



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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L.A. CITY ATTORNEY DELGADILLO FILES SUIT TO SHUT DOWN VENICE GANG DRUG DEN

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo today announced his office's Safe Neighborhoods Division filed a narcotics and public nuisance abatement lawsuit on July 17 against the owner and residents of a triplex at 635 San Juan Ave. in an effort to shut down a site notorious for illegal drug sales and gang activity.

The property, in the Oakwood section of Venice, has long been a stronghold for the Venice Shoreline Crips criminal street gang. One of the gang's bases of operation, the Venice Shoreline Crips (VSLC) criminal street gang uses the site for narcotics sales and as a safe house to elude law enforcement. Between December 2001 and July 2007, 29 narcotics arrests were made at the house or in incidents directly related to the property, according to Deputy City Attorney Charles Sewell, the assigned prosecutor.

Named in the suit are Justin Campbell, James Coaker, Robert Coaker, Donovan Moore, and Mandre Reed who are known by LAPD to be drug dealers and members of the Venice Shoreline Crips. Irvin Campbell, the owner of the property, is also a named defendant. The City Attorney is seeking the closure of the property for one year and a court order barring the defendants from coming within 1,000 feet of the property.

The Venice Shoreline Crips are known to control the sale of cocaine in the Oakwood area. Many of the documented VSLC members also actively participate in robbery, carjacking, assault with deadly weapons, witness intimidation, and murder, serving to further the gang's notoriety.

As a result, the City Attorney's Office obtained a permanent injunction against the gang in October 2000 establishing a safety zone bounded by Venice Boulevard, Rose Avenue, Pacific Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard. The injunction prohibits members of the VSLC from associating in public and conducting criminal activity.

Building off the injunction, City Attorney Delgadillo's Project T.O.U.G.H. (Taking Out Urban Gang Headquarters) focuses on property abatements through lawsuits seeking aggressive and specifically tailored injunctive relief against property owners and gang members. The property on San Juan Avenue falls squarely within the boundaries of the established safety zone.

As part of Delgadillo's comprehensive anti-gang plan, the Citywide Nuisance Abatement Program (CNAP) continues to abate nuisance properties, paying special attention to locations with a gang connection. When gang activity is extensive at a nuisance property, the case is transferred for special handling to Project T.O.U.G.H. under the Safe Neighborhoods Division of the City Attorney's Office.