



G.A.I.N.

GANG ACTIVITY INFORMATION NETWORK



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POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS



Gang ID sessions meant to break down fear

Published by JConline.com on February 23, 2010

LAFAYETTE, IN | In response to concerns of possible turf wars between rival gang members, Jefferson High School in recent years established a firm policy letting students know such behavior would not be tolerated.

The result? Less conflict in hallways and fewer instances of graffiti, which is often an indicator of a street gang's presence, assistant principal Roger Francis said.

"Things have really subsided tremendously in the last year, knock on wood," he said. "That's not to say we don't have gang members or that it's gotten rid of gangs.

"But we've made it clear that the school is a neutral territory. What takes place on the streets has no place in school. We will not tolerate any gang activity."

Francis' last sentiment is one the Tippecanoe County prosecutor's office is hoping the community will adopt. A free gang identification seminar for residents will be held tonight at Faith Community Center in Lafayette.

The seminar will feature Robert C. Walker, a former agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. He is the founder of several social networking sites on gang activity, including.

Walker's presentation will be geared toward Tippecanoe County's demographics, according to Kathryn Redd, coordinator of the prosecutor office's Project Safe Neighborhoods.

Sponsored by
THE TIPPECANOE COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

ROBERT WALKER
Gang's OR Us

Gang Awareness & Identification Training
Public Presentation
Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 7:00pm-9:00pm

"The message is to be proactive," Red said. "There are many communities ... within 200 miles of major metropolitan areas that are experiencing gang problems that they've never dealt with before. "Some people are quick to say we don't have gangs or that it's not as bad as Chicago. The message is to not let it get as bad as Chicago."



Robert Walker

Tonight's seminar is open to people in the community age 18 and older. Redd encourages parents, educators, health care workers and neighborhood association leaders, among others, to attend.

It's being funded through Tippecanoe County's asset forfeiture program, which confiscates proceeds usually money and property, from drug busts.

Prosecutor Pat Harrington said Walker's \$4,000 fee includes four training sessions this week, which are being offered for law enforcement and other criminal justice officials in Tippecanoe County.

The Lafayette Police Department is sending 128 officers, four short of its full staff, Chief Don Roush said. Those not attending are unable to because of previously scheduled vacations or other commitments, he said. Francis said he and about 20 others at Jeff, including the school resource officer and security liaisons, plan to attend.

According to Redd, the most prominent gangs in Tippecanoe County include Gangster Disciples, Surenos, Vice Lords and Latin Kings. She said the community also is seeing a rise in white supremacy groups. "Primarily, it's drugs. It's drug trafficking, distribution and sales," she said. "Typically, they will bring in the drugs and then filter them onto the streets by recruiting local residents."

Redd said another concern, particularly among youth, is intimidation. "The way they gain power is fear," she said. "Part of the educational process is to eliminate the fear and empower the citizens. They don't need to be fearful; they need to be knowledgeable.

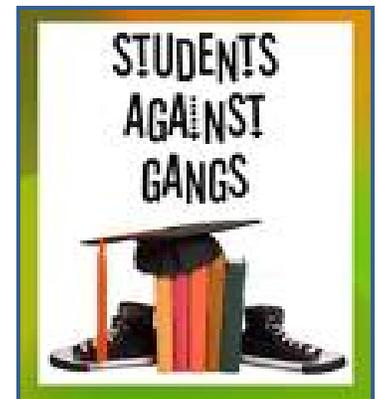
"... I would say 90 percent of the shootings and incidents of shots fired in our community are gang related." Capt. Bruce Biggs is commander of the Lafayette Police Department's investigations division. He said it's difficult to draw that kind of correlation between criminal activity and gangs.

What detectives have found, Biggs said, is that offenders often are loosely affiliated. "We see a lot of offenders with gang ties, but it's not as overt as they're being in a street gang," he said. "What we typically see is loose affiliations. We see more affiliations than organized criminal activity.

"For us, tracking whether someone is in a gang is more of an identifier. We use it to see who they're hanging out with or where they may be." For instance, during the investigations into two shootings last year ,at Cambridge Estates, an apartment complex off Indiana 38, and near Subway off Indiana 38 gang affiliations were never brought up.

The one at Cambridge, however, was likely drug-related because crack cocaine was found nearby, Detective Scott Galloway said. One person was injured in that incident. No arrests were made.

Galloway said investigators have been unable to locate the victim after he left the hospital. No one was injured during the Subway shooting, which apparently was a robbery attempt.



Teen pleads guilty to gang-rape in Riverhaven

Published by News-Sentinel.com on February 6, 2010

He will testify against a man and 2 other teens charged in case.

FORT WAYNE, IN| A Fort Wayne teen who participated in a gang-rape of a then-19-year-old woman with cerebral palsy last summer has pleaded guilty to his role.

Christopher L. Ramsey, 19, of the 600 block of Spillson Avenue, accepted a plea agreement with Allen County prosecutors that will see him convicted of rape and criminal deviate conduct, both Class B felonies.

