

PS/HHS COMMITTEE #1

June 24, 2010

Briefing

MEMORANDUM

June 22, 2010

TO: Public Safety and Health and Human Services Committees

FROM: Susan J. Farag, Legislative Analyst *SJF*
Vivian Yao, Legislative Analyst *VY*

SUBJECT: Coordination of Gang Suppression and Intervention

The Public Safety and Health and Human Services Committees will receive a briefing on the County's current efforts to coordinate gang suppression and intervention activities among County departments, local municipalities, and other neighboring jurisdictions including Prince George's County. Those expected to participate in the briefing include:

Assistant Chief Wayne Jerman, Department of Police
Captain Dave Gillespie, Department of Police
Deputy Chief Jeffrey Wennar, State's Attorney's Office Gang Unit
Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Kate Garvey, Chief, Children, Youth and Families, DHHS
Edward Newsome, Director of School Performance, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
Robert Hellmuth, Director, Department of School Safety and Security, MCPS

OVERVIEW

In November 2009, the Council received a briefing on the County Executive's Positive Youth Development Initiative. The briefing provided updates on efforts to serve youth along the continuum of prevention, intervention, and suppression. The briefing also covered efforts to

benchmark the progress of the initiative, which included decreasing incidences of juvenile crime, increasing student academic performance, and creating a better environment for County youth.

On May 26, 2010, Education Committee Chair Ervin requested (©1-2) that the Public Safety Committee discuss the coordination of gang suppression, prevention, and intervention activities due to recent alleged gang activity in the Silver Spring/Takoma Park area. The scope of the presentation has been narrowed to focus on the coordination of suppression and intervention efforts for youth who are or have been gang-involved. Prevention efforts for youth at-risk of joining gangs involve a larger population of clientele and service provider, and the Committees may be interested in discussing the coordination of these efforts at a later date. The topic of gang prevention may arise in the course of the briefing because of the interconnected nature of the service continuum, and Council staff understands that Executive staff involved with prevention activities will be available to field questions from the Committees.

The HHS Committee reviewed gang crime statistics for 2009 and received an update on DHHS intervention services during FY11 operating budget discussions.

Agency responses to Council staff's questions on the coordination of gang suppression and intervention efforts are attached to the packet at ©8-18.

GANG CRIME STATISTICS UPDATE

During the 1st Quarter of 2010, there were 54 criminal incidents reported that were classified as gang-related incidents. These included crimes committed by an individual who is a gang member or associate, and crimes committed to benefit the gang, gang status, or for financial gain in furtherance of the gang. For the most recent reporting period, the 3rd District had the most reported gang incidents with 20, followed by the 6th District with 13. Gang crime statistics are attached at ©3-7. Circle 7 includes year-to-date totals from 2005 to 2009 and illustrates a 35.5% reduction in all gang-related incidents.

FUNDING

Currently, the County receives funding from five primary gang grants, described in the chart on page 3. The funds are used for all three aspects of gang prevention, suppression, and intervention. Broadly speaking, these include:

Suppression: Grant funds are used primarily by the Police Department to focus enforcement efforts in high crime areas with strong gang involvement. The grants help support uniformed patrol (PCAT), covert surveillance, focus of narcotics and vice units, as well as federal partners such as the ATF Regional Area Gang Enforcement (R.A.G.E.) Task Force.

Intervention and Prevention: DHHS has targeted grants funds to support prevention and intervention services delivered by the Crossroads Youth Opportunities Center (YOC) and those to be delivered by an upcounty YOC. Funding also supports a family intervention specialist. The types of services delivered include mental health, case management, social skill building, and recreational services.

