



# Gang Reduction Initiatives



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Chief of Police

**S**anta Ana is the largest city in the county with a population of 353,428 residents and the youngest city in the nation with a median age of 26.5 years. Like many California cities of similar size and demographics, Santa Ana has experienced an increase in gang violence within the past few years.

The Santa Ana Department's Community Policing efforts started in the early 1970s and continues today. The Department has not sat on its laurels, nor has it been satisfied with its policing efforts, but has sought to proactively and aggressively review and change policing models over time. The Santa Ana Police Department's Community Policing philosophy has clearly resulted in lower overall crime rates, reduced blight and disorder, and most importantly, restored a sense of community and safety for the city's residents and businesses, which would not have been possible through traditional policing models alone. The Santa Ana Police Department is committed to maintaining its leadership role in the fight against gang violence, and to the development of new policing strategies to combat crime and address quality of life issues.

In an effort to combat gang violence in our community, the City of Santa Ana and the Santa Ana Police Department, with the support of the Santa Ana City Council, have established and implemented several initiatives. Additional information regarding these initiatives are described in the following pages.

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- Tri-Agency Resource/Gang Enforcement Team (TARGET) - pg 2
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## SANTA ANA POLICE ATHLETICS & ACTIVITY LEAGUE

The Santa Ana Police Athletics & Activity League (SAPAAL) is a youth crime prevention program that utilizes educational, athletic, and recreational activities to create trust and understanding between police officers and youth. It is based on the conviction that young people - if they are reached early enough - can develop strong, positive attitudes towards police officers in their journey



through life toward the goal of maturity and good citizenship. The PAAL program brings youth under the supervision and positive influence of a law enforcement agency and expands public awareness about the role of a police officer and the reinforcement of the responsible values and attitudes instilled in young people by their parents.

## GRAFFITI TASK FORCE



Taggers use graffiti as a way of expression and more importantly, as a means of obtaining recognition and status. A tagger's goal is simply to place his "tag" on as many places as possible with visibility being a top priority. Taggers often operate in "crews" whose members share a common goal of advancing the crew name by affixing it in as many places as possible.

By the mid nineties, Santa Ana was spending over a million dollars a year to

remove graffiti from the community. The Police Department devoted two full-time investigators to investigate graffiti and apprehend those responsible for an epidemic of destruction. Teaming with other City agencies, the Police Department focused on identifying vandals, saw them serve criminal sentences, and pay restitution for their crimes. In just the first six months of operation, the Graffiti Task Force made over 600 arrests and coordinated restitution exceeding \$11,000.

*Since 1993, the Graffiti Task Force has identified 500 tagging crews.*

By the end of the 1990s, Santa Ana had significantly reduced the amount of graffiti by aggressive eradication and enforcement efforts.

Santa Ana and most sur-

## TRI-AGENCY RESOURCE/GANG ENFORCEMENT TEAM

The SAPD, in partnership with the Orange County District Attorney, has three Tri-Agency Resource/Gang Enforcement Teams (TARGET) housed within the Santa Ana police facility. TARGET teams police officers, probation officers, and prosecutors by stationing them together in police departments throughout the county.

The TARGET concept is a highly-specialized team approach focusing on hardcore, violent, repeat gang offenders who possess leadership positions in criminal street gangs. TARGET'S goal is to incarcerate hardcore gang members before they commit further violent acts.

## STREET TERRORIST OFFENDER PROGRAM

The enforcement component of TARGET is SAPD's Street Terrorist Offender Program (STOP). Detectives conduct enforcement operations against "targeted" street gang members.

The STOP team detectives work specifically in gang "hotspot" areas to establish rapport with community members as well as gang members. They gain information about which gang is feuding with

another gang and other important gang intelligence. This information is shared with both gang assault and gang homicide detectives, which assists them in determining likely suspects of gang related crimes.

For FY 07/08, City Council approved the addition of a second STOP Team to the department budget to further increase enforcement efforts against gang members.

rounding communities are once again dealing with an increase in graffiti. Like many fads or cycles of the past, tagging has reemerged as a trendy lifestyle for the individual looking to gain recognition by leaving his mark, or that of his crew, in as many places as possible. Since 1993, the Graffiti Task Force has identified 500 tagging crews. These crews vary in size and longevity. Due in part to the

increase in graffiti, the Task Force was increased to 3 full-time detectives.

