

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO NEWS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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San Fer Gang Injunction

The City of San Fernando has been working closely with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office to find new and creative ways to curb illegal gang activity in our neighborhoods and to bring needed safety and security to all of our residents. Together, with the assistance of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, a "Gang Injunction" was filed in the Los Angeles Superior Court that would severely restrict the ability of the "*San Fer*" gang to engage in criminal and nuisance activities within an established safety zone that extends throughout 9.5 square miles of the Northeast San Fernando Valley. The actual boundaries are from the Interstate 5 (Golden State Freeway) to the west, Interstate 210 (Foothill Freeway) to the North and East and State Highway 118 (Ronald Reagan Freeway) to the South.

According to law enforcement officials, the *San Fer* gang has claimed the area within the designated safety zone for decades as its territory for criminal activity (i.e., sales of narcotics and the use of weapons and violence to facilitate the drug trade). The next hearing for the preliminary injunction is scheduled for June 24, 2008, at the Los Angeles Superior Court, Department 86.

During the last 18 months, the San Fernando Police Department (SFPD) has worked diligently to establish a cooperative enforcement team with the LAPD and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, working side-by-side to combat this criminal terrorist group. SFPD Chief Robert R. Ordelleide and LAPD Deputy Chief Michael Moore designed a program that has included an officer exchange program allowing SFPD officers to work side-by-side with the LAPD Gang Enforcement Team (GET). Thus, this collaborative effort has led to an increase in communication, sharing of intelligence, and a greater impact across both jurisdictional boundaries. This effort has been duly noted and expressed by members of the *San Fer* gang as a "shock" by the increased and coordinated enforcement impacting their gang, by the strategic efforts of both agencies.

A gang injunction further enhances this teamwork by limiting the gang's ability to associate in public with other gang members, intimidate witnesses, sell or possess drugs, or to possess weapons or graffiti tools. The injunction specifically provides provisions to stay away from areas known to be used by the *San Fer* gang such as parks and recreational centers where they have been known to engage in meetings, engage in gang fights, graffiti vandalism, and the intimidation of witnesses and local high school students, as well as actively recruit new members to their gang. Los Angeles City Attorney's Office Gang Division Prosecutor Jeanne Kim has used declarations to support this injunction from law enforcement officials regarding the long standing criminal activity of the *San Fer* gang. These declarations include terrorizing members of the community through assaults,

threats, graffiti vandalism, trespassing, loitering on public streets, as well as continued violence with rival street gangs in the area.

The City of San Fernando would like to offer their thanks to Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo who has proposed a larger anti-gang legislative package as part of his comprehensive anti-gang plan, which included Assembly Bill 1013, signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger last fall. Additionally, the City of San Fernando would like to thank Los Angeles County Sheriff Leroy Baca who has ensured that gang members who are jailed for injunction violations will serve their full terms. Violations of the injunction can result in six months to one year in custody for each violation.

In working closely with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office and the Los Angeles Police Department, the City of San Fernando will continue to find new and creative ways to curb illegal gang activity and bring safety and security to our residents.

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