction caused by the gang.

Prosecutors sought 45 years in prison for King for offering to protect the drug trafficking operation of Jesse Guajardo, another high-ranking Latin King.

King didn't realize Guajardo was secretly working with the government and recording face-to-face meetings. The audio recordings also captured King ordering gang members to beat a fellow member for violating gang rules, bragging about the Latin Kings' influence nationwide and exhorting members to use violence to protect their turf.

"The Latin Kings are precisely what's wrong with this city," said Assistant U.S. Atty. Andrew Porter. "It hurts people. It kills people. It makes law-abiding people afraid to go out of their homes."

Porter said King was directly responsible for the "mayhem" wrought by the Latin Kings and asked Coar to give King the maximum sentence to "send a message loud and clear that this has to stop."



*Fernando King (IDOC photo)*

But King's lawyer, Joseph Lopez, said gangs have been a part of Chicago for more than a century and locking up his client for longer than 20 years would do nothing to change that.

"Whatever you do today is not going to stop gang life in Chicago," Lopez said. King gave a rambling statement, telling the judge that he was not a "monster" and would give up the gang life and work for community peace if given the chance.



"I am a very positive person," King said.

King alleged that prosecutors offered him a sentence of about 9 years in prison if he helped nab Augustin Zambrano, the Latin Kings' reputed No. 1 leader. King said he refused the deal. After announcing the sentence, Coar said he would recommend to federal prison authorities that King be sent to a prison closer to Chicago so his ailing mother could visit him.

"I appreciate that," responded King before standing up and blowing a kiss to his mother and other relatives as he was led from the courtroom.

## Man pleads not guilty to tattooing 7-year-old boy

Published by the Fresno Bee on April 26, 2009.

**FRESNO, CA** | A Fresno man charged with tattooing a gang insignia on a 7-year-old boy while the father held him has pleaded not guilty.

Travis Gorman entered his plea Friday in Fresno County Superior Court. He faces felony charges of aggravated mayhem and street terrorism.

Fresno police say the 20-year-old tattooed the boy's belly with a dog paw. It is the insignia of the Bulldogs, who are Fresno's largest criminal street gang.

A warrant has been issued for the father, identified as 26-year-old Enrique Gonzalez.

Investigators learned of the crime Tuesday when the boy's mother brought the child to the offices of a multi-agency gang task force.



Bulldogs Street Gang  
drawing  
Source: Photobucket.com



## Norteño gang member who ran over Monterey County Sheriff's deputy still missing

**Deputy healing at home while fellow officers chase elusive gang member who ditched car near 101**

Published by the Californian on April 13, 2009.

**SALINAS, CA** | A gang member who police say ran over a Monterey County Sheriff's deputy with a car on Friday night was still on the run late Sunday night, officials said.

Deputy Jesse Pinon, a member of the Monterey County Joint Gang Task Force, was hurt when he and other members of the task force attempted to contact Raymond Campos, sheriff's Cmdr. Mike Richards said.

Campos, 29, a two-strike parolee and Norteño gang member, ran over Pinon while attempting to get away, police said. Whether Campos intended to run over Pinon or it was an accident, both Cmdr. Bob Eggers of the task force and Cmdr. Mike Richards of the Sheriff's Office said Campos will be arrested on suspicion of attempting to kill a police officer and on parole violations.

"[Campos] will be charged accordingly," Eggers said. Eggers said the incident is the first of its kind that he can think of since the task force's formation four years ago.

The manhunt involves several agencies, including the Monterey County Gang Task Force, Salinas Police Department and Salinas' Violence Suppression Unit.

"It doesn't matter who catches him, as long as we catch him," Richards said.

Richards said he doesn't know where Campos could be hiding or where the various agencies looking for him may be focusing, but added possibilities include Campos hiding out with nearby relatives or having fled the state. The

incident occurred just before 8 p.m. Friday when Campos, who had been walking in an apartment complex parking lot at 57 Natividad Road, was approached by gang task force officers, police said. It's unclear why the officers attempted to contact Campos but Eggers said since Campos was a parolee, he can be subject to a search and seizure at any time.



Raymond Campos

"We conduct these checks to make sure they're not violating any terms of their probation," Eggers said.

As the officers called out to Campos, Campos ignored them, walked away and got inside a car, Richards said. When Pinon grabbed Campos to pull him out of the vehicle, Campos started the car and backed up, knocking Pinon to the ground and running over his shoulder and arm, police said. A Salinas police officer then fired several rounds at Campos, but it's unclear whether he was hit, Richards said.

The car Campos was driving was later found abandoned in the area of Highway 101 and Market Street, police said.

