



News from: Oakland Police Department



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Long-Term Criminal Investigation Culminates with Arrests

Oakland, CA —Today Mayor Libby Schaaf and Oakland Police Chief Sean Whent were joined by representatives from the community; the California Department of Justice; the Alameda County District Attorney's Office; the Alameda County Probation Department; the Oakland Housing Authority; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the U.S. Marshals; City of Oakland councilmembers Desley Brooks and Larry Reid; Bishop Bob Jackson, Pastor of Acts Full Gospel Church; and the California Highway Patrol at a press conference discussing the culmination of a long-term criminal investigation.

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The investigation focused on two of the most active and violent street gangs in the City of Oakland, 65th Ave Gang and 69th Ave Village Gang. The 65th Ave and 69th Ave Village gangs have a long history of violence and feuding that goes back decades. The 2014 murder of a high ranking 69th Ave Village gang member prompted increased tension between the groups.

Recognizing the serious potential for retaliation and continued violence, we utilized the Ceasefire Strategy to focus our attention on the groups. We communicated directly with several members of each gang warning them to stop the violence and advising them that alternatives existed. Some of the individuals we communicated with chose not to engage in violence. We focused our collective resources on those individuals who chose to continue their involvement in violent crime.

Together with our partner agencies, we worked diligently to gather the information and intelligence needed to put together these criminal cases. The suspects identified are responsible for numerous violent crimes, including shootings, assaults, burglaries, and street robberies.

Chief Whent said, "We are relieved to have built cases on these violent individuals. This extensive investigation was made possible because of the continued commitment of our partner agencies. We understand we have much more work to do and we are dedicated to our role in creating a safer Oakland."

"This community has made it clear that stopping gun violence is our number one priority. That is why we are using the proven strength of the Ceasefire partnership to help end this plague in our city," said Mayor Libby Schaaf. "This partnership is about giving people the opportunity to make better choices, but also being extremely clear that we will make good on our promise of harsh consequences if you continue on a path of violence. The individuals that were arrested today were not only guilty of gang violence, but also of terrorizing Oaklanders with carjackings, home invasions and street robberies. Taking them off our streets is an important step toward helping Oakland realize its amazing potential and giving residents back their right to live without fear."

"We are committed to dismantling violent street gangs terrorizing our

communities,” said Attorney General Kamala Harris. “I want to thank our Department of Justice agents and the Oakland Police Department for their work to keep our communities safe.”

Some of the firearms recovered during the course of this long-term investigation are pictured below.



Anonymous Tipping allows residents to proactively connect with the Oakland Police Department by submitting anonymous tips via web form and text message.

Additionally, with the issuance of a tipping passcode to tipsters, we can initiate a two-way, anonymous communication to help gather more information.

For more information, please contact the Media Relations Office at 510-238-7230 or opdmedia@oaklandnet.com.

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Operation Specific Stats

- **History of 65th Village Gang**
 - The 65th village gang is an East Oakland gang that claims Lockwood Gardens housing projects as their turf. Comprised of mostly African-American males between the age of 14 and 35, the gang has been in existence since the early 1980's when cocaine and heroin operations were being run by Felix Mitchell. Since that time, there have been generations of individuals who claim membership and associate with this gang. Current members and associates of this group have engaged in crime including shootings, assaults, burglaries, and street robberies. The group has ties to and alliances with other violent street gangs in Oakland and Alameda County.
- **History of 69th Village**
 - The 69th Village gang is an East Oakland gang comprised of mostly African-American males between the ages of 14 and 35. The old Brentford Olmstead Housing Projects was the base for this group in the 70's and the 80's. Despite the demolition of this property individuals still claim the gang and reside in the area. Similar to 65th village, 69th village gang members have been involved in violence including murders, shootings, assaults, and residential/street robberies.
- **Recent History of Violence between Gangs**
 - In recent years, the violence between the two gangs had been relatively infrequent until 2011. In that year, two members of the 69th Village were involved in and prosecuted for the murder of 3 yr old Carlos Nava and the attempted murder of 65th Ave gang members on International Blvd. Concerned about possible retaliation from the upcoming trial in 2013 and 2014, several 65th & 69th gang members were directly communicated with utilizing the Ceasefire strategy. Many were offered services and support and several followed through and did not engage in violence. Both gangs remained relatively quiet until the end of 2014.
- **History of this Operation**
 - This operation was initiated after a Ceasefire client and member of 69th Ave Gang was killed at the end of last year. Credible intelligence indicated that due to his murder retaliation was highly likely in Oakland and surrounding municipalities. Based upon this intelligence and the history of violence that has erupted in the past when these two

groups have been involved in active feuds, this operation was initiated. This operation was initiated in direct response to the tension and threat of retaliation and violence between these two groups

- 7 of the individuals that have warrants out for their arrests as part of this operation were invited to call-ins, or received custom notifications.
- Leaders of both groups participated in or were invited to call-ins, and received custom notifications.
- Service providers also went to local jails to communicate with and discourage retaliation amongst individuals believed to be influential within the gangs and responsible for directing street actions.
- Some of the young men that participated in direct communication (call-in or custom notification) from these groups chose not to engage in violence.
- We focused law enforcement resources on those individuals who continued their involvement in violence. Together with partner agencies we gathered the information and evidence needed to link them to serious crimes.

- **Ceasefire Strategy Stats & Goals**

- Ceasefire is a partnership based and data driven strategy with the following goals:
 - **Reduce gang and group related shootings and homicides**
 - **Reduce the recidivism rate among participants**
 - **Improve community police relationships**
- OPD Ceasefire Strategy began October 18, 2012
- Since then the partnership made up of law enforcement, community members, faith leaders, and service providers has conducted 7 call-ins with 133 participants and 152 custom notifications.
- The total number of direct communications to date is 285
- The purpose of direct communications is to convey to high-risk individuals involved in gangs/groups their individual **and** groups risk of violence, and prosecution due to continued engagement in violent crime (shootings and homicides). Participants are told by community members, faith partners, ex-offenders, law enforcement, and service providers that their life matters, that there are alternatives to violence, and that continued engagement in violence by them **and** members of their group/gang will draw the attention of multiple law enforcement agencies. Services are offered but are not mandated. The only requirement is that the violence stops.
- The last call-in was Nov 14, 2014
- The next call-in is this month
- Of the 133 call-in participants, 26 have been re-arrested for violent or gun related offenses.

Oakland Call-In History			
Police Areas	Date	# of Attendees	Social Services (SS) Sign-Up
4, 5- East Oakland	18-Oct-12	20	12
4, 5- East Oakland	22-Mar-13	23	18
3,4,5 – Central & East Oakland	12-Sep-13	19	13
3, 4, 5- Central & East Oakland	11-Dec-13	21	19
1,3, 4, 5- West, Central & East Oakland	27-Mar-14	15	13
1,3,4,5- West, Central & East Oakland	24-Jul-14	15	15
1,3,4,5- West, Central & East Oakland	13-Nov-14	20	17
Total from Call-in:		133	107