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## **L.A. CITY ATTORNEY SECURES INJUNCTION AGAINST PACOIMA-AREA GANG DRUG HOUSE**

**LOS ANGELES** – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, the City's chief prosecutor, today announced his office has secured a permanent injunction to prohibit drug-dealing gang members and their affiliates from congregating or residing at two Pacoima-area homes used as a primary hub for the Front Street Crips' narcotics activities. The injunction also mandates necessary safety improvements for the properties.

"We are going to continue to use every tool at our disposal in our efforts to end the gang violence which plagues our neighborhoods," said City Attorney Delgadillo.

The subject properties, two adjacent single family homes located at 13217 and 13219 Filmore Street in Pacoima, are owned by Joann Atkins, and are known by law enforcement officials to be a main source of the Front Street Crips gang's narcotics sales in the area. In addition to narcotics sales and gang presence in and around the properties, drug activity has also created a near-constant presence of individuals who solicit and facilitate narcotics transactions.

The permanent injunction requires that 32 individuals who have committed narcotics or gang-related offenses at, or related to, the properties be permanently barred from the premises. In addition, no one may be present at the properties other than Atkins and 19 other designated individuals - mostly members of the immediate family - for a period of one year. No additions to the list will be permitted without prior court approval.

Atkins is also required to remove all visual obstructions surrounding the property, including opaque fencing, and must install and maintain high intensity lighting on the exterior of the properties, courtyards, and facing the alley in order to assist the LAPD with any investigations.

The City Attorney's Office is also seeking default judgments and permanent injunctions against defendants Charles Nero, a Front Street Gang member and Larry Atkins. The proposed permanent injunction against both individuals will permanently bar them from the subject properties and require them to pay civil penalties.

Between June 2005 and April 2008, the Filmore properties have been the subject of six undercover operations by the LAPD and have been the source of more than 30 arrests for narcotics related offenses – including the arrest of at least 13 known gang members. Officers have also recovered more than 65 grams of cocaine and 37 grams of marijuana from the Filmore locations.

The Front Street Crips are a criminal street gang originating in Watts with secondary locations in Pacoima, including the properties on Filmore Street. The Front Street Crips claim territory in an area of Pacoima which stretches from Paxton Street to the North, Pierce Street to the South, San Fernando to the West and Foothill to the East, and includes narcotics sales and gang prowess to enforce the narcotics sales and activity.

The successful litigation against the Front Street Crips gang property is the latest in a series of legal actions taken against gang-controlled properties as part of City Attorney Delgadillo's ongoing effort to curb gang activity and crack down on criminal hangouts through T.O.U.G.H. (Taking Out Urban Gang Headquarters), a new section of the City Attorney's Citywide Nuisance Abatement Program (CNAP). T.O.U.G.H. locations will typically have a wide range of gang criminal activity associated with them, ranging from quality-of-life crimes like drinking in public, to violent crimes including shootings, assaults with deadly weapons, robberies, and murders.

The T.O.U.G.H. program focuses on property abatements through lawsuits against property owners and gang members that seek aggressive and specifically-tailored injunctive relief. Since its inception, the T.O.U.G.H. program has targeted several gang-controlled properties including those operated by the East Side Pain gang in the Harbor area, the Avenues gang in the Northeast area, the Black P-Stones gang in Baldwin Village, the Venice Shoreline Crips in the Oakwood neighborhood of Venice, and the Rollin 30's Crips and Grape Street Crips in South Los Angeles.

As part of City Attorney Delgadillo's anti-gang efforts, CNAP will continue to abate nuisance properties with special attention paid to locations with a gang connection. If gang activity is extensive at a nuisance property, the case will be transferred for special handling to the T.O.U.G.H. program.

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