



G.A.I.N.

GANG ACTIVITY INFORMATION NETWORK



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POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

County Drawing Up Plans to Crimp Gangs

Article published in the Journal and Courier

1/03/2007 Lafayette, IN | In an alley on Lafayette's north end, the side of an abandoned house is nearly covered by graffiti that police suspect is the work of rival gangs.

There's a six-point star with pitchforks drawn down, viewed as an insult to Gangster Disciples. Another symbol, MVL, for Maniac Vice Lords, is marked out and tagged with a "13."



"It's a billboard for them. It's begging for somebody to come cross it over," said Officer Perry Amos, a graffiti recognition expert with the Lafayette Police Department.

"The conflict going on directly relates to what we see going on in the schools."

Police have no doubts about a growing gang presence in Tippecanoe County -- its members likely transplants here from Chicago, Gary and Indianapolis. And they're taking it seriously.

Nine people representing local police, schools and the prosecutor's office, attended a "No Gangs" conference in Las Vegas last month to get ideas about how to address the problem before it worsens.

Newly elected Sheriff Tracy Brown said the Lafayette area first noticed a problem with graffiti and possible gang affiliations in the early 1990s. The issue died down, only to resurface.

More people are getting booked into the Tippecanoe County Jail with tattoos identifying them as gang members, Brown said. They're suspected in recent criminal investigations, such as drug activity, robberies and home invasions. "We've got a strong economy, housing and jobs -- that brings both good and bad to the community," Brown said.

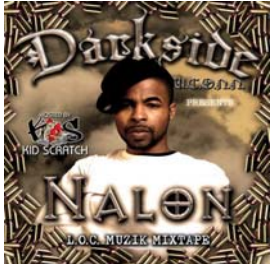
See the Full Story:

<http://www.jconline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070103/NEWS03/701030334/1152/SPORTS06>

Judge Stops Planned Harbor Hip-Hop Bash

Article published by the Times

12/06/2006 East Chicago, IN | An Indiana Harbor hip-hop bash scheduled for Saturday has been killed by a county judge's restraining order.



Gary-based record producer Darkside U.C.O.N.N. had planned a compact disc release party featuring a number of local rappers at the Crystal Palace on North Main Street. But police argued the promoters of the event are known street gang members who had invited members of rival gangs to the event, creating a "high potential for violence" which could strain police resources and put residents at risk.

U.C.O.N.N. stands for "United Clickin' of Notorious Nations," police said -- an organization that seeks to bring people together regardless of gang affiliation.

Lake Superior Court Judge William Davis issued a temporary restraining order against the Crystal Palace party on Monday.

"This kind of event usually invites trouble," Police Chief Angelo Machuca Jr. said. "We took a proactive approach before anything happened."

City ordinance requires the sponsors of such public parties to request the assignment of two East Chicago police officers to maintain order.

Police claim a congregation of rival gang members at the Crystal Palace -- which has a legal capacity of 450 persons -- would require more than two officers, would have "serious consequences" for the department's overtime pay budget, and would likely require the assistance of officers from other locales.

The event has been advertised on radio and through flyers, at least one of which depicts the promoters flashing "2-6" street gang hand signs, police said in their affidavit.

Full Story: http://www.thetimesonline.com/articles/2006/12/06/news/lake_county/e17dd9e722c918ed8625723c0003c20b.txt



Gang Graffiti Found Throughout Chesterton

Article published by The Post Tribune

12/23/2006 Chesterton, IN | Police are investigating several acts of vandalism to vehicles and homes that occurred overnight on Tuesday. No arrests have been made.

Gold spray paint was used in each incident. Chesterton police were unsure whether the victims were targeted or selected at random.

Damages were reported at two homes in the 700 south block of Jackson Boulevard. The words "Latin Kings" and a star underneath were painted on the passenger side of a 2000 Mitsubishi Montero Sport owned by 32-year-old Bradley Coursel, who recently moved to Chesterton from Michigan City.

Michelle Naleika, 34, reported the letters "L" and "K" were spray-painted on her garage door.

In the 1900 block of Laura Lane, a 1995 Chevy S-10 pickup and its owner's home were covered with gang signs and profanities. A cell phone was found in the grass near the graffiti.

The side of a second house in the same block also was painted with gang symbols.



