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## **CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO TARGETS NOTORIOUS GANG HANGOUTS IN NORTHEAST L.A.**

**LOS ANGELES** – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, the city’s chief prosecutor, today announced his office has filed seven narcotics abatement and public nuisance lawsuits seeking restrictions and improvements on 10 Northeast Los Angeles properties known to be hubs of drug activity for the Avenues criminal street gang.

“Today’s operation represents the largest scale use of property abatement actions against a street gang in the history of this City, and it’s a testament to our commitment to using newer, more effective strategies to deal with gangs,” said City Attorney Delgadillo. “The time for temporary, short term, band-aid solutions to our gang problem is over. Today’s action will have a lasting and positive impact upon local residents.”

The nuisance abatement lawsuits seek injunctive relief for nine properties on Drew Street (3218,3244, 3253-3259,3318-3324, 3351 and 3407-3411) and one located a block away on Chapman (3320), including armed security guards, security cameras, strict tenant screening measures, and evictions of individuals involved in narcotics activities at the properties. The lawsuits also request the property owners reside in their properties and attend neighborhood watch meetings and provide regular maintenance and day-to-day operations.

The proposed abatements are part of a 10-month multi-agency investigation of the Avenues gang by the United States Attorney’s Office, Los Angeles Police Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, United States Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Internal Revenue Service resulting in a 70-defendant federal indictment, 14 state prosecutions, and the filing of the aforementioned abatement lawsuits by the City Attorney’s Safe Neighborhoods Division against gang headquarters.

Actions taken by the City Attorney’s Office are based on site-specific evidence of rampant drug sales and gang activity by the members of the Avenues gang and known associates at the properties known to serve as a base or hub for gang activity, including narcotics and weapons sales. Law enforcement officials have conducted 39 undercover narcotics operations in and around the named properties and have made 82 arrests for narcotics and gun offenses since April 2004.

The lawsuits against the Avenues gang properties follows several actions taken by the City Attorney's Office to curb gang activity in the area. A gang injunction was secured against the Avenues gang in 2003 and most recently, attorneys with City Attorney Delgado's Safe Neighborhoods Division secured the closure of an Avenues-controlled property at 3304 Drew Street that was known as a major center for narcotics sales.

Legal actions taken against gang-controlled properties are part of City Attorney Delgado'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 part 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 Delgado'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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