

Memorandum



DATE: April 30, 2010

TO: Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: **Dallas Police Department Gang Unit Operations and Gang Interdiction**

Attached is briefing material on the "Dallas Police Department Gang Unit Operations and Gang Interdiction" to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, May 3, 2010.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ryan S. Evans'.

Ryan S. Evans
First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

CC: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council

Mary K. Suhm, City Manager

Deborah Watkins, City Secretary

Tom Perkins, City Attorney

Craig Kinton, City Auditor

C. Victor Lander, Administrative Municipal Judge

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager

A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager

Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager

Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer

Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager Mayor/City Council



Dallas Police Department

Gang Unit Operations and Gang Interdiction

May 3, 2010



Gang Unit Overview



Gang Unit Staffing

- 1 Lieutenant
- 3 Sergeants
- 9 Detectives (Investigative Section)
- 18 Uniformed Officers (Enforcement Section)
- 7 Patrol Division Officers (Gang/Patrol Liaisons)

What is a Gang?

Legal Definition

- Chapter 61 of Texas Code of Criminal Procedures
 - Three or more members
 - Common identifiers
 - name
 - colors
 - tattoos, etc.
 - Involved in criminal activity

What is a Gang Member?

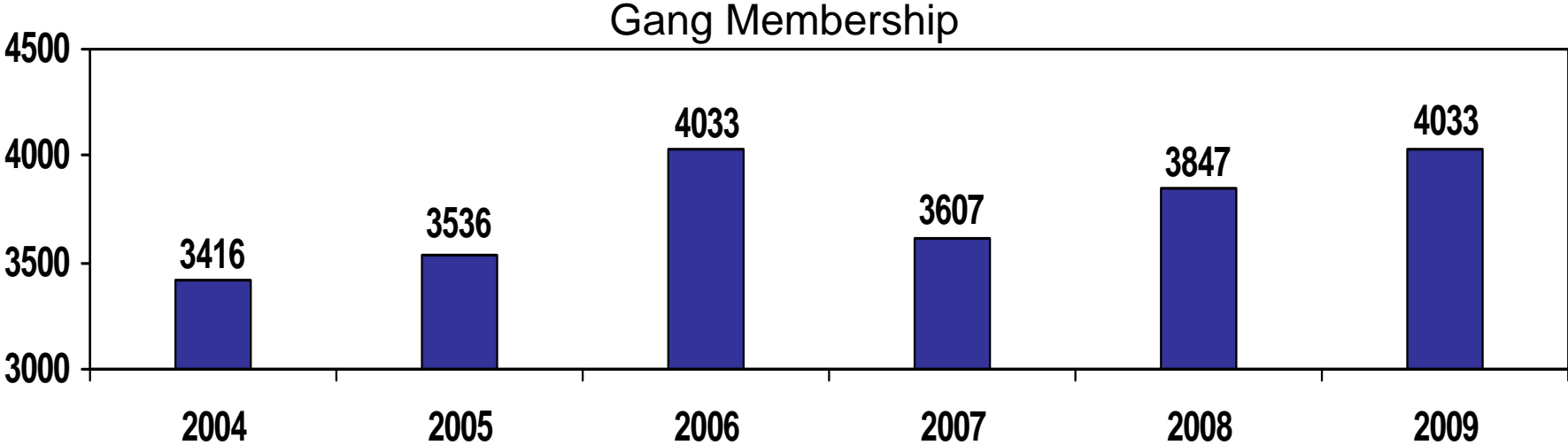
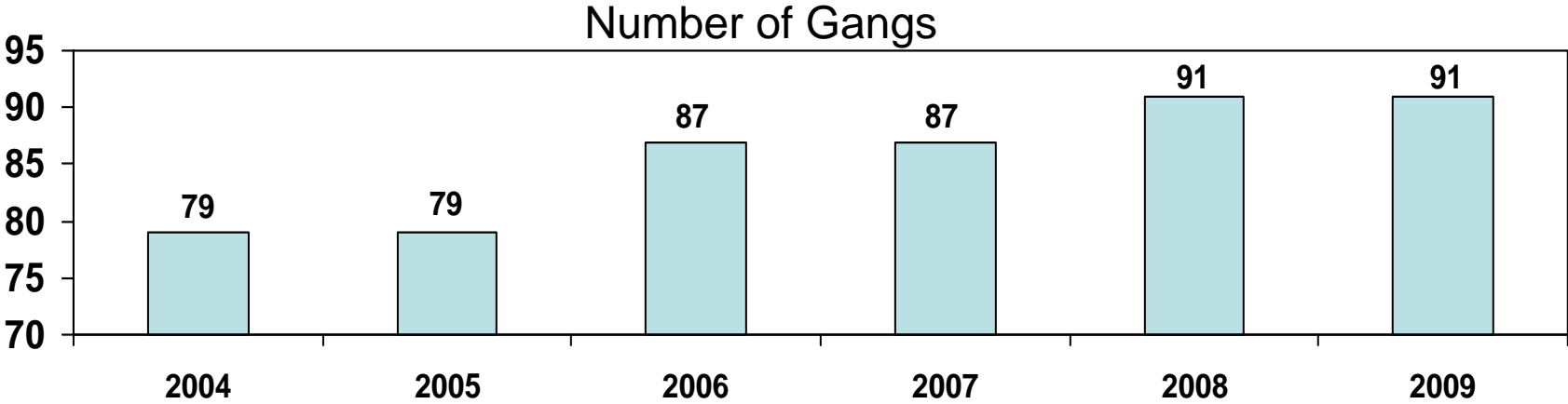
Legal Standard