Full Story: <http://www.post-trib.com/news/183990.cvandal.article>

School Gang Policy Spurs 19 Arrests

Article published by the Chicago Tribune

12/07/2006 Mundelein, IL | A crackdown on gang confrontations at Mundelein High School this week has resulted in the arrests of 19 students, authorities said.

Though such incidents are rare, officials said Wednesday, the school is trying to prevent gang membership and come down hard on gang-related misbehavior. The first three students were arrested Monday afternoon after a fistfight broke out between two rival gangs outside the school, where a crowd had been waiting for a bus, Mundelein Police Deputy Chief Michael O'Brien said.



The officer based at the school and several school personnel broke up the fight. They took three students into custody, then reviewed surveillance video and talked to witnesses. Eight more students were arrested Tuesday, O'Brien said.

The first students arrested were a 15-year-old boy and a 16-year-old boy, both from Mundelein, and Justino Bailon, 19, a student at the high school who recently moved to the 1500 block of North Silver Lane, Palatine. The others were six boys, ages 14 to 16, from Mundelein, and Eduardo Castro, 18, of the 600 block of Allanson Road and Angela Rivera, 18, of the 200 block of Walnut Street, O'Brien said.

About 8 a.m. Tuesday, a group of students surrounded another group in front of a classroom and threatened to fight, apparently in retaliation for Monday's incident, O'Brien said. Eight boys from Mundelein, ages 14 to 16, were detained before the fight could begin and were later arrested, he said.

All 19 students arrested were charged with mob action and disorderly conduct, O'Brien said.

Full Story: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chicago/chi-0612070089dec07,1,99943.story?coll=chi-newslocalchicago-hed&ctrack=1&csset=true>



20 Alleged Chicago Gang Members Arrested

Article published by ABC News

12/06/2006 Chicago, IL | Twenty accused street gang members were arrested on charges of running a sophisticated drug trafficking operation as part of a three-year undercover investigation, authorities said Tuesday.

Since the investigation began, 38 accused members of the Latin Kings street gang have been charged and at least 20 individuals including several men believed to be top leaders have been taken into custody on drug and weapons charges, U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald said during a news conference.



"We pretty much decapitated the Latin Kings on the South Side," said Andrew Traver, a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the main agency involved in the investigation.

The charges are included in 13 separate federal complaints filed or unsealed Tuesday.

Todd S. Pugh, an attorney for one of those arrested, Anthony "Loks" Compean, declined comment Tuesday evening. It wasn't immediately clear who was representing the others arrested.

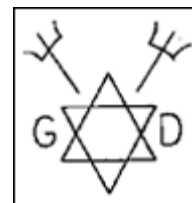
Full Story: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/LegalCenter/wireStory?id=2703741>

11 Alleged Gang Members Charged in Drug Bust

Article published by the CBS News Chicago

12/22/2006 Chicago, IL | Following an extensive three-and-a-half month undercover investigation in the Englewood neighborhood, eight people were taken into custody Wednesday and arrest warrants were issued for three others.

Operation Ashland Connection targeted an open-air drug market near 72nd Street and Ashland Avenue controlled by the Gangster Disciples street gang, according to a release from police News Affairs.



The market sold crack cocaine in plain view of children and citizens while operating within 1,000 feet of nine different churches, two schools, and a park, the release said.

During the investigation, launched in September, officers video taped and recorded numerous undercover drug purchases made while building a drug conspiracy case against the alleged gang members.

The investigation was launched in response to a number of violent incidents in the area, as well as complaints from Englewood District Police personnel and neighbors, according to the release.

After 19 purchases, police executed one search warrant, seizing about 75 grams of crack cocaine worth nearly \$9,300 along with two handguns, the release said.

Fifty-six open-air drug markets have been dismantled by the police so far this year after having shut down 53 markets last year and charging a total of 735 drug dealers, according to the release.

Full Story: http://cbs2chicago.com/local/local_story_356214010.html



Cop Shot During Gang Fight

Article published by the Chicago Tribune

12/12/2006 Chicago, IL | A Chicago police officer was shot in the arm while trying to break up a gang-related disturbance Monday afternoon on the Near Northwest Side, police said.