Many of today's tagging crews are active in criminal gang activity. Today's tagger may be armed, may be involved in violent and/or drug related crimes, and may associate with or be a rival with gangs long associated with serious criminal activity.

## EARLY PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION COMMISSION

The Santa Ana City Council established the Early Prevention and Intervention Commission (EPIC) in 2007 to address gang crime and gang-related violence using public and private partnerships. The seventeen member commission's goals are:

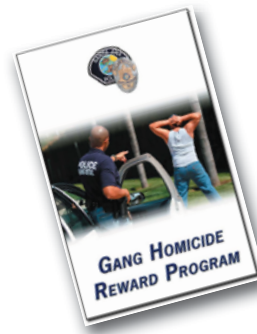
- to reduce the number of gang-related crimes;
- to reduce the level of gang membership and activity;
- to mobilize the community into action to ensure that youth do not join gangs;

- to improve community capacity to address crime, violence and gang activity;
- and to identify resources, develop strategies, and design inter-agency programs which will improve service to youth that are involved in gangs or at risk of gang involvement.

EPIC has conducted several community meetings in order to get feedback from city residents regarding gang issues.

The commission meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Location to be announced monthly.

## GANG HOMICIDE REWARD PROGRAM

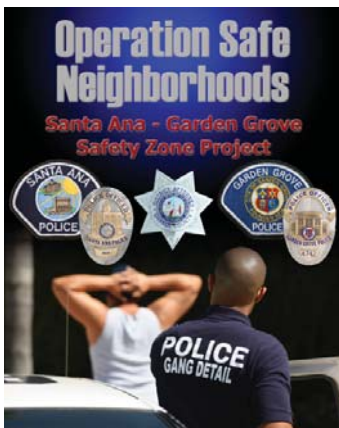


The Santa Ana Police Department, with the help of an anonymous donor, has created a Gang Homicide Reward Program. The \$500,000 dollar donation will be used by the police department to offer monetary rewards for information leading to the arrest of gang homicide suspects.

This program provides another resource to assist in developing information that is crucial to solving gang homicides. Rewards will be made available for information provided on any unsolved gang related homicide, which results in solving a homicide or the arrest of an outstanding suspect.

The amount of the rewards will be determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the value of the information given and the level of involvement in the prosecution of the suspect. Reward amounts may be from \$100 to \$50,000 per incident.

## SANTA NITA GANG INJUNCTION



A gang injunction is a civil lawsuit against a street gang and its members based on the legal theory of "public nuisance." The allegation is that the conduct and activities of the street gang within a defined area constitute a public nuisance. It interferes with the community's comfortable enjoyment of life and their property.

The objective of the Santa Nita Gang Injunction is to improve the quality of life for the people who live and work in the Safety Zone, suppress gang activity and help reduce gang crime, provide outreach programs for a better opportunity to work, reduce the ability for borderline gang associates to join the gang, and give gang members and associates an excuse to leave the gang. It also allows the Police Department to use fewer resources to suppress the gang and devote more resources to other issues.

The Santa Nita Gang Injunction applies to the 134 identified members of the Santa Nita gang who engage in acts prohibited by the lawsuit. These prohibitions

must occur in the "Safety Zone" and in an area open to the public. Non-gang affiliated neighborhood residents are not under authority of the injunction. The injunction is enforceable only against the 134 identified Santa Nita

specific crime categories when compared to the 3 month period prior to the service of the gang injunction (May through July 2006).

**The Safety Zone has had a 49.3% decrease in gang specific crime categories...**

gang members who have been served with notice of the injunction who are in the Safety Zone, are in public, and in violation of one or more of the terms of the injunction.

The Safety Zone has had a 49.3% decrease in gang



## SAPD'S MOST WANTED

In an effort to solicit help from the public and to better inform them of violent criminals, the SAPD now lists the Santa Ana Most Wanted on the internet. Many of our wanted suspects are gang members and we routinely revise those on the list to ensure we keep the site current.

**Do not attempt to apprehend these persons yourself. If you know where any of these persons are, call the Santa Ana Police Department at (714) 245-8665 or your local law enforcement agency.**



### **Inocente Secundino**

Wanted for Murder; Case #06-50365

Male Hispanic, 24 years old, black hair, brown eyes, 5'4", 170 lbs.