Gang Prevention, Suppression, and Intervention Grants

	Joint County Gang Prevention & Suppression/ MD Regional Gang Initiatives	US DOJ/US Atty Comp. Anti-Gang Activity Strategy	BJA FY09 Congressional Selected Anti-Gang	MD Reg. Gang Initiative Expansion – Family Intervention	UpCounty Youth Opportunity Center
Period	7/1/06-6/30/10 (due to expire)	1/1/09-12/31/10	7/1/09-6/30/12	7/1/08-12/31/10	7/1/09-6/30/12
Administrator	DHHS	MCPD	MCPD	DHHS	DHHS
Area	Down County: Silver Spring, Wheaton, Takoma Park	County-wide	County-wide		Upcounty
Total Funding	\$1,974,460	\$128,000	\$200,000	\$424,820	\$450,000
MCPD	\$501,080 (6 investigators, training, supplies, equip., overtime)	\$85,000 (\$10K training, \$20K prev/inter \$55K suppression)	\$161,695 (suppress/prev/inter) \$38,305 (training)		
State's Attorney		\$15,000			
Corrections				\$75,000 (youthful offenders program)	
DHHS	\$492,650 (Crossroads contract, after school, community awareness)	\$28,000		\$146,600 (family intervention specialist and programming)	\$450,000 (contractual services)
Prince George's	\$980,730 (contractual svcs, personnel, equipment)			\$202,220 (prevention)	

Potential Grant Funding: There is a pending Congressional Earmark for a Bi-County Gang Task Force with Prince George's County. The grant would fund a MCPD Sergeant and two gang investigators, a Takoma Park Police gang investigator, a SAO Gang Prosecutor, and Correctional Gang Intelligence Officer, Gang Analyst, and Data Entry positions. The grant award is \$2.7 million to be split evenly between Montgomery County and Prince George's County. If awarded, Montgomery County will share the funds between Law Enforcement/Suppression and HHS/Intervention.

The purpose of the grant is to conduct a regional approach to curb gang crime and trends along the shared county border. According to MCPD, in recent years there has been an increase of gang members fleeing Northern Virginia and establishing themselves in our County. This is partially due to tougher legislation and more resources as a result of the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force. MCPD's effort will help law enforcement collaborate on a regular basis and share information more consistently. The initiative will include local police, prosecutors, corrections employees, and intelligence officers. It will also allow resources to be used for prevention, intervention, and suppression. The suppression aspect includes targeting active gangs responsible for violent crime in the targeted areas.

COORDINATION EFFORTS AMONG COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Suppression Efforts: The MCPD Gang Investigative Unit (GIU) collaborates with the active stakeholders from the DHHS Street Outreach Network (SON) and Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator (YVPC), the State's Attorney's Office, MCPS, Montgomery County Recreation and Parks, Maryland Department of Parole and Probation, Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice, Montgomery County Detention Center, and numerous private organizations to enact intervention and prevention programs in the community. The GIU is not only tasked with the suppression portion, but also with prevention and, in partnership with DHHS SON for intervention.

MCPD's GIU and the State's Attorney's Office Gang Prosecution Unit currently work together with an "all crimes" approach to gang prosecution. This starts in some cases with the guidance that the SAO gives during the investigative stage of a case, through the arrest, bond reviews, prosecution, and sentencing.

An example of this working relationship, according to MCPD, is the arrest and prosecution of members of the 18th Street Gang who murdered a 15 year-old boy because he was allegedly associated with rival gang MS-13. In this case, an investigator was working with a Street Outreach worker when they obtained valuable information about the homicide. Based on that information, the investigation proceeded quickly and several gang members were arrested. After working closely with Gang prosecutors from the SAO, 10 gang members were arrested for murdering the 15 year-old victim. The crime involved a kidnapping in Prince George's County and taking the victim into Montgomery County and stabbing him over 72 times. The victim's body was dumped in a park in Gaithersburg. This case involved multiple police agencies at the local level, prosecutors at both the local and federal levels, and coordination and collaboration that led to several additional homicide arrests that occurred in Washington, DC. The prosecutions are ongoing.

The State's Attorney's Office also stays in close contact with the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (DOCR) and their gang Sergeant. DOCR also identifies gang members and may make gang identifications that were unknown at the time of arrest. DOCR forwards this information to the SAO so that the appropriate gang prosecutor is aware of the situation.