The deal calls for a 10-year sentence cap, with both counts to be served concurrently, when Ramsey is sentenced March 29. The deal will force Ramsey to testify against the other suspects in the case.

According to the probable-cause affidavit, Ramsey, along with 16-year-old Joshua Saylor, 21-year-old William O. Gresham and an unidentified 13-year-old boy, were accused of taking the woman, who has a diminished mental capacity and requires the use of a walker, to a weedy area behind a home in Riverhaven during the early hours of June 25.

They stripped off her clothes, forced her to perform a sex act and each raped her. The four then left the woman lying naked in the weeds. According to the affidavit, she dragged herself 50 feet to a table where they had left her clothes. She had multiple scratches, bruises, and cuts to her knees, legs and toes from dragging herself.

The cases against Saylor and Gresham are still pending in Allen Superior Court. Saylor is being tried as an adult. No information has been released on the 13-year-old's case because he is a juvenile.



Christopher Ramsey

Gang signs found at alleged meth lab

Published by HeraldArgus.com on February 6, 2010

LAPORTE, IN| There were signs of gang activity at a suspected methamphetamine lab busted last month on La Porte's east side. Those were among the new details released after Friday's initial court appearances of Dustin Hine, 23, and 21-year-old Briana Lucas.

Both defendants are charged with Class A felony dealing methamphetamine and Class C felony illegal drug lab: possession /sale of precursors.

According to court documents, members of the La Porte Metro Operations Unit, Indiana State Police and U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency on Jan. 27 responded to the 400 block of Lincoln Way where officers were prepared to make an arrest after seeing evidence that a large quantity of pseudo ephedrine was being purchased at a nearby pharmacy. The cold medication is a main ingredient of methamphetamine.



Almighty Latin Touch Boy Nation graffiti

Once allowed inside, detectives found an active meth lab consisting of the drug cooking inside several soda bottles that had smoke coming out of plastic tubes from the pressure released by the cooking process, court documents revealed.

Among the other items seized were ingredients for meth such as red lye, fuel lithium battery strips and cooking utensils such as funnels and coffee filters, police said. Pseudo ephedrine was also found in a coffee grinder and several glass tubes.

There was sodium hydrochloride recovered from a white plastic jar. Court documents also revealed that gang symbols such as and five-point crowns were sprayed on the walls in red paint. The letters stand for “almighty Latin Touch Boy Nation,” police said.

Hine and Lucas were both ordered held in the La Porte County Jail on \$5,000 cash only bond to await the conclusion of their cases. If convicted, Hine and Lucas both could face anywhere from a 20- to 50-year sentence on one of the counts.

2 arrested at motorcycle club

Published by Post-Trib.com on February 9, 2010

Last week, Portage police shut down party at same storage unit

PORTAGE, IN| Two members of the MOB Squad Motorcycle Club were arrested at their clubhouse Friday night, less than a week after a party in the same warehouse was shut down by police.



An officer pulled up to the unit at J&L Storage, 5675 Old Porter Road, when he saw two men sitting in a SUV outside the storage unit just before 8:30 p.m. Friday.

In the driver's seat, Nicholas Stucker, 23, of Hobart, had a gun next to him and told police he loaded it when the unmarked squad car approached, not knowing it was a police vehicle until he saw the uniformed officer.

As the vehicle smelled of burnt marijuana, according to the police report, Stucker was arrested for misdemeanor possession of two grams of marijuana and maintaining a common nuisance, a felony drug charge. The second person who had been in the vehicle had gone inside the warehouse, and after backup arrived, the officer knocked on the door and was allowed inside.

A loaded handgun, also belonging to Stucker, was under the counter just inside the door. Police confiscated both weapons and searched the rest of the warehouse, then arrested Jaysen Soberg, 24, of Portage, for visiting a common nuisance.

A third person at the storage unit, Joseph Hopper, 26, of Valparaiso, the president, was not charged. He was allowed to remove several items from the vehicle before police impounded it.

Hopper had been the only person arrested at the Jan. 31 party, on a warrant for an unrelated charge. Members of at least four biker gangs had been present and officers' confiscated stolen guns, a motorcycle and body armor at the party, according to police reports.

Gary man faces multiple charges after flight from cops

Published by Post-trib.com on February 27, 2010

GARY, IN| A Gary man with prior drug convictions has been charged with attempted murder, attempted battery and resisting law enforcement after fleeing from police and attempting to ram a police car.

Larry Harper Jr., 23, of the 4500 block of Hayes Street, took off when Gary police and detectives with the FBI-led Gang Response Investigative Team approached his car at 1 p.m. Tuesday after receiving a call that he had crack cocaine in his possession.



Police stopped Harper's car at Ridge Road and Cleveland with emergency lights and sirens and saw a plastic bag in his lap with suspected crack cocaine. As officers ordered Harper from the vehicle, he punched the accelerator and crashed into the car in front of him, pushing it into other cars, and took off.

Speeds reached 70 to 80 mph in the Glen Park section, and Lake County police and a helicopter joined in the pursuit. Harper destroyed traffic signs and property as he continued to flee, sliding off the road at 33rd Avenue and Pierce Street.