Secundino has an arrest warrant for murder. He should be considered armed and dangerous.



### **Dennis Bravo**

Wanted for Attempted Murder; Case #01-17469

Male Hispanic, born on 5/10/81, black hair, brown eyes, 6'0", 200 lbs.

Bravo has an arrest warrant for attempted murder. He should be considered armed and dangerous.



### **Fernando Ramirez Garcia**

Wanted for Attempted Murder of a Police Officer; Case #98-47226

Male Hispanic, born on 12/14/69, black hair, brown eyes, 5'4", 144 lbs.

During a routine traffic stop, Garcia fired multiple rounds at and struck a Santa Ana Police Officer who had pulled him over for a traffic violation. He should be considered armed and dangerous.



### **Luis Abraham Flores**

Wanted for Identity & Auto Theft; Case #06-28612

Male Hispanic, born on 3/3/79, black hair, brown eyes, 5'7", 185 lbs.

Flores has arrest warrants for identity theft, auto theft, and narcotics offenses.



### **Ranferi Macedo**

Wanted for Murder; Case #04-43004

Male Hispanic, born on 2/13/71, black hair, brown eyes, 6'0", 222 lbs.

Macedo is believed to have gunned down an acquaintance with an assault style weapon on 10/5/04 at his residence in Santa Ana. He should be considered armed and dangerous.



### **Leopoldo Cervantes Mondragon**

Wanted for Burglary; Case #05-47430

Male Hispanic, born on 3/19/87, black hair, brown eyes, 5'10", 130 lbs.

Flores has an arrest warrant for first-degree burglary and is an escapee from the California Youth Authority.



### **Edwin Lopez**

Wanted for Attempted Murder; Case #04-18652

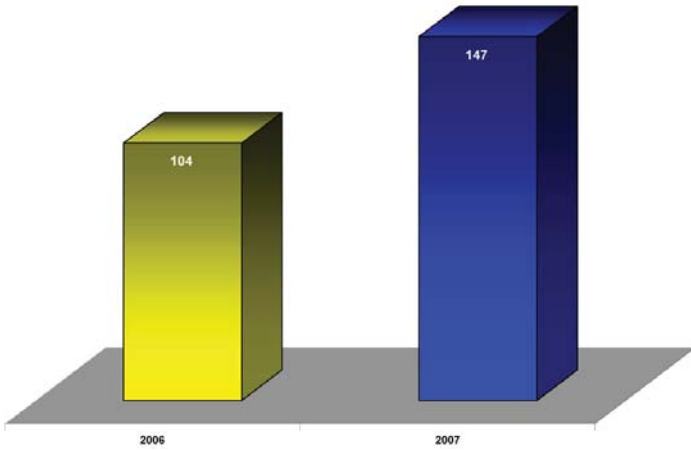
Male Hispanic, born on 4/4/85, black hair, brown eyes, 5'7", 125 lbs.

Lopez has an arrest warrant for attempted murder. He should be considered armed and dangerous.

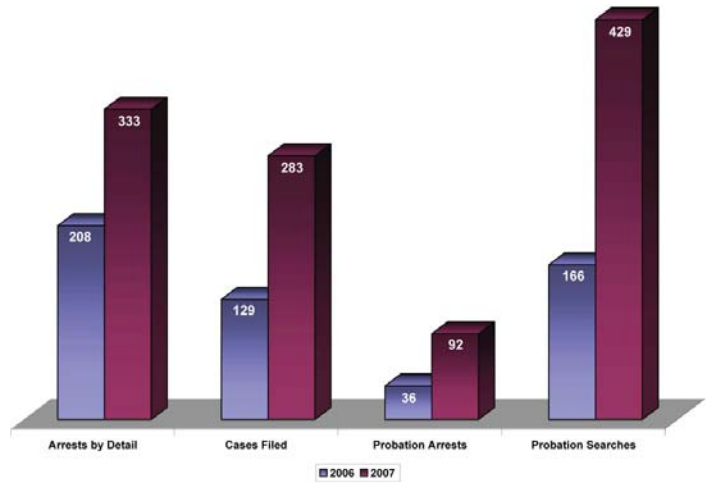
***The Most Wanted page can be found  
on our website:***