Intervention Efforts: DHHS engages in the following strategies and activities to coordinate intervention services in the County:

- *Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator:* Coordinates intervention services with County agencies and community providers and identifies needed intervention approaches;
- *Intervention Partnerships:* Two active partnerships coordinated by the SON in Wheaton and Silver Spring meet bi-weekly to discuss gang-related incidents and needed intervention services.
- *Gang Mediation/Intervention:* School-related and neighborhood interventions that de-escalate tensions from feuding groups. Gang Investigative Officers and the DHHS SON have collaborated on these interventions.
- *Community Building Activities:* Bringing segments of the community together on violence prevention.

COORDINATION EFFORTS WITH LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES AND PRIVATE ENTITIES

Suppression Efforts: MCPD also coordinates efforts with private entities. The Gang Investigative Unit is frequently asked to give gang presentations to community groups across the county. As a result of these contacts with the community, GIU investigators are contacted by citizens with information relating to gangs, membership, and crimes being committed in their community.

The GIU also works with NGOs in dealing with issues involving their clientele, some of whom are active gang members and some of whom are on the fringes of gang involvement. This work involves maintaining a delicate balance between the GIU and the NGO so as not to betray the trust the NGO needs to work with at-risk youths.

Gang investigators have developed an excellent working relationship with Identity, Inc. The Gang Investigators have provided training to staff members to help them understand police procedures. Investigators have also helped clients get out of gangs, and have worked with those who want to provide information about gang activity.

One example of this coordination of effort includes one detective's recent participation in a roundtable discussion at the Washington Office for Latino Affairs (WOLA) regarding the benefits of law enforcement working with community organizations and non-governmental organizations to curtail gang crime. The focus was on individuals from Central America in particular. The discussion included Dr. Carlos Ascencio, the Director of the National Civilian Police (PNC) in El Salvador. Director Ascencio was interested in learning about the experiences of police in the DC area who have dealt with gang issues, particularly those that involve Central American immigrant youth such as MS-13 and 18th Street gangs.

Intervention Efforts: Gang intervention services provided by DHHS are available to all youth in the County including youth who reside in local municipalities, e.g., Takoma Park, Gaithersburg, Rockville. The following describes additional efforts by DHHS to coordinate intervention services with local municipalities and jurisdictions:

- *Prince George's County:* Montgomery County has collaborated with Prince George's County on the Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center. The counties have also worked together to coordinate intervention and prevention strategies and training.
- *Cities of Gaithersburg and Rockville:* The SON has partnered with these municipalities on Graffiti Alternative and DJ Projects, afterschool programs and community events.
- *City of Takoma Park:* The SON has recently established a new partnership to serve African American youth.

The SON is proactive in engaging with youth who are returning to the community after residential placement. It has developed working relationships with numerous residential programs including Potomac Ridge Behavioral Health, Alfred D. Noyes Children's Center, and John L. Gilder Regional Institute for Children and Adolescents (RICA). SON staff provides services to youth, refers them to community-based services, works with school staff to re-enroll youth in school, and provide supports to families.

The SON and Crossroads YOC often work closely with Down County MCPS Security to provide mediations when conflicts involving the youth and schools arise.

REGIONAL INFORMATIONAL DATABASES AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY

GangNet: MCPD's Gang Investigative Unit uses the GangNet informational database which is regulated by H.I.D.T.A. GangNet was selected so information could be shared by most major police jurisdictions in the State. Over 100 agencies participate in this system. MCPD advises that gangs are expanding their base of operation from local neighborhoods to a more regional focus. Montgomery County gangs are influenced by Prince George's County, Northern Virginia, Washington, DC, and Baltimore. Many of the Hispanic gangs operating within the County are transnational gangs and their leadership is selected by clique leaders in El Salvador. The GangNet database allows gang-related information to be correlated, analyzed, and acted upon. The information can also confirm gang membership, size of the gang, regional movement/recruitment by gangs, types of crimes different gangs commit, gang territory, locations where gang members are stopped, vehicles used by the gang members, and can assist the State's Attorney's Office at sentencing.