Several scuffles broke out about 2:30 p.m. about two blocks from Clemente High School near Western Avenue and Division Street, police said. Two officers who report to the school daily around the time classes are dismissed were in the area and tried to intervene, police spokesman Pat Camden said.

'There were a couple of disturbances going on,' Camden said. The officers 'were in the process of breaking up a disturbance when they heard shots fired, and one of the officers realized he had been hit in the elbow.'



The 36-year-old officer was taken in good condition to Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Camden said. He was released Monday night, but he will require additional surgery, Camden said.

The officers didn't return fire, and no weapon had been found as of Monday night, Camden said. Police are investigating what appears to have been a gang-related incident, he said.

The officer was the only person taken to the hospital, Fire Department spokesman Richard Rosado said.

Full Story: <http://www.topix.net/content/trb/3842868131124165984718899289041958918228>

ATF, Columbus Police and U.S. Attorney Snare Suspects in Anti-Gang Sweep

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Press Release

12/01/2006 Columbus, OH | Culminating a two-year investigation of gang members, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Columbus Police today arrested several key suspects who face federal gun and drug charges with sentences of 10 years to life imprisonment.

"We've been clear that we won't tolerate gang violence in Columbus and these suspects are going away for the maximum federal sentence allowed by law," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "I want to thank Columbus Police, ATF and U.S. Attorney (Gregory G. Lockhart, for the Southern District of Ohio) for working as a team to make sure these dangerous criminals get the toughest sentences."

"Thugs with guns and drugs are learning some hard lessons today thanks to ATF and Columbus Police," said Chris Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, ATF. "From now on the only cold steel they'll hold in their hands are the bars of their jail cells. Federal time is hard time because there is no probation, there is no parole and life in prison means just that ... life."

The individuals are also considered suspects as part of two ongoing Columbus Police investigations, involving multiple shootings at Maloney Park and multiple shootings by suspects at Columbus Police officers in early 2006 in the Short North neighborhood.

The Columbus Division of Police works in partnership with ATF and the U.S. Attorney to prosecute gang members and associates with the maximum federal sentence. Since late 2004, as part of the Mayor's anti-gang initiative, Columbus Police have made more than 200 arrests and seized 180 crime guns. They have also seized \$124,000 in cash, 150 grams of heroin, 1,774 grams of crack cocaine, 490 grams of powder cocaine and 155 pounds of marijuana.



Full Story: <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/061201/clf084.html?v=3>



Police: Crack Addicts Purchased Guns for N.Y. Street Gang

Article published by WTAE 4 Pittsburgh

12/07/2006 Lawrence County, PA | Police said two Lawrence County crack addicts are among six people charged in connection with an allegedly illegal gun purchase ring that provided local firearms to a Buffalo, N.Y., street gang.



A spokesman for the state attorney general's office said the two bought at least 18 guns from Lawrence and Mercer county stores in 2004 and 2005.

"The prosecution is the first in recent memory by our office targeting an organized ring of illegal gun purchasers," said Nils Frederiksen, a spokesman for Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett.

Five suspects were already in custody, including two straw purchasers and three alleged gang members from Buffalo. A sixth person, a juvenile from Buffalo, was still at large Thursday, Frederiksen said. Some of the guns have been recovered by police in New Castle and in Buffalo.

The gun dealer declined comment Thursday, but it was his tip that led to the investigation, authorities said in court documents. The dealer was suspicious when guns were paid for in cash, using small bills, and because Glorioso and another straw purchaser were often accompanied by other people, including a man who once used a camera phone to take pictures of various guns for sale at the store, according to court papers.

Full Story: <http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/news/10483044/detail.html>

Resident Dress Code Targets Gangs

Article published by the Pioneer Press

12/05/2006 New Brighton, MN | Fed up with crime, one New Brighton apartment complex has taken a controversial approach to ban baggy pants, bandanas and sideways baseball caps in public areas.

While supporters say the dress code at the Timber Crest Apartments is meant to deter gangs, a few tenants called it irrational. And civil rights activists worry it could be discriminatory.

The low-riding outfits are all the rage among black youth, made popular by hip-hop artists in music videos. But the apartment's security leaders associate the clothing with gangs.



Recent assaults and repeated police calls has raised concerns among New Brighton leaders about the apartments along West County Road E, even prompting police officials to label it as the suburb's most troublesome spot. Complex operator Penrod Lane LLC enacted the rules when Spartan Protection Services took over security in October.