Gary police Detective Mark Birkett got out of his car, drew his weapon and ordered Harper from the car. Harper then shifted into reverse, causing Birkett to move to avoid being hit. Once inside in his car, Harper had to back up at a high rate of speed to avoid being rammed by Harper, who then continued fleeing west on 33rd Avenue to Grant Street.

On Clark Road as Harper traveled more than 100 mph, his car went airborne about 3 feet after crossing railroad tracks in the 3500 block.

In the Tarrytown section, Harper traveled 65 to 70 mph in the residential area, then pulled into the parking lot at Oak Knoll apartment complex and crashed into a parked car. He jumped out and ran, but was soon captured and remained combative, swinging at the officer and punching him in the right eye.

Once he was subdued with pepper spray, Harper said: "I'm sorry I ran like that. I just sold a white guy 4/10s of crack for \$50, then I saw the red and blue lights and you cops get out with your guns and I freaked out," court records state.

Harper, who is on probation for a felony narcotics conviction in Porter County, recently tested positive for narcotics.

Cops hitting suspected drug dealers' homes

Published by ChicagoSunTimes.com on February 8, 2010

As gang members get wise to street-corner raids, police turn up the heat

CHICAGO, IL Six cops and their sergeant stood warming their hands in the parking lot of the Ogden District on the Southwest Side on a chilly morning last week.

They were preparing to raid the Little Village home of a convicted killer. They were after dope, guns and money.

The plainclothes team, which recovered 15 pounds of marijuana, \$36,000 in cash, a handgun and an air rifle during the raid, is central to the Chicago Police Department's strategy of hitting drug dealers in their wallets.

The department's narcotics section, which the team works for, carried out 1,311 search warrants last year, a 270 percent increase over 2008. Those raids netted: \$207 million in drugs, up from \$138 million in 2008, 726 guns, up from 415, and \$18.6 million in cash, up from \$14.2 million.

The department also aggressively pursued drug dealers in court through the asset-forfeiture process, seizing \$6.8 million in houses, cars and cash, compared with about \$584,000 of such property in 2008.

"It's a change in how we do business," said Deputy Chief Nick Roti of the Organized Crime Division. One of the big shifts in strategy: The department is relying less on so-called street-corner conspiracy cases.

Starting in 2003, officers secretly watched drug sales on street corners. The months long investigations, with clever code names like "Who's Laflin Now?" led to conspiracy charges against gang members, and their convictions brought heftier prison terms than regular drug cases.

Thousands of drug dealers have been charged, and hundreds of open-air markets have been dismantled.

But gang members figured out the strategy. They put non-gang-affiliated drug addicts on the corners to sell their heroin and pot. And they quickly spotted the surveillance vehicles used to record the transactions.

"You could not throw that big net at them anymore," Narcotics Cmdr. James O'Grady said. At peak, the department did about 50 street-corner cases a year, but last year there were only 14.

The department's evolving strategy involves recruiting "exponentially more" confidential informants to tell police which drug dealers are stashing dope, money and guns in their homes and tip off the police to murder plots, Roti said.

The intelligence that police are gathering is allowing them to stop some gang killings before they're carried out, part of the reason for the city's 10.5 percent drop in murder last year, Roti said.

It's also the driving force behind the rise in search warrants, which are one of the department's "heavy hammers," according to Roti. "We're getting the higher-level targets," he said. "We were not getting the bang for the buck."



Last Wednesday morning, Stec's Area 2 Anti-Violence Task Force was focused on a target nicknamed "Menace," a reputed drug dealer and Latin King member.

In the Ogden Police District parking lot, Officer George Martinez started laying out the plan for searching Menace's house in the 2800 block of South Christiana. Everyone stopped joking and concentrated on the briefing, which outlined the risks of the raid.

The danger of getting shot is ever-present: In addition to O'Toole and McKenna, a third officer on the team was wounded last year when a bullet ricocheted during a separate search. That officer is still recovering, but O'Toole and McKenna have returned to the team, which was formed in 2008 to exclusively conduct search warrants. Last year, the team did 200 searches.

The target of Wednesday's raid, Menace, was once convicted of a domestic-related killing, Martinez said.

"We have to be careful because he's done time for murder," Martinez said. "But my guy says he's not a fighter." Martinez's informant said three pit bulls were in the house, usually locked in cages on a porch. "So watch out for the dogs," Martinez said.

Martinez told the officers that Menace was known by the informant to sell guns, marijuana and cocaine from the house. "He's supposed to be sleeping," Martinez added before he described the interior layout of the house. The officers drove in a procession to the house, jumped out and sprinted to the wrought-iron gate in front.

Using a "Chicago bar," cop slang for a crowbar, one of them popped open the gangway gate and they ran along the side of the house to the back. Armed with sledgehammers, handguns and a military assault rifle, the officers burst in through the back door just after 8 a.m.

"Police! Search warrant!" they screamed. A dog barked, and an officer inside the house ordered someone to secure the animal. There was only one dog in the house.

It turned out that Menace was gone, but his adolescent daughter was home alone, getting ready for school. A female officer stayed with the girl downstairs as the officers began their search upstairs.