Tipsoft: MCPD uses Tipsoft Phone/text for anonymous tips for gang, narcotics, or general tips on criminal activity in a person's neighborhood. The call/text is sent to a regional call center that is manned 24 hours a day. It has call takers who are fluent in Spanish and French as well as English. Once the call or text is taken, the information is immediately sent to a designated officer in the unit or district station where it is assigned. Tipsoft can be found on the Police Web Page along with the phone number (240-773-TIPS).

DISCUSSION ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

- 1) How does MCPD coordinate gang suppression and intervention efforts with local municipalities like Takoma Park, Chevy Chase, Rockville, and Gaithersburg?
- 2) Have recent budget reductions impacted the ability to coordinate efforts among different County departments and agencies?
- 3) The SAO indicates that identifying gang members is relatively straightforward when the crime committed is gang-motivated or gang-related. However, when an individual is arrested for an unrelated crime (DUI or misdemeanor, for example), it can be difficult to whether this person is a gang member or not. Are there any other ways that MCPD, local police departments, DOCR, and the SAO can work together to more accurately identify gang members when they are not arrested for gang-related crimes? Is or can GangNet be used to help facilitate this? Do agencies or community-based organizations that work with gang-involved youth enter information into the GangNet database or otherwise help to identify gang members who commit crimes?
- 4) Are there any ways to improve gang member identification for prosecutions purposes through increased coordination efforts among local agencies and organizations?
- 5) MCPD advises that some of the gangs are working at a transnational level, with direction from such countries as El Salvador. How does this external influence and direction impact gang activity in the County? How do gangs communicate with those in other countries? Is there a way to target these communications? Does MCPD work with federal agencies to target these activities?
- 6) Has there been consideration in starting an intervention partnership in the upcounty area? Are there any obstacles to doing so?

This Packet Contains:

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

VALERIE ERVIN
COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 5

Memorandum

Date: May 26, 2010

To: Councilmember Phil Andrews, Public Safety Committee Chair

From: Valerie Ervin, Council Vice President

Re: Coordination of Gang Suppression, Prevention and Intervention

I would like to request the Council's Public Safety Committee take up gang suppression, prevention and intervention initiatives this summer. I would like to discuss these initiatives currently employed by the County, those initiatives used by municipalities in the County, and coordination with municipalities and neighboring jurisdictions.

As you know, the Public Safety (PS) and Health and Human Services (HHS) Committees have met periodically over the years to discuss County gang prevention and intervention initiatives. The most recent meeting of the full Council took place in November 2009 to discuss these public safety and youth programs in response to recommendations from the May 2009 Safe Silver Spring Summit. Alleged gang activity in the Silver Spring/Takoma Park area in the last month has made such an update timely.

Specifically, I would like a status update on locations of gang activity; the characteristics of current gangs in the County; and initiatives specifically targeted to gang members or youth at-risk for gang membership. I would also like an update on coordination among the Police Department; other County agencies; municipal gang programs; the State's Attorney's Office; Department of Juvenile Justice; the Criminal Justice Coordination Commission; the Montgomery County Public School System; and police departments from neighboring jurisdictions.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact my office at 240-777-7960.

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c: Councilmembers
Timothy Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer
Chief J. Thomas Manger, Montgomery County Police Department
Gabriel Alborno, Department of Recreation
Uma Ahluwalia, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
John McCarthy, State's Attorney's Office
Honorable Mike Subin, Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission
Patricia O'Neill, Montgomery County Board of Education
Dr. Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools
Mayor Bruce Williams, City of Takoma Park
Linda McMillan, Council Staff
Susan J. Farag, Council Staff
Vivian Yao, Council Staff

(2)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

CRIME ANALYSIS SECTION



CAS # 10-289, Date: 5/10/10
Prepared by: Felicia Hobbs

1st Quarter 2010 Gang Report

There were 54 criminal incidents reported in the 1st quarter of 2010 that were classified as a gang related incidents. Crimes that were gang related are committed by an individual who is a gang member or an associate; or crimes committed to benefit the gang, gang status or for financial gain in furtherance of the gang.

Comparison between Quarters:

The following table and graphs display the type and number of incidents reported for the 1st and 4th quarter 2009, and the 1st quarter 2010. These totals have been updated for late entries and changes due to continuing investigations therefore they may differ from previously reported incidents.

