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Miguel Duran/East Los Angeles
Probation Department

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THE
SPECIALIZED GANG SUPERVISION PROGRAM
FACT SHEET

"A Model Program Which Uses Conditions of Probation
As The Basis For Stringent Law Enforcement"



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260-3811

INTRODUCTION

During October, 1980, Supervisor Edmund D. Edelman conducted hearings into gang violence. These hearings revealed that this violence impacts upon the entire County of Los Angeles and victimizes innocent, non-gang involved citizens.

On October 28, 1980, the Board of Supervisors, in response to growing public concern, approved the development and implementation of a Probation Department Specialized Gang Supervision Program, to offer protection to the citizens of this County, to provide a more even administration of justice, to rehabilitate offenders and to reduce gang violence with a primary emphasis on prevention gang-related homicides. The Board also approved an expansion of the Sheriff's Operation Safe Streets Program, doubled the District Attorney's Operation Hardcore Program and established the Community Youth Gang Services Project.

SPECIALIZED GANG SUPERVISION PROGRAM

Program Objectives

1. Reduce the rate of homicides committed by gang members who are actively under the jurisdiction of the Probation Officer.
2. Significantly reduce the incidence of violent acts resulting from gang activities and involving persons actively on Probation.

3. Significantly improve Probation control and surveillance of gang-oriented probationers throughout the County of Los Angeles.
4. Ensure compliance with all conditions of Probation or the prompt handling of all violations and the return of these offenders to Court for appropriate disposition.

Program Administration

Chief Probation Officer Barry J. Nidorf implements the Specialized Gang Supervision Program under the immediate supervision of Executive Assistant Gordon Pedersen. The program is directed by Director Miguel Duran.

Program Design

There are five units. Each unit consists of one Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, eight Deputy Probation Officers and appropriate clerical and administrative support.

Each unit supervises a maximum of 480 youth gang-oriented offenders with an individual officer supervising no more than 60 cases. The caseloads consist of both adult and juvenile offenders as well as both male and female offenders. Age range is generally 14 to 25.

Deputy Probation Officers are expected to provide extended supervision, including evenings and weekends, when indicated by caseload activity whether positive or negative in nature.

Specific Duties of the Deputy Probation Officers:

1. Supervising and providing direct Probation services to 60 offenders with a history of current youth gang involvement.
2. Expeditiously handling all violations of conditions of Probation.
3. Maintaining close communication with law enforcement agencies such as courts, policing agencies, corrections, Probation, the District Attorney, and other agencies engaged in gang-control activities.
4. Maintaining close communication with schools and recreation centers as well as community based services agencies using reciprocal resources in order to maintain close supervision over probationers and remain knowledgeable of community occurrences which may aid the DPO in carrying out his assigned tasks.
5. Become well known in their assigned communities and spending a significant portion of their working time in the field in behalf of the Program.

Supervising Deputy Probation Officers

The unit Supervising Deputy Probation Officer directs the activities of the eight Deputies, making geographical and case assignments, submitting monthly data reports regarding overall

Program developments. The SDPO is expected to keep in close contact with elements in the community dealing with youth gang violence suppression, members of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Operation Safe Streets, Los Angeles Police Department's Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums teams, Hardcore District Attorney, and Community Youth Gang Services Project designated as their counterparts. Further, they involve themselves intimately with staff handling extraordinary cases which might attract media and other agency attention. They make sure that in special cases, special incident reports are submitted jointly to the Director.

Director

The Director implements, coordinates and executes the Program's goals and objectives. He is responsible for the functioning of the various components and serves as the formal channel between the Probation Department and other aspects of law enforcement, the Courts, Schools, and community based agencies and concerned community groups. He also sits on the Law Enforcement Youth Gang Task Force which was developed by the County Board of Supervisors.

Training

Specialized training for staff assigned to the Program is provided by Probation training specialists within the department on an ongoing basis. The training has consisted of refresher courses in the Welfare and Institutions Code and Penal Code as well as drug use and abuse, conversational Spanish, perspectives on street gangs, legal report writing and dynamics of groups and individual counseling as examples.

Monitoring

A small research and monitoring component is constantly compiling statistics to be used in assessing the effectiveness of the Program on a quantitative basis. An audit team researches the effectiveness of the Program on a qualitative basis.

Housing

1. The Director is housed at the ELA Area Office located at 144 South Fetterly Avenue, East Los Angeles.
2. The 5 units are decentralized strategically, in order to concentrate staff geographically around the County to maximize impact on gang infested neighborhoods as well as being in close proximity to courts and policing agencies.

- ELA Gang Unit
144 S. Fetterly Avenue
Los Angeles CA 90022
- Metro Gang Unit
1330 W. Imperial Highway
Los Angeles CA 90044
- South Central Gang Unit
200 W. Compton Boulevard
Compton CA 90221
- San Gabriel Valley Gang Unit
11234 Valley Boulevard
El Monte CA 91731
- East San Fernando Valley Gang Unit
6931 Van Nuys Boulevard
Van Nuys CA 91405

Geographic Areas

These areas are characterized by a large youth population, substandard housing and a high unemployment rate, as well as policing by specialized units attempting to control crime on the streets. The urban areas of Los Angeles are prime targets as well as deteriorating suburban areas, whether incorporated or not.

Participants

The Program includes minors and young adults who are on active Probation status, identified gang members, and on record as actively involved in delinquent/criminal behavior.

Generic Caseload

Deputy Probation Officers carry generic caseloads, seventy percent juvenile and thirty percent adult. Offenders are referred to the Specialized Gang Supervision Program by various sources, i.e. Probation, Police, Schools, parents and Courts to the Supervising Deputy Probation Officer of the appropriate Gang Unit, who screens the case for suitability.

Funding Source

The Specialized Gang Supervision Program is funded in part by Probation County dollars and augmented by SB 90 money. Estimated total is \$2.3 million.

Programming

Collateral programming with caseload youth such as leadership and responsibility workshops as well as involvement with community based agencies are becoming part of the units' priorities. Since funding is not available, the community at large is asked for support. These programs are set up to aid in the rehabilitative process for probationers who indicate a willingness to be aided in turning their life around.

Revised 6/6/84

END