***[www.santa-ana.org/pd/mostwanted.asp](http://www.santa-ana.org/pd/mostwanted.asp)***

**TOTAL NUMBER OF ARRESTS  
BY SAPD TARGET TEAMS**

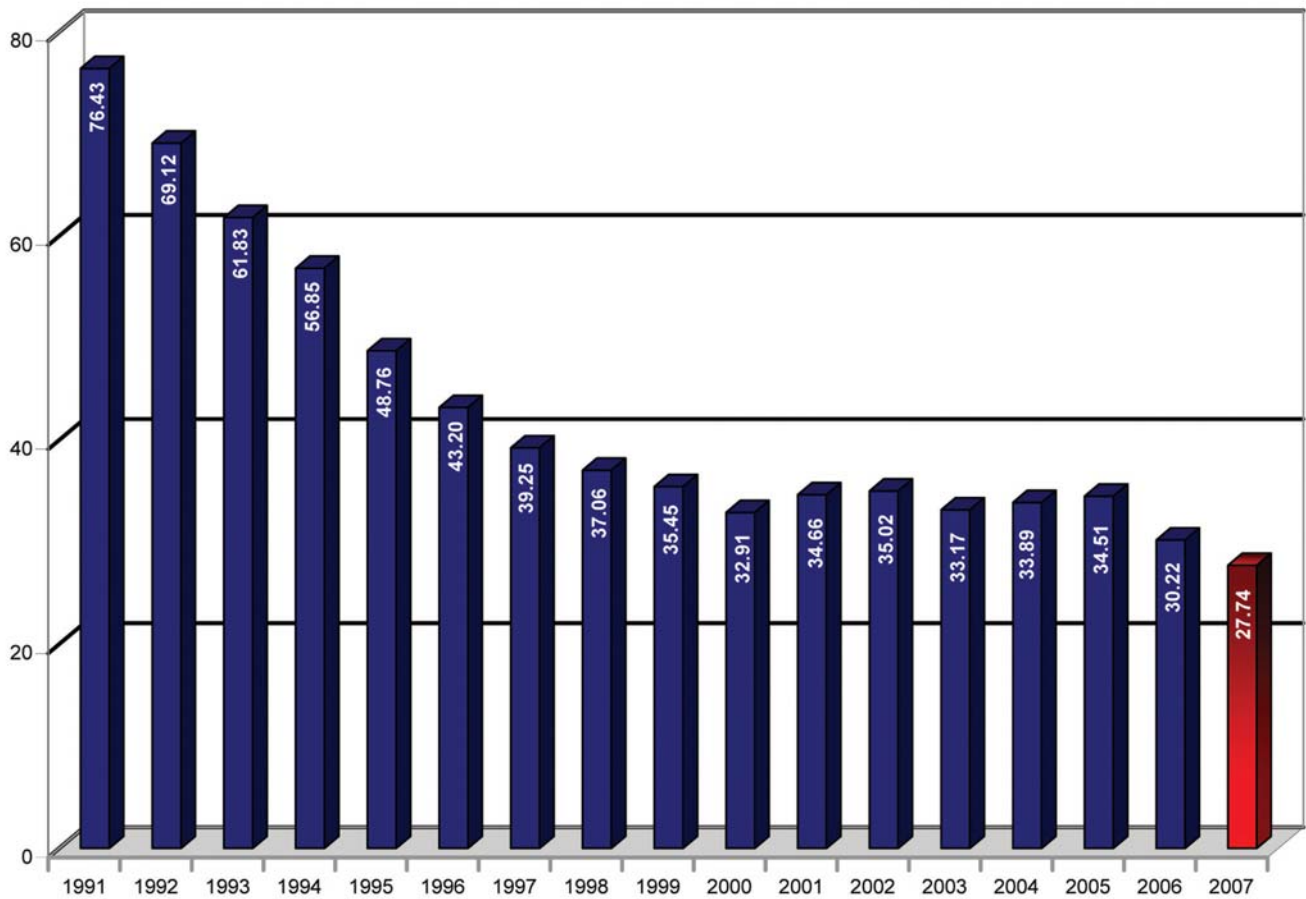


**GRAFFITI TASK FORCE  
STATISTICS**



**CITY OF SANTA ANA**

FBI Crime Index  
(per 1,000 population)





**Mayor**

Miguel A. Pulido

**Mayor Pro Tem**

Claudia C. Alvarez

**Councilmembers**

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