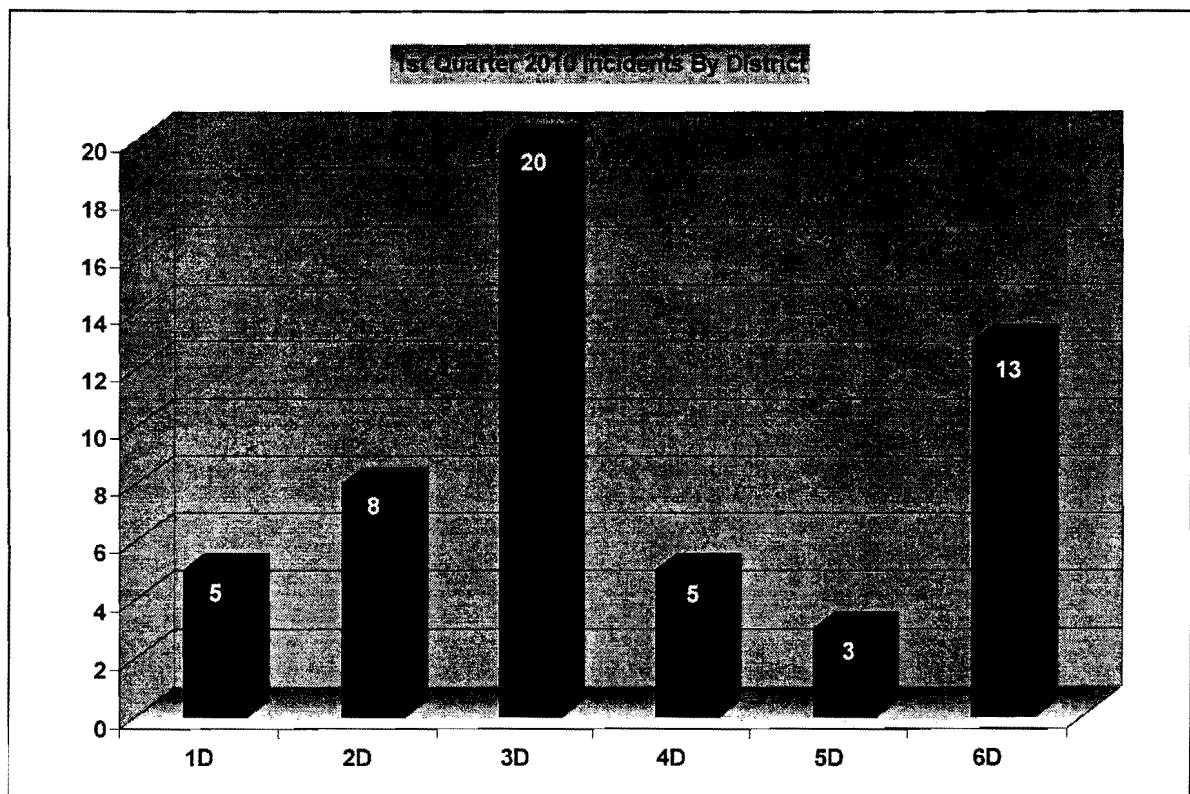
Reported Crime Type	2010 1st Quarter	2009 1st Quarter	2009 4th Quarter
Alcohol/DWI	2	--	1
Assault	9	15	11
Auto Theft	1	2	2
Burglary	3	6	4
CDS/ Distribution	1	4	--
CDS/ Possession Offense	3	9	7
Disorderly	2	1	3
Homicide*	1	3	--
Larceny	5	7	2
Robbery	7	9	10
Threats	3	--	2
Trespassing	--	2	2
Vandalism	1	6	3
Vandalism/Graffiti	11	18	5
Weapons Offense	5	10	6
Grand Total	54	92	58

** The Gang Unit assists other investigative units on major cases including homicide and robbery.*

1st Quarter 2010 District Totals:

The table and chart below shows crimes that are committed by district and crime type. For the reporting period, the 3rd District had the most reported gang incidents with 20; followed by the 6th District with 13; the 2nd District with 8 and the 1st and 4th Districts with 5 incidents each; the 5th District reported 3 incidents for this same period.