Pinon was flown to a Bay Area hospital for treatment of a dislocated shoulder and broken clavicle, and was released early Saturday, Richards said. Richards, who spoke with Pinon by phone over the weekend, said the deputy was doing OK and is on leave for now.

In January, Pinon shot a man in the hand at an auto body shop. Carlos Fletes, the owner of the shop on the 1300 block of Dayton Street, and Jose Manuel Villareal await trial on allegations of assault with a deadly weapon and several gun-related charges.

Fletes is accused of pointing a gun at Pinon, prompting the deputy to shoot him in the hand. Defense attorneys have said the men were just painting a bumper and were not doing anything illegal that day. Fletes' lawyer maintains his client was holding a paint spray gun and not a firearm.

Pinon has been a sheriff's deputy for more than five years, Richards said, and is one of the gang task force's original members, Eggers said.

The Salinas Police Department is heading an internal investigation into the police officer who fired his weapon Friday night, Eggers said. Internal investigations are standard in officer-involved shootings.



## In St. Petersburg, street feud's sad toll is an 8-year-old girl

Published by the St. Petersburg Times on April 7, 2009.

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL** For decades young men from Bethel Heights have warred with their rivals from Harbordale. No one even remembers how the feud started. But the city is once again mourning in its aftermath. An 8-year-old girl is dead, gunned down when her home was raked by semiautomatic rifles early Sunday morning. Paris Whitehead-Hamilton wasn't the target. But she was the only one hurt, police say, when a heavily armed Bethel Heights crew looking for a Harbordale member opened fire on 771 Preston Ave. S.

Stephen Cortez Harper, 18, was arrested hours later by St. Petersburg police on a charge of being a principal to first degree murder. Three other suspects were the subject of a citywide manhunt on Monday. Harper's first arrest

was at age 9. He now has an extensive criminal record — and a "bh4-life" tattoo. His sister blamed the shooting on those two street gangs.

"They fight just because they're from two different hoods," said Lecia Simmons, 24. "This has been going on since I was 13."

The child's murder in Bartlett Park touched a raw nerve in St. Petersburg, a city that has long seen more than its share of senseless violence. Ray Tampa, president of the St. Petersburg NAACP, said he's hearing calls for a march to confront this "stupidity."

That outrage has also revitalized an old debate: Is the city safe just because statistics say it is? Pinellas-Pasco Chief Assistant State Attorney Bruce Bartlett likened St. Petersburg to a war zone.

"There is a definite crime problem in St. Pete, and it needs to be dealt with," he said. "Don't tell me we don't have a problem if we've got this going on."

Police Chief Chuck Harmon said he's outraged, too. But once again he answered that outrage with numbers: "Crime in Bartlett Park is down" he said. And, the chief said, four "thugs" shouldn't be allowed to speak for an entire city. "I don't think anyone should use this to say St. Pete is a war zone or is out of control," Harmon said. "That's totally wrong. You can't define a community by the acts of four individuals."

Paris was shot in the back by three stray bullets, police said, around 2:20 a.m. Sunday. She died within the hour at Bayfront Medical Center. As the sun rose, police quickly identified a suspect: Harper. Detectives called his family and asked them to bring Harper in for questioning.

Harper has a 5-month-old son, Stephen Cortez Harper III. The father was supposed to be at Gibbs High School on Monday, his family said, to finish his degree. Instead, he's now being held without bail in the county jail. Harper hasn't yet been identified as one of the shooters. But according to his arrest report, he told police he loaded a clip with new ammo, loaded several weapons into a car and was at the scene of the shooting.

Detectives also seized three assault rifles, two shotguns and one bulletproof vest from an apartment at the Citrus Grove Apartments at 803 15th St. S. Harper lives in an apartment there, too. But he told his family he wasn't one of the shooters.

"He said he didn't pull the trigger," said his stepfather, Theodore Cummins. "He said he didn't kill anybody."

Police haven't said what motivated the suspects to shoot up an entire house. A similar feud led to the shooting death of an innocent bystander — 15-year-old Deandre Brown — in 2007. This time, it was a second-grader caught in the middle of the violence.

"Just know they killed the wrong person," said Paris' babysitter, Syria Israel, 17. "They were trying to get at someone in the house."

**Read the full story at: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/crime/article990024.ece>**



Shamiyah Watson, 8, left, and Lashay Green, 10, right, attend a vigil for schoolmate Paris Whitehead-Hamilton, 8, who was killed early Sunday morning in St. Petersburg. "She was precious," Lashay said. Police have an 18-year-old in custody in the case and are looking for three other suspects.