Stec said the officers went through shoes, coffee cans, clothing, bedding and trash cans. Then, excited shouts rose from the officers inside the house when McKenna found a huge block of compressed marijuana inside a red backpack. Minutes later, officers found about \$36,000 in rolls of \$100, \$50 and \$20 bills.

The money was stashed in a trash can in a bathroom where the dog was being held, Stec said. The officers also found a snapshot of a little boy holding an assault rifle, High Times magazines stacked in a box, a .380-caliber handgun in a white sock, and a machete next to the fridge.

Stec, still chewing his gum after the raid, said he had anticipated that his officers would get lucky. That's because there was a poster from the 1983 film "Scarface" on the kitchen wall. Actor Al Pacino's drug-kingpin character,

Tony Montana, was staring out from the poster, which was inscribed with his infamous line: "Make way for the bad guy!"

"If you find that in a house," Stec said, laughing, "you know your search is gonna be golden."

Eight members of 'Body Snatchers' gang charged

Published by Suntimes.com on February 10, 2010

CHICAGO, IL| The "Body Snatchers" got body slammed again.



Eric "Murder" Ollison

The violent faction of the Four Corner Hustlers street gang was hit hard in 2008 when the feds busted reputed leader Shawn "Shakey" Betts and 74 others.

But the FBI and Chicago Police continued to investigate and announced charges against eight more members Wednesday.

"They didn't get the moniker 'Body Snatchers' for no reason," said Chicago Police Deputy Chief Nick Roti of the Organized Crime Section, adding that the faction is suspected of dozens of killings over the years.

The charges unveiled Wednesday don't accuse any of the defendants of murder, but said they were involved in a vast drug business.

Dominique Finley, 34, was the highest-ranking member among the defendants with the lofty title "5-Star Universal Elite." Eric Ollison, 26, who goes by the nickname "Murder," was his second-in-command, officials say.

Since September, though, Ollison has been locked up after he was caught on the West Side with a loaded gun in a car, police said. He pleaded guilty to being a habitual offender and was sentenced to six years in prison, court records show.

According to FBI affidavits, the Body Snatchers were peddling large quantities of cocaine north of the Eisenhower Expressway, south of North Avenue, west of Laramie and east of Austin. Two informants were paid a total of \$20,000 to help investigators, the FBI said. Electronic surveillance also was used.

Most of the defendants lived in Chicago, but Finley has a Bellwood address and Andre Beard, 29, lives in Glendale Heights. Betts had lived in St. Charles. "A lot of these guys, when they get higher up, move out to the suburbs and come to the city to work," Roti said. Ironically, "they feel a little safer there," he said.

Feds: 'Hairstylist' was really Gangster Disciples leader

Published by Wbbm780 on February 19, 2010



CHICAGO, IL| John Brown vowed he was simply a "hairstylist" turning his life around after prison. But the feds said he was a Gangster Disciples "governor" and major Englewood cocaine supplier. And Thursday, Brown, 38, pleaded guilty to drug charges.

Brown's 2007 arrest was an outgrowth of a task force created after then-U.S. Sen. Barack Obama and other leaders met in 2006 about killings in the South Side Englewood neighborhood, said Tom Ahern, a spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

ATF agents interviewed Brown's 69-year-old father, Buck Fields, who said his son had supplied him with crack cocaine for about two years. Fields said he sold the drugs for about \$200 a week.

Fields, who also faces drug charges, later recanted his statement, but ATF had other evidence: Brown sold crack to an informant who secretly recorded the deals

Ahern said the case illustrates how gang kingpins hide drug profits in real estate and businesses such as “Beautiful Imagez”, a salon Brown opened on the South Side in 2005. Brown also used drug cash to buy three homes the government has seized, Ahern said.

In 2008, Brown's attorney, Beau Brindley, unsuccessfully argued that his client should be freed on bond to earn a living as a "hairstylist." "Without this job, Mr. Brown would be completely unable to support himself and entirely dependent upon his family and friends," Brindley said.

But the ATF accused Brown of selling two of his homes to sham buyers for a fraction of the properties' total value of about \$370,000. Brown planned to have those buyers put up the properties as collateral for bail to get him out of jail, officials said. Judge Amy St. Eve denied Brown's request for bail.

2 charged in shooting that wounded mother holding child

Published by ChicagoBreakingNews.com on February 27, 2010

CHICAGO, IL | Two gang members exchanged gunfire with rival gang members Thursday afternoon in Uptown, shooting a woman as she held her 1-year-old child, Chicago police said.

Dontaneous Salley, 22, of the 4400 block of North Racine Avenue, and Jeremiah Moore, 20, of the 800 block of West Sunnyside Avenue, were each charged with aggravated battery with a firearm early this morning in connection with the shooting.

Salley and Moore were exchanging gunfire with members of a rival gang in the 1100 block of West Wilson Avenue about 4:20 p.m. Thursday when the woman, 21, was at a nearby bus stop holding her child in her arms, police said.



The woman was shot in the leg during the gang members' spat and was taken to Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, where she was treated and released. The child was not hurt.