Crime Type	1D	2D	3D	4D	5D	6D	Total
Assault	1	2	2	3	--	1	9
Auto Theft	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
Burglary	--	--	1	1	--	1	3
CDS/Distribution	--	--	--	--	--	1	1
CDS/Possession	--	1	--	--	--	2	3
Disorderly	--	--	--	--	1	1	2
DWI	--	--	1	--	--	1	2
Homicide	--	--	--	1	--	--	1
Larceny	1	--	1	--	1	2	5
Robbery	--	2	2	--	1	2	7
Threats	--	1	2	--	--	--	3
Vandalism/Graffiti	2	1	7	--	--	1	11
Vandalism	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
Weapons	1	1	2	--	--	1	5
Grand Total	5	8	20	5	3	13	54



MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

CRIME ANALYSIS SECTION



CAS # 10-095, Date: 3/23/10
Prepared by: Felicia Hobbs

4th Quarter 2009 Gang Report

There were 53 criminal incidents reported in the 4th quarter of 2009 that were classified as a gang related incident. Crimes that were gang related are committed by an individual who is a gang member or an associate; or crimes committed to benefit the gang, gang status or for financial gain in furtherance of the gang.

Comparison between Quarters:

The following comparison table displays the type and number of incidents reported for each quarter of 2009. These totals have been updated for late entries and changes due to continuing investigations therefore they may differ from previously reported incidents.

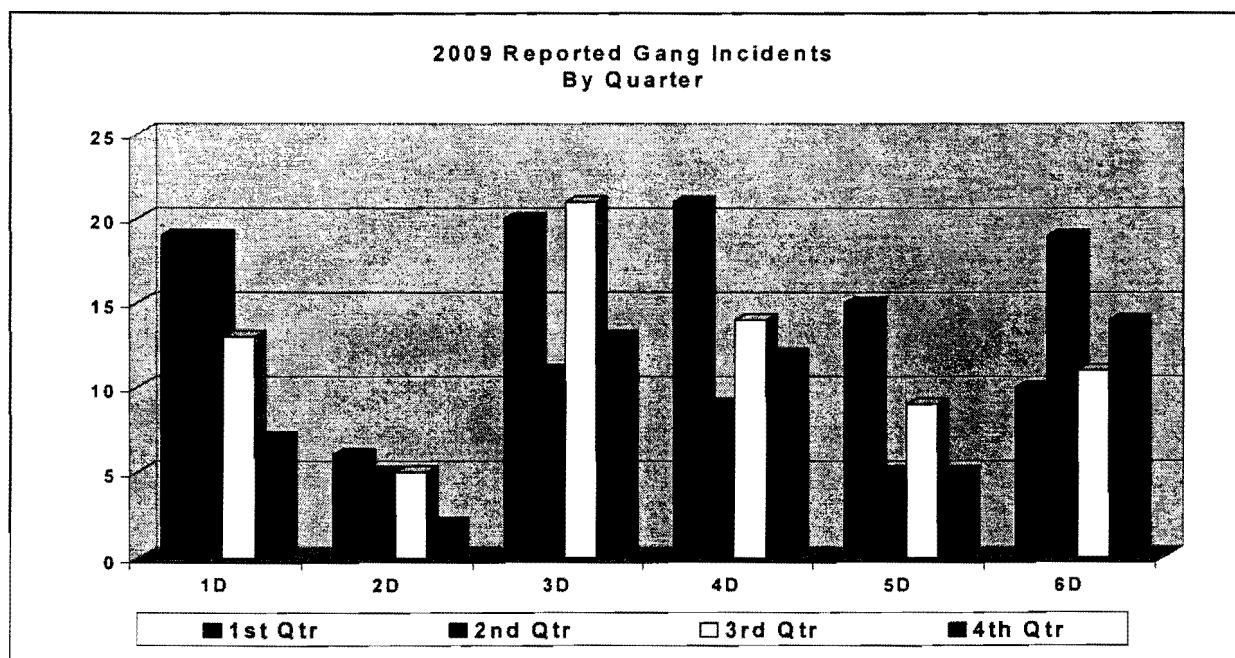
Crime	4 Qtr	3 Qtr	2 Qtr	1 Qtr	Total
Alcohol/DWI	1				1
Arson*			1		1
Assault- 1st	5	11	11	7	34
Assault- 2nd	4	2	8	8	22
Auto Theft	2	4		1	7
Burglary	4	3	2	6	15
CDS-Distribution		2	2	4	8
CDS-Paraphernalia		1			1
CDS-Possession	7	4	5	9	25
Disorderly	3	4	2	2	11
False Statements		2			2
Home Invasion*		1	1		2
Homicide*		2	1	3	6
Larceny	2	3	2	7	14
Rape*			1		1
Rob/Carjacking*			1		1
Robbery*	7	8	9	9	33
Threats	2	3			5
Trespassing	2	1	2	2	7
V/Graffiti	5	14	13	17	49
Vandalism	3	4	2	6	15
Weapons	6	4	5	10	25
Grand Total	53	73	68	91	285

