



Gang Intelligence

.01 Policy

The policy of the Bladensburg Police Department is to positively reduce gang activity by a proactive selective enforcement of the members of a criminal gang and through intervention.

.02 Terms

Criminal Gang: A formal or informal ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons who:

- Have a common name or common identifying signs, colors, or symbols; or,
- Have members or associates who, individually or collectively, engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal street gang activity.

Criminal Gang Activity: An incident may be classified as gang related when the investigation reveals any of the following criteria:

- The participants are identified as criminal gang members or associates acting individually or collectively to further any criminal purpose of the gang;
- A reliable informant identifies an incident as criminal gang activity;
- An informant of previously untested reliability identifies an incident as criminal gang activity and it is corroborated by other existing circumstances or independent information; or,
- When there are strong indications that an incident is criminal gang related but it does not fit the above criteria.

Criminal Gang Associate: Any person who meets any one of the eleven criteria defining Criminal Gang Member listed above.

Criminal Gang Member - Any person who engages in a pattern of Criminal Gang Activity, and meets two or more of the following criteria:

- Admits to criminal gang membership;
- Is identified as a criminal gang member by a parent or guardian;
- Is identified as a criminal gang member by a documented reliable informant;
- Adopts the style of dress of a criminal gang;

- Adopts the use of a hand sign identified as used by a criminal gang;
- Has a tattoo identified as used by a criminal gang;
- Associates with one or more known criminal gang members;
- Is identified as a criminal gang member by an informant of previously untested reliability and such identification is corroborated by other independent information;
- Is identified as a criminal gang member by physical evidence; or,
- Has authorized any communication indicating responsibility for the commission of any crime by a criminal gang.

Pattern of Criminal Gang Activity: The commission, attempted commission, or solicitation, by any member or members of a criminal gang, or two or more felony or violent misdemeanor offenses, or two or more delinquent acts or violations of law which would be felonies or violent misdemeanors if committed by an adult, on separate occasions within a 3-year period.

.03 Governing Legislation and Reference

Governing Legislation:

Maryland Code, Criminal Law Article, Title 9, Subtitle 8, Criminal gang activity.

Maryland Code, Education Article, §7-424.2, Gangs and Gang activity.

Forms: N/A

.04 Procedure

A. Gang Liaison Officer Responsibilities

The Gang Liaison Officer is responsible for collecting, coordinating and disseminating criminal gang information to all law enforcement personnel.

B. Gang Enforcement

Enforcement duties of the Gang Liaison Officers includes the following:

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- To collect and correlate information resulting in the identification of criminal gangs;
- To assist other members in our department in solving criminal activity perpetrated by criminal gangs;
- To assist other agencies in our area with their criminal gang related criminal activity by the sharing and dissemination of information obtained;
- To educate the community on problems related to criminal gang activities through public awareness programs;
- The Gang Liaison Officer will cooperate with the State's Attorney's Office, Department of Juvenile Services, other law enforcement agencies, the Prince George's County School System, and community organizations in the following manner:
 - Monitor activities symptomatic of criminal gang influence or participation and provide preventative, investigative, and follow-up activities necessary to reduce the impact of such gangs on the community;
 - Develop and coordinate intelligence and investigative resources to deter the conditions and activities which have the potential for producing criminal gang activity;
 - Provide monthly reports and briefings on current gang activities to concerned law enforcement agencies and community organizations involved in crime prevention efforts;
- Document criminal gang activities through intelligence bulletins as needed;
- Obtain copies of pertinent documents that identify the defendant as a criminal gang member and present copies to the State's Attorney's Office upon request;
- Prepare and distribute a Monthly Criminal Gang Intelligence Report to concerned law enforcement entities. Special reports will also be prepared and distributed when necessary to ensure timely dissemination of information; and,
- Coordinate with the Regional Area Gang Enforcement (R.A.G.E.) Task force, which operates out of Hyattsville Station (District 1).

Gang Intelligence files and other gang related documents containing active criminal intelligence or investigative information that could reveal the identity of a confidential source of information, surveillance techniques, procedures, or personnel, are exempt from disclosure under the provisions of the Maryland Public Information Act.

C. Patrol Responsibilities

Patrol Officers should maintain a high-visibility "enforcement oriented" presence in areas frequented by gang members and/or associates.

When responding to any Criminal Gang Related Incidents, patrol officers should take the following steps:

- Assess the situation, and if in fact gang related, make immediate notification to a patrol shift supervisor;
- Call for additional units if gang members or associates are present. A good rule of thumb is one officer for every two gang affiliates;
- Request that the Gang Liaison Officer respond to the scene if possible;
- Maintain visual contact on gang members and associates in the area. Watch closely for hand signs, evidence of gang activity, and possible destruction of evidence;
- Conduct visual and/or physical inspection for weapons. If members or associates are within a vehicle, or an affiliated vehicle is nearby, an attempt should be made to obtain consent to search;
- Whenever possible, obtain an identification photograph of the member or associate. Ask permission to photograph, but use caution to avoid any implied coercion. Do not force compliance; and,
- Document the incident accordingly, and forward a copy to the Gang Liaison Officer.

Documenting the activities and contacts of gangs and gang members is essential to effective enforcement and to meet necessary criteria for membership status, as well as aid in successful investigations, prosecution, and sentencing enhancements. Information concerning gangs, gang related incidents, or gang members and associates should be documented in one of the following forms and forwarded to the Gang Liaison Officer:

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- Case/Supplement Report;
- Arrest Report;
- Field Interview Report;
- Photographs or video recording; and,
- Traffic Citations.

HISTORY: Adopted July 1, 2014

This General Order supersedes all other orders and memoranda in conflict therewith.

Authority:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles L. Owens". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops.

Charles L. Owens
Chief of Police