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L.A. CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO SEEKS GANG INJUNCTION AGAINST NOTORIOUS ROLLING 40s CRIPS STREET GANG

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, the City’s chief prosecutor, today announced his office’s Gang Division has filed a civil lawsuit seeking a preliminary injunction restricting the criminal activities of three Los Angeles street gangs, including the Rolling 40s Crips, a notorious gang featured by the LAPD in its 2007 list of the top ten most dangerous gangs in the city.

“We are committed to obtaining gang injunctions as needed, and vigilantly enforcing them as an effective means to break the grip criminal street gangs have on too many of our communities,” said Delgadillo. “This injunction will enable us to further decrease criminal gang activity and membership in the area,” said Delgadillo.

Filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, the proposed gang injunction would severely restrict the ability of the gang to commit criminal and nuisance activity within the established Vernon Corridor safety zone as defined within the boundaries of Crenshaw Boulevard to the West, the Harbor Freeway (110) in the East, Martin Luther King Boulevard in the North, and 52nd Street in the South. The injunction also specifically prohibits gang members from entering, or remaining in, Vermont Square Park, located at 47th Street and Budlong Avenue.

“I would like to thank the City Attorney’s Office and the officers in the Southwest and 77th areas for their hard work in putting together this injunction,” said Deputy Chief Charles Beck. “This injunction will have a tremendous impact on the safety of the community and the lives of the citizens who live within the safety zone.”

Terms of the injunction would limit the gang’s ability to associate in public with other members, block street access, trespass on private property, and possess drugs, weapons or graffiti tools, as well as establishing a strict curfew for known gang members after 10pm.

Also included in the proposed gang injunction would be specific provisions intended to specifically limit this gang’s activities, including restricting gang members’ use of cell phones for the purpose of facilitating any transaction involving the sale of illegal narcotics or other illegal activity; restricting the use of gang apparel by known members, including clothing, jewelry or other apparel that refers to the gang; the use of known gang signs in public; as well as causing or encouraging loud noise, including loud music, and participating in loud parties.

The injunction filed with the court includes declarations from law enforcement and community members as to the long-standing criminal activity of the Rolling 40s street gang as well as the 46 Hustlers and 46 Neighborhood Crips within the proposed safety zone. The gang is notorious for dealing rock cocaine and marijuana, using lookouts and cell phones to facilitate sales, as well as using minors to avoid police detection. The gang is also known for armed robberies, assaults, attempted murder, grand theft, witness intimidation, felony battery, firearm possession and drive-by shootings.

Between 2005 and 2006, there were 31 reported homicides in Rolling 40's turf, 1,057 aggravated assaults, and 422 shots fired incidents as well as 1,002 robberies all attributed by law enforcement to the gang.

Gang injunctions have been found to be extremely useful in reducing criminal activity in Safety Zones. Crucial components in aiding the effectiveness of gang injunctions include mandatory sentencing enhancements for gang members who violate the terms of their injunctions, innovative probationary conditions, and a partnership with L.A. County Sheriff Lee Baca to ensure gang members jailed for injunction violations serve their full terms. Gang enhancements on several recent convictions resulted in sentences between 270 and 725 days in jail.

Working in conjunction with injunctions, Delgadillo has also proposed a larger anti-gang legislative package as a part of his comprehensive anti-gang plan. Assembly Bill 1031, which provides city prosecutors and City Attorneys in certain cities with greater leverage to evict housing tenants who are either in possession of illegal weapons or are illegally possessing weapons and ammunition, and Senate Bill 271, which allows City Attorneys to bring damage suits against, and seize the assets of, known gang members, have already been signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger.

Other proposed legislation would add hate crimes to the Street Terrorism and Enforcement Protection Act (SB 989 – Ridley-Thomas); legislation that would allow out-of-court statements to become admissible when gang members take action to stop witnesses from testifying in court (AB 268 – Calderon); legislation that would add sentencing enhancements for gang activity near schools (SB 844 Calderon); and legislation that would allow for prosecution for gang recruitment of minors (AB 1033 – Caballero).

Since taking office in July 2001, Delgadillo has utilized injunctions as an effective tool for law enforcement and prosecutions, adopting and adapting conditions specific to each gang increased the number of gang injunctions from eight to 33, covering 50 gangs and more than 61 square miles of claimed gang territory in Los Angeles. In addition, LAPD reports cite a 33 percent decline in gang membership since 2001.

A Preliminary Injunction Hearing for the proposed Rolling 40s Crips has been set for January 29, 2008 in Department 85 of the Los Angeles Superior Court.

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