**The Gang Unit assists other investigative units on major cases including homicide, rape, robbery, carjacking, and home invasions.*

4th Quarter 2009 District Totals:

The table below shows crimes that are committed by district and crime type. For the reporting period, the 6th District had the most reported gang incidents with 14; followed by the 3rd District with 13; the 4th District with 12 and the 1st District with 7 incidents. The 5th and 2nd Districts had 5 and 2 incidents respectively. Then the following chart shows gang incidents in 2009 for each district by quarter.

Crime	1D	2D	3D	4D	5D	6D	Total
Alcohol/DWI	1						1
Assault- 1st			2	2		1	5
Assault- 2nd			1		1	2	4
Auto Theft			2				2
Burglary			2			2	4
CDS-Possession		1	2	2	1	1	7
Disorderly			2	1			3
Larceny				1		1	2
Robbery	1		1	4		1	7
Threats						2	2
Trespassing	1					1	2
Vandalism/Graffiti	2	1				2	5
Vandalism			1		2		3
Weapons	2			2	1	1	6
Grand Total	7	2	13	12	5	14	53

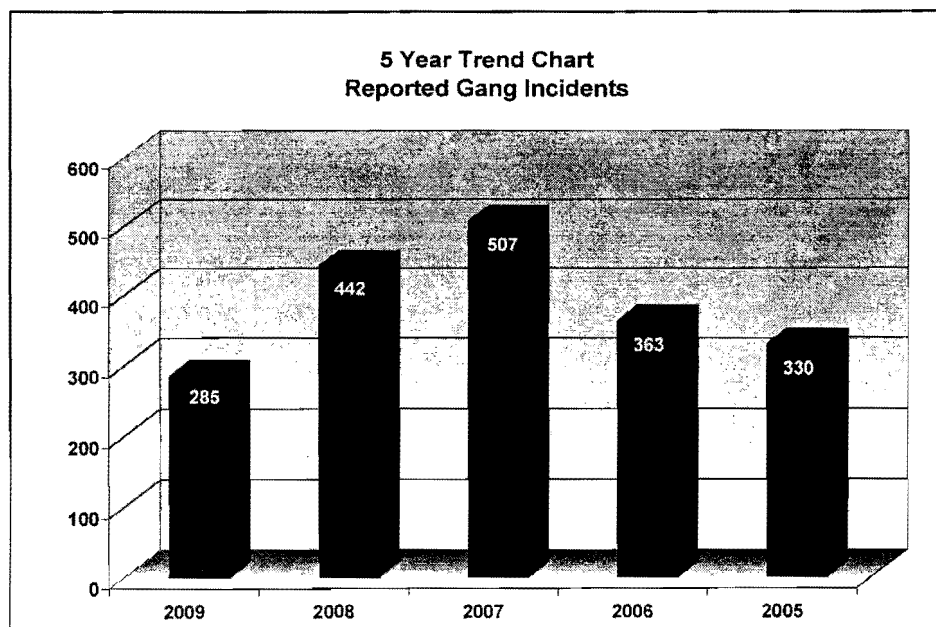


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Annual Comparison

Year to date totals decreased significantly from 2008 to 2009 with a 35.5% decrease in reported gang incidents. Of note, Weapons, Robberies and CDS Offenses are down 32.4%, 34% and 44.3% respectively; as well, less serious incidents including the vandalisms (-63.4%) and graffiti incidents (-39.5%) are down.

