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L.A. CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO SECURES 540-DAY JAIL SENTENCE FOR VALLEY GANGBANGER, GRAFFITI VANDAL

LOS ANGELES - Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo today announced his office's Gang Unit has secured a lengthy jail term of 540 days for Antonio Cisneros, a member of the Vanowen Street Gang found vandalizing private property with gang graffiti.

Antonio Cisneros, 21, pled no contest to one count of vandalism with a gang enhancement (Penal Code 594 with 186.22d), one count of illegally possessing drug paraphernalia (Health and Safety Code 11364a), and an additional count of interference with the police (Penal Code 148). Commissioner Thomas Grodin sentenced Cisneros to serve 540 days in the county jail, and to register as a gang member for the next 5 years.

"Graffiti is a terrible blight upon our communities," said City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo. "It threatens civic pride, discourages economic investment, and costs cities millions of dollars each year in clean-up costs. I am committed to doing everything in my power to stamp it out."

On May 26, 2007, officers with the Los Angeles Police Department responded to a call regarding vandalism by 15 male Latino gang members occurring near a park parking lot at Vanowen St. and Tyrone Ave. When officers arrived at the scene, they saw 5 Latino males who appeared to be gang members - with shaved heads and baggy clothes - loitering by a shed used for storing equipment. When the suspects spotted the officers, they fled, scaling an 8 ft. fence in the process.

All of the suspects were able to scale the fence except for Cisneros, who after several attempts, gave up and surrendered himself to the officers. When the arresting officers handcuffed Cisneros, they noticed blue paint on three of the fingers on his right hand. They also saw that the shed the suspects had been loitering around had been marked with fresh, wet blue paint - gang graffiti "VSLs", for the Vanowen Street Locos clique. The paint on the shed matched the paint on the suspect's fingers. Additionally, officers found in fresh, wet blue paint Cisneros's moniker "Trips", an abbreviation for "Lil' Trippy".

The case was prosecuted by Deputy City Attorney Jodi Galvin of City Attorney Delgadillo's Gang Unit.