"The idea is to make it unsafe for gangsters," said Don Roggenbauer, president of the security firm. Spartan has used similar rules at other properties in North Minneapolis and around the metro area. "We don't want some Crips driving by and seeing Blood colors and ending up with a dead kid," Roggenbauer said. That includes the possibility that innocent bystanders, wearing the wrong colors, could be mistaken for a gang member and targeted.

According to the Timber Crest regulations, residents are not allowed to wear pants that "have a tendency to drag up the ground" or that could "slide off the hips" in public areas. And along with the sideways baseball cap and bandana restrictions, Ku Klux Klan paraphernalia is also prohibited.

Full Story: <http://www.twincities.com/mld/pioneerpress/news/local/16164967.htm>



Gonzales Seeks Place for 'a Child's Dreams'

Article published by the Washington Times

12/16/2006 Washington, DC | Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales yesterday said communities poisoned by drugs, gangs, gun crime and violence are no place for "a child's dreams to flourish," and that the Justice Department is determined to help prevent America's youth from joining gangs.



Speaking at the annual Project Safe Neighborhood conference in Boston, Mr. Gonzales said efforts continue to bring together law-enforcement and community leaders to discuss effective programs, identify gaps in services, and develop working partnership to prevent gangs from claiming new members.

"My personal experience has been that the United States is a place where a child can dream big dreams ... and fulfill them," he said. "I believe deeply that this can be true for all Americans, all of this great nation's children, but not when their neighborhoods and their lives are limited by fear and violence. "That's why we work so hard ... to make the streets of our communities safer, every day," he said.

Mr. Gonzales noted that law enforcement is "not a spectator sport," but added that the same can be said of community-service work. He said it was important for both sides to work together to address what he described as "the scourge of gangs and gang violence" in America's neighborhoods. He said it would require an integrated, comprehensive approach that includes both law-enforcement and the prevention efforts uniquely offered by community-service groups.

Full Story: <http://www.washtimes.com/national/20061215-103349-1538r.htm>

Police: Gang From Upscale Neighborhoods Wrecks Havoc

Article published by the Associated Press

12/16/2006 Richmond, VA | Richmond authorities say a gang from affluent families and neighborhoods in the city's West End and western Henrico County has been on a year-and-a-half rampage.

They say the so-called "World War Crew" is responsible for vandalism, robberies and at least a dozen violent assaults. Police seized computers, weapons and other items from 15 homes last week, and officials expect indictments against some of the 15 to 30 gang members.

The investigation was prompted by calls to Richmond police by the parents of alleged victims of the group. One person was beaten so badly that he suffered a concussion and memory loss, Geary said.

Richmond Police Chief Rodney Monroe suggested that a white gang from upscale neighborhoods defies the gang stereotype. He says T-V often portrays minorities involved in violence, drugs and shooting. In his words: "Here you're able to realize those who live so-called charmed lives can be just as involved and indoctrinated into those gangs as other kids."

Full Story: <http://www.wdbj7.com/Global/story.asp?S=5823254&nav=S6aK>



Gang Ritual Leads to Death

Article published by the Utica Observer-Dispatch

12/11/2006 Utica, NY | A Utica teenager who was severely assaulted Friday afternoon during a gang-initiation ritual has died as a result of his injuries, Oneida County First Assistant District Attorney Scott McNamara said Sunday night.



Three Utica residents - Samnang Chou, 24, of Miller Street; Richie Nguyen, 16, of Dudley Avenue; and Tommy Chourb, 16, of Lamb Street - are expected to be charged with second-degree manslaughter today by the Utica Police Department, McNamara said. The males earlier had been charged with second-degree gang assault, which is also a felony, police said.

Five members of the gang, called Asian Boyz, assaulted 15-year-old Sang Vu on Seymour Street in a process called a "beat-in" or "jump-in," McNamara said. Vu was declared dead at about 2:15 p.m. Saturday afternoon, he said. Gangs carry out beat-ins to find out two main things about a potential member, McNamara said. It's to see whether that person is serious about being in the gang, and it's to see if they're tough enough to be a member of the gang," McNamara said. "If you can take the beating, then you're in the gang."