Crime	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Alcohol/DWI	1	6	7	5	4
Arson	1	2	0	1	2
Assault	56	60	107	49	65
Auto Theft	7	15	12	9	9
Burglary	15	22	7	26	11
CDS Offense	34	61	56	32	34
Disorderly Conduct	11	19	13	18	9
False Statement	2	2	2	1	0
Harassment		1	1	0	1
Home Invasion	2				
Homicide	6	3	0	4	2
Kidnapping		1	0	0	0
Larceny	14	17	18	11	20
Rape	1	2	5	2	3
Robbery	33	50	31	32	21
Robbery/Carjacking	1	1	3	1	1
Sex Assault		1	3	0	0
Threats	5	8	6	8	9
Trespassing	7	10	9	10	6
Vandalism	15	41	53	23	17
Vandalism/Graffiti	49	81	130	99	79
Weapons Offense	25	37	44	32	36
Witness Intimidation		2	2	0	1
Total	285	442	507	363	330



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Coordination of Gang Suppression, Prevention, and Intervention – Questions

General Questions

1. Please describe all grants that support County gang suppression, prevention, or intervention programs or activities. Please provide the total amount of each grant award and describe what amounts and how the funds are used for gang suppression, prevention, or intervention. Please also identify the extent to which funding is targeted at specific geographic locations.

The Montgomery County Police, Special Investigation Division, Gang Investigative Unit currently participate in three gang grants. All three gang grants have the three primary anti-gang components of suppression, prevention and intervention funded.

In the suppression component, grant monies are used to focus enforcement in those areas identified by investigators and crime analyst as high crime areas with strong gang involvement. This is accomplished with the help of uniformed patrol (PCAT), covert surveillances, focus of narcotics and vice units (if needed) and our federal partners, ATF R.A.G.E. Task Force.

The prevention/education portion of the grants, allows Gang Investigative Unit officers to assist in presenting gang awareness training for Montgomery County Public Schools administrators, teachers, security officers, counselors, nurses, Montgomery County Police In-Service training, Montgomery County Fire Rescue, DJJ Cheltenham Facility gang intelligence Unit, Prince George's County Sheriff's Office, Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Police in-service training, Navy Medical Hospital Bethesda (police and security personnel) Eastern North Carolina Gang Investigators Conference, Mid-Atlantic regional Gang Investigators Network and several NGO entities.

In the intervention portion of the grant, Gang Investigative Officers and HHS Street Outreach Network personnel have worked together in several school related and neighborhood interventions. The interventions have been very successful. These interventions show the value of having law enforcement work with the street outreach workers and school officials to de-escalate tensions from feuding groups. The students and their parents are involved in these interventions and the success has been noteworthy.

A. Project Title: Joint County Gang Prevention and Suppression Initiative/Maryland Regional Gang Initiative

Project Pd: 7/1/2006-06/30/2010 (due to expire)

Grant Administrator: Health and Human Services

Total Amount: \$1,974,460

MCP portion: \$501,080

- \$325,730 for six gang investigators (Gang Investigative Unit)
- \$10,000 for gang training (GIU, District Gang Investigators)
- \$3,000 for office supplies
- \$115,875 for equipment (SID, GIU, DGI Investigators)
- \$45,000 for overtime (comprehension, prevention/education, intervention)

HHS portion: \$492,650

- All contractual for Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center, after school programming, and community awareness. (Services were provided for youth from across the County).

Prince George's portion: \$980,730

- Used for contractual services, personnel, and equipment

Funded Geographic Area: Down County-Silver Spring, Takoma Park