Salley was ordered held on \$225,000 bail and Moore on \$200,000 bail when they appeared for their bond hearing this afternoon before Cook County Criminal Court Judge Jackie Portman. The two, who belong to the Vice Lords street gang, were identified as the shooters by multiple witnesses, according to prosecutors.

Cops bust reputed gang leader at O'Hare

Published by SunTimes.com on February 10, 2010

CHICAGO, IL | A fugitive who was the subject of a nationwide manhunt by the FBI since July of 2005 was brought back from Mexico and arrested Tuesday afternoon at O'Hare Airport.

Valentino Sanchez, 33, whose last known address was 8105 White Ave. in Lyons, was arrested in a secure area in a lower-level terminal area at O'Hare, the police said.

Sanchez, reputedly a high-ranking member of a street gang, was found in Guadalajara, Mexico, by an FBI gang task force.

In February 2009, the Justice Department and the FBI offered a \$10,000 reward for Sanchez's arrest. He's been the subject of nationwide manhunt since July 2005, when he was hit with federal drug charges in Chicago. Sanchez is accused of overseeing the distribution of wholesale quantities of cocaine in the city and suburbs.

Police: killing of 2 was gang-related

Published by Indystar.com on February 2, 2010

INDIANAPOLIS, IN | The fatal shooting of two men over the weekend apparently stemmed from a dispute between members of the same street gang, police said.

Saul Blanco, 21, was held in the Marion County Jail on Monday on initial charges of murder and a handgun violation in the killings of Raymond Martir and Johnny Ferguson. He was also held on an immigration warrant, records show.

Martir, 42, and Ferguson, 30, were shot to death at 11:30 A.M. Sunday in the 9100 block of Central Avenue.

Blanco was arrested Sunday night at his mother's home in the 5700 block of Windmill Drive, said Lt. Jeff Duhamell, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department spokesman.



Duhamell said the three men were members of the Latin Kings street gang. Police think Blanco shot the two men in retaliation for a beating he suffered, Duhamell said. Blanco told police he shot the victims and then returned to his mother's home, according to a police report.

Boy, 17 is arrested in gang-related death

Published by Indystar.com on February 3, 2010

INDIANAPOLIS, IN | Police arrested a teenage boy Tuesday in the gang-related shooting of an 18-year-old man at a Near-Eastside park.



Detectives arrested the 17-year-old early Tuesday in the fatal shooting Sunday of Brett Reinert at Highland Par, said Sgt. Paul Thompson, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department spokesman.

Reinert and the suspect were among a group of people gathered for a gang fight in the park at 1100 E. New York Street when the shooting occurred shortly after 8:30 P.M. Monday, Thompson said.

“The fight was apparently a continuation of another fight that had occurred Saturday

night near 56th

Street and Georgetown Road,” Thompson wrote in a statement. “Detectives are calling both incidents gang-related.”

Police found Reinert shot multiple times. He died about 9 P.M. Monday at Wishard Memorial Hospital. Police expect the juvenile's case will be waived to adult court, Thompson said. Police did not release the boy's name.

Gang leader burrowed out of cell to escape Osceola County Jail

Published by OrlandoSentinel.com on February 24, 2010

OSCEOLA COUNTY, FL | Gang leader Michael Rigby escaped from a maximum-security area of the Osceola County Jail last week by removing a toilet and sink from his cell wall and burrowing his way to freedom.

The Osceola County Sheriff's Office confirmed details of Rigby's escape as new information from court records emerged about his gang ties and a state task force shed new light on the number of gangs and gang members in the state and in Central Florida.

Rigby, who broke out the night of Feb. 18, leads a gang accused of opening fire at a birthday party in July in Poinciana, a community of 70,000 residents on the Osceola-Polk county line, according to court records.



Michael Rigby

"Sheriff's investigators can confirm Rigby dislodged the toilet/sink combination from the wall of his cell," sheriff's spokeswoman Twis Lizasuaïn said in a statement.

"The opening led to an area with piping and plumbing. From there he was able to reach a secured roll-up door which led to the yard area where the two fences were located."

Security at the jail has been a concern for county officials since Rigby escaped without anyone noticing what may have been days or weeks of digging. Arrest reports in the past year show inmates opened cell doors simply by shaking or kicking them.

Rigby's impending trial has multiple ties to street-gang violence in Poinciana. More than a dozen men and women with extensive criminal records and some with ties to Rigby's gang have been called to testify, according to subpoenas issued by the Orange-Osceola State Attorney's Office.

The case centers on a shooting last summer in Poinciana that crippled one woman and missed striking two other guests. Few details have been released about what happened. At the request of law enforcement, Circuit Judge Scott Polodna sealed the arrest affidavits in July from public view. They remain closed.

Most Florida law-enforcement agencies, including the Osceola County Sheriff's Office, decline to link arrests and crimes to suspects' gang affiliations. They say such information would popularize gang life in a state where gang membership has soared for the past 20 years.