Beat-ins are designed to hurt the prospective member, but they're not supposed to critically injure him, said Maurice Pauline, a former gang member from Albany who now lives in Utica. It was never supposed to go that far," said Pauline, who participates in anti-gang workshops. "They want you in the gang. They don't want you in the hospital." Vu suffered injuries that included head trauma, McNamara said. He declined to comment on whether weapons were used in the alleged initiation.

McNamara also declined to say whether the other two people who allegedly participated in the beat-in had been charged. Utica police released few new details Sunday about the incident.

Gangs across the country use beat-ins to initiate members, McNamara said. The typical beat-in lasts 30 seconds, he said, but it appears Asian Boyz members were participating in a minute-long beat-in in the case of Friday's assault. The critical injuries might have been an accident because many gang members don't realize that one well-placed punch can end a life, Pauline said. "You're supposed to fight back," he said. "They want to see what kind of heart you've got."

Full Story: <http://www.uticaod.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061211/NEWS0101/61211003/1001>

More Immigrants Seeking Asylum Cite Gang Violence

Article published by the Washington Post

11/15/2006 Washington, DC | With the help of a DVD called "Hood to Hood," confiscated during a traffic stop, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department gained some valuable information about one area gang.

IMOB, or Intelligent Men on Big Business, is known to reside in the area near Independence Boulevard and Idlewild Road. Police say the gang has had a number of victims often leaving them in bad shape. "He sustained injuries to his pancreas, liver, his intestines and he had a chest tube," Cathryn Pierce of the CMPD said describing one of IMOB's victims. "I went and talked to him myself. He could barely lift himself up out of bed."

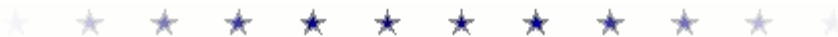


IMOB has been linked to 36 aggravated assaults, 29 robberies, 17 vehicle thefts and 74 drug violations. But with help of the DVD, which was shown at the city council meeting Monday night, police have identified 56 members and made 40 arrests.

Neighbors in east Charlotte say they are worried but grateful for the police crack down. They also want to do more themselves. "We need the help of the law but we need to also get out here ourselves and join together," said Sebastian Goodson.

Police plan to continue to identify gang members, targeting the most dangerous ones first, and to crack down on apartment complexes harboring gang members.

Full Story: http://www.news14charlotte.com/content/local_news/?AC=&ArID=131433&SecID=2



Even Shopping Malls Have Had to Come Up With Anti-Gang Strategies

Article published by the Los Angeles Daily Bulletin

12/04/2006 Ontario, CA | Nothing ruins business at a shopping mall like roving bands of gang members. Yet teenage thugs are teenagers nonetheless, and hanging out at the mall is what they like to do. That contradiction has turned some shopping centers into the front lines in the war on gangs, and mall officials don't take their roles lightly. "We work closely with the city and the police department ... to ensure it's a safe environment for all of the shoppers," said Sue Oxarart, marketing director at Ontario Mills.

The Mills is a prime example, because of its explosive popularity with teenagers throughout Southern California. Barely a minute goes by during the mall's operating hours when youngsters aren't roaming its shops and neighborhoods in large groups. That reality was predicted early. When the Mills opened in 1996, it included a police substation and a daily, uniformed officer presence. "They're very actively involved with our security department," Oxarart said. "They meet with us every week as part of our staff meetings."

There are other security measures that can be enacted because of the mall's status as private property where the public gathers. A mall can create rules and regulations that couldn't exist in public shopping areas, such as Claremont Village or downtown Redlands. For example, Ontario Mills' code of conduct forbids yelling, sitting on planters, "unnecessary staring," and "remaining idle ... without any useful business for being present."



By the same token, the mall needn't concern itself with the root causes of gang life, such as the lack of job opportunities for youth or a culture of violence handed down through the generations. The mall's only concern is to keep gangsters out.

The Mills' biggest success in keeping gang violence at bay has come in working with Ontario to enforce the 10 p.m. curfew for anyone under 18 years old. Oxarart said that effort began in earnest in 2004. "We posted signs, we handed out cards with the curfew on them, we talked with parents, that as of this date, the curfew would be enforced," she said.

Full Story: http://www.dailybulletin.com/news/ci_4767708

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 products

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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