- Must meet two of the following criteria:
 - Self admission
 - Identification by a reliable source
 - Corroborated information
 - Frequents an area known for gang activity and associates with known gang members or is wearing gang clothing, has a tattoo or symbol, and demonstrates a gang hand sign

Legal Standard (cont)

- Arrested or placed in custody for gang related activity or a criminal offense misdemeanor B or above
- The individual has visited a known criminal street gang member, other than family, while the gang member is in jail
- Use of technology, including the Internet, to recruit new criminal street gang members

Gangs and Gang Membership



Dallas Gang Membership

- 93.9% adult membership
- 93% male
- 55% Hispanic
- 39% Black
- 5% White
- Records are in accordance with state and federal law (C.C.P. Chapter 61 & Code of Federal Regulations Chapter 28)

Typical Gang Profile

- Most Dallas gangs are neighborhood or relationship based (Kiest/Polk Bloods, Pleasant Grove Vatos, Jr. Homeboys, Mannett Boys, 223 Bloods, OCT)
- Most criminal street gang activity is fragmented
- Organized, hierarchical leadership is rare
- Drug trafficking is the most common criminal activity engaged in by gangs
- Most gangs are not organized around significant criminal enterprises (any that are become strategically targeted)
- Dallas gangs tend to keep a low profile and generally do not take over or establish control over neighborhoods, parks, parking lots or businesses
- Emerging trends

Crimes Committed by Gang Members

Crime	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Murder	35	17	25	31	35	25
Sexual Assault	0	0	0	2	1	2
Robbery	107	111	129	175	162	55
Agg. Assault & Deadly Conduct	247	218	225	225	242	246
Burglary	23	24	25	31	23	73
UUMV	31	6	10	25	14	28
Theft & BMV	38	27	19	47	34	155
Total	481	403	427	264	478	584

Graffiti Investigations

- Developed a comprehensive and detailed standard operating procedure to guide patrol officers in responding to graffiti calls
 - Patrol SOP 1631
- Can range from a Class B misdemeanor to a First degree felony
 - Highest filed by the Gang Unit was a Third degree felony
- Difficult to charge suspects through state court
 - D.A. will accept cases with “smoking gun” meaning paint must be fresh, suspects no more than 2 blocks away carrying paint cans that match the graffiti paint
 - Working with City Attorney on revised ordinance
 - Responsibility of Parent or Guardian 31-39.1

Gang Unit Strategies

- Prevention through public awareness expressing negative consequences of gang involvement
- Aggressive intelligence gathering and dissemination
- Establish and maintain effective partnerships with external agencies working to combat gang activity
- Expanding patrol officers' capabilities and gang knowledge
- Proactive aggressive enforcement
- Continuing gang liaison training for patrol division officers

Gang Prevention

- Gang awareness classes to elementary school teachers
- Gang awareness presentations to community groups throughout the city
- Basic informational classes on gangs and gang awareness to private security professionals
- Gang avoidance presentations to students in grades 4 through 6
- Participation in anti-graffiti conference
- Weekly meetings with DISD

Questions?