State Attorney General Bill McCollum released a report Wednesday showing gang membership increased more than 600 percent from 10,000 in 1991 to 65,000 in 2007 and then dropped to about 49,000 last year. Records show witness intimidation in the Poinciana case has been so strong that the victim, Kimberly Rivera, has been under protection since last year.

Rivera, a native of Bronx, N.Y., who appears to be the prosecution's lead witness was on probation for grand theft when she was shot at the party. She lost the use of one arm despite several surgeries to repair the bullet damage, according to a report written by her probation officer at the state Department of Corrections.

"She is currently under the protection of the Osceola County Sheriff's Office gang unit because she has been receiving threats from other gang members in reference to the shooting," stated the Nov. 2 probation report. Kayla Vazquez, a gang member and friend of Rivera, 22, is charged with taking part in the shooting, records show.

Another intended victim of the shooting, Jennifer Rivera, 20, also was linked to the gang, records state. She, too, was a friend of Kayla Vazquez, records show.

Almost all of the witnesses in the trial came from New York City and Chicago before their families moved to the Poinciana area.



Osceola County Jail

Of the 17 prospective witnesses identified, 10 are women. None of the subpoenas state why prosecutors think the witnesses' testimony will help convict Rigby, Vazquez and Ryan Oneil Edwards, the third defendant identified in court records as a member of Rigby's gang. Rigby remains at large.

The Sheriff's Office thinks the Brooklyn native has fled Florida after being assisted by his father, Brian Rigby, 51, and his grandmother, Regenia Ralph, 79, who have been arrested and remain held without bail in the same jail that could not hold him.

"She wants her grandson to turn himself in right now," Ralph's Kissimmee lawyer Charles B. Tiffany said Wednesday. "She wants him to stop running."

Burglary Suspect Told Deputies He's a Juggalo

Published by abclocal.go.com on February 2, 2010

FRESNO, CA | A burglary suspect in Madera County claims to be a member of a violent face-painting gang. Nineteen-year-old James Bucheger of Oakhurst, is in jail, accused of breaking into two cabins near Bass Lake.

Bucheger told deputies, he's a Juggalo. The Juggalos claim they're just extreme fans of the band "Insane Clown Posse". But many law enforcement agencies consider them, a violent street gang.



Deputies found the suspect covered in blood at a third home where a party was taking place. The two burglarized homes had smashed windows and splattered blood throughout them.

Use of Twitter, Facebook rising among gang members

Published by WashingtonPost.com on February 2, 2010

LOS ANGELES, CA - When a gang member was released from jail soon after his arrest for selling methamphetamine, friends and associates assumed he had cut a deal with authorities and become a police informant.

They sent a warning on Twitter that went like this: We have a snitch in our midst.

Unbeknownst to them, that tweet and the traffic it generated were being closely followed by investigators, who had been tracking the San Francisco Bay Area gang for months. Officials sat back and watched as others joined the conversation and left behind incriminating information.



Law enforcement officials say gangs are making greater use of Twitter and Facebook, where they sometimes post information that helps agents identify gang associates and learn more about their organizations.

"You find out about people you never would have known about before," said Dean Johnston with the California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, which helps police investigate gangs. "You build this little tree of people."

In the case involving the suspected informant, tweets alerted investigators to three other gang members who were ultimately arrested on drug charges.

Tech-savvy gangsters have long been at home in chatrooms and on Web sites like MySpace, but they appear to be gravitating toward Twitter and Facebook, where they can make threats, boast about crimes, share intelligence on rivals and network with people across the country.

"We are seeing a lot more of it," Johnston said. "They will even go out and brag about doing shootings."

In another California case involving a different gang, much of the information gathered by investigators came from members' Facebook accounts. Authorities expect to make arrests in the coming months.

"Once you get into a Facebook group, it's relatively easy," Johnston said. "You have a rolling commentary."

Gang members sometimes turn the tables, asking contacts across their extended networks for help identifying undercover police officers. It's hard to know exactly how many gang members are turning to Twitter and Facebook.

Many police agencies are reluctant to discuss the phenomenon for fear of revealing their investigative techniques. Capt. Walt Myer, director of the Riverside County regional gang task force, said gang activity often "mirrors general society. When any kind of new technology comes along, they are going to use it."



Members of the Surenos 13 Gang show off their guns and signs on a Myspace page.

Representatives from Twitter and Facebook say they regularly cooperate with police and supply information on account holders when presented with a search warrant. Neither company would discuss specifics.

Gang use of Twitter and Facebook still lags behind use of the much-older MySpace, which remains gang members' online venue of choice.

The Crips, Bloods, Florencia 13, MS-13 and other gangs have long used MySpace to display potentially incriminating photos and videos of people holding guns and making hand gestures. They also post messages about rivals.

Last week, officials in Riverside County, east of Los Angeles, announced the arrest of 50 people in a crackdown of a Latino gang they say was engaged in drug sales and hate crimes against Black residents. Prosecutors say some of the evidence was pulled from MySpace and YouTube, including rap videos taunting police with violent messages.

While some members are wising up to the police attention such postings can bring, gang information remains publicly viewable online. Dozens of Facebook accounts are dedicated to the deadly MS-13 gang, with followers from around the globe.

At one site, a video displays pictures of dead members of the rival 18th Street gang, and some users have left disrespectful comments.

The toughest part about tracking someone on Twitter is finding the alias or screen name they are posting under. And many tweets are nonsensical or pointless, so cutting through the clutter can be difficult.

"It's tricky," said Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy David Anguiano. "If you find out what they go by, you are good to go."

Anguiano tracks the online activity of graffiti vandals, the so-called tagging crews that sometimes morph into gangs. They post tweets saying they are heading out to spray paint and sometimes post links to photographs of their work.

Often, they cannot resist bragging about their handiwork, and the electronic trail they leave is frequently used as evidence. "They talk about it too much," Anguiano said.

"You want the fame so you've got to go out there and talk about it. That's when your mouth gets you in trouble."

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AsHeS*2*AsHeS*&*dUsT*2*dUsT
In*FoLk*We*TrUsT*iN*sLoBz*We*Bust
If*U*KiLL*A*sLoB*U*WiN*a*pRiZe
If*U*KiLL*a*G*yOuR*wHoLe*FaMiLy
*DiEs.
6 PoPPiN * 5 dRoPPiN
6 FIYiN * 5 dYiN
6 bAnGiN * 5 hAnGiN
6 GuNNiN * 5 RuNNiN
6 fLaGGiN* 5 dRaGGin
SpReAD*Yo*wInGz*&*raIsE*eM*hIgH*
G'z*&*D'z*WiLL*nEvEr*DiE
DeAtH*BeFoRe*DiShOnOr*FoLkS*aLiV
e! BoUt*DaT*6*nO*LuV*Fo*5
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74 TiLL Da wOrLd bLo...
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Folk Nation slogan found on a Myspace page

Over 100 Police Target Gang Members In Citywide

Published by Kristv.com on February, 5 2010

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX | More than 100 local officers and federal agents raided homes across the city Friday in an effort to crack down on violent street crime.



That raid called Operation "Enough is enough," has led to the arrest of several gang members. Police also seized a slew of firearms, drugs and cash from numerous locations across the city.

Operation enough is enough led to the arrests of 5 people. Officers say they are a part of a violent street gang.

The gang, which police declined to identify by name, is responsible for: over 20 aggravated assaults, five robberies, a sexual assault and several drive-by shootings.

Additionally, police have linked the gang to three murders, including the Tinseltown murder, and a murder on Sabinas last fall.

Police raided 14 different houses. In order to prevent other gang members from learning about this operation, they raided the houses simultaneously. It was an effort of epic proportions that required the largest amount of police man-power in Corpus Christi history.

"You know I've been on the force for 31 years and we've never hit 11 locations at one time, we've done sweeps where we have arrest warrants, but not search warrants. And that's a big difference when you're breaking into

somebody's house and you don't know what's behind that door," said Commander David Torres. It was a raid unlike any other this city has ever seen.

CCPD Chief Troy Riggs said, "This has been in the works for about three months; they've been working very hard on the planning. You don't just go out and do this, there's a lot of coordination, a lot of logistics. We all meet up about 6 A.M. this morning, and they started hitting them simultaneously."

Riggs said officers weren't expecting to make all of the arrests. "You know, we went in just to look for evidence. As a result, we ended up taking a bunch of guns off the street; we also locked up 5 people." Those members of the gang are said to have taken part in a wide variety of violent crimes, ranging from robberies to drive-by shootings, and even murder.

"There were three homicides we believe they had some part in," Riggs said. The chief called this operation enough is enough to send a message to the community and to other gang members.

Riggs said, "The Corpus Christi Police Department and the citizens of this community aren't going to tolerate that level of violence any longer."

Police also seized computers, cell phones and portable hard-drives, because they say those electronics contain writings and pictures on various social networking sites that describe the crimes and implicate individual gang members.

Police also mentioned that two children, a four-year old and a three-month old baby were taken from one house and placed in the custody of child protective services. We're told they were later handed over to a relative.

Looking forward, Police Chief Riggs acknowledged this city has a gang problem. He plans to confront that problem head-on stating that Operation "Enough Is Enough" is just the beginning of what we can expect to see.



Corpus Christi Police Department

For video coverage of this story, visit: <http://www.kristv.com/news/over-100-police-target-gang-members-in-citywide/#>

Girls in Gangs: Police see rise in female gang activity

Published by Whas11.com on February 16, 2010

LOUISVILLE, KY | Girls in gangs; it's now becoming a reality around Louisville. One young woman is sharing her story with WHAS11 as we take a closer look at gangs in the city. Police say they are seeing a gradual rise in these different groups.

Detective Juan Garrett with Louisville Metro Police is showing all the gang graffiti at the Shawnee neighborhood, Boys and Girls Club playground, and CNG, which means Cecil and Greenwood.

Tre 9 is a group that represents the area of 39th and Market Street. Bad



news, that's a group that we first started hearing about in 2005 after the death of man Royce Robinson at a local skating rink.

Police say there are 40 gangs in the city of Louisville. The markings of gangs aren't just visible on the streets. Tattoos are another way police spot and identify groups.

Police say a 5 pointed star sometimes means someone is associated with a blood gang. The 502 tattoo is also a representation of someone connected to a gang. But it's who police are seeing the tattoos on that's surprising even them. Females are becoming a little bit more active as far as identifying with the gangs.

There are some females that are actually getting the gang tattoos which is different from 5 or 6 years ago where the females used to just be associates within the gang, but now there are some that are actually becoming a part of the street gang.

We talked to a girl who was once associated with a gang that Metro Police are very familiar with. She doesn't want us to reveal her identity, but agreed to describe for us what it was like. She said,

"Most of the time it was fights, all the time they would shoot dice, all the time they would sell drugs and weed, smoked all the time and stuff like that."

This young woman is now in college and when her brother was shot she realized it was time to get out.

She tells us most of the gangs are not associated with colors anymore and that many of the kids in the groups are kids who go to school all day, come from good homes and sometimes don't even live in the west end.

Remember the CNG markings we saw on the playground, representing Cecil and Greenwood? She says that's the group to watch out for now.

This young woman sends out this message to other young girls living the life she once did. She says gangs in Louisville are not like what people see on cable television shows.

She says in Louisville there are no initiations or kids being beaten before they can become a member. She says the fights that happen now are over respect and neighborhood territory.

For video coverage of this story, visit: <http://www.whas11.com/news/local/Girls-in-gangs-84498247.html>

Gang members erase past

Published by LVRJ.com on February 14, 2010

LAS VEGAS, NV | Two faded blue tattoos on Alberto Mota's arms are all that's left of his gang days. Heat from lasers focused on Mota's shoulder cause the ink under his skin to explode, sending the particles through his bloodstream where his body breaks them down until the tattoo disappears.

The 31-year-old grimaces as the laser hits the ink, and his skin bubbles up from the heat. The smell permeates the cramped procedure room, like an orange-scented cleaner mixed with rotting food.

One of his tattoos is almost gone. The dark blue is now a lighter shade, and the black outlines are broken up. It's as if his nine years in the gang is seemingly erased.

Las Vegas doctor Julio Garcia makes it possible for former gang members like Mota to move on with their lives by removing tattoos in partnership with Clark County's Department of Juvenile Justice Services and the Clark County Juvenile Court.



Former gang member Alberto Mota undergoes a laser tattoo removal procedure.

A visibly upset Garcia tells the story of growing up in a Chicago neighborhood where the Latin Kings tried to recruit him into their group. His parents uprooted the family to the suburbs to escape the gangs.

"I look at these kids and I see me," Garcia said, holding back tears. "I could have ended up just like them. I never thought about it much until now that I'm doing this. These thoughts in the back of your brain come out of that little closet in there, and it's hard."

Garcia was honored recently by the county's Gang Task Force for his work in erasing gang markings in Clark County. His office has removed gang tattoos from about 200 kids in four years for free. About 80 percent of them were males. Most were 14 to 21 years old. Most of the tattoos Garcia removes are from hands, shoulders and faces.

It depends on a person's involvement in the gang as to how many tattoos they have and where they're located on their bodies. Gangs usually use homemade tattoo guns, so the inks do not run as deeply as professional tattoo artists and are therefore less painful to remove, Garcia said.

It takes six to 10 treatments before the ink is completely gone, a process that can last a full year. Mota had the gang symbols inked on his left shoulder and right forearm. Most of his "homies" are dead or in prison, he said.

"I didn't realize in the future it was gonna affect me. I was seeing people get shot and nobody does nothing about it. And I said if I don't get out, I'll die."

Mota spray-painted graffiti and recruited gang members by "jumping" them in, an initiation process in which new members are beaten for minutes at a time until they are finally considered a part of the gang. Now he volunteers his time with police to stop gang graffiti and runs a ministry group aimed at troubled youth. However, tattoo removal isn't enough to truly be out of a gang. "It really counts a lot, but it doesn't mean I'm out," Mota said.

"It's also where you're living. Even though I stopped gang banging, I was still going out with them. It didn't look right. You need to be completely away from the gangs. I had to stay away from them."

Mota's parents moved about 10 years ago from Los Angeles to Las Vegas to get him "out of the territory" once and for all. His brother was a victim of a drive-by shooting in L.A., but survived. That shooting motivated Mota's desire to quit gang life.

"I noticed nobody cared about it," he said. "They just let it go. My brother was caught in the way, and he was the only one shot. There are all these problems in the hoods, but people are afraid to speak out."

Jerry Simon, the county's gang specialist, said the tattoo removal cannot be forced. It has to be wanted by the youth. "It's when he has that little moment of truth in his life that we seize it immediately so we're acting on that truth and he doesn't back step toward the game," Simon said.

"And as that tattoo comes off, the last remnants of the gang come off, and he's able to leave that life and go on with a good life."



Dr. Julio Garcia

Gang Global Incident Map

The website listed below displays a map that shows all gang and gun related news throughout the country.

<http://gangs.globalincidentmap.com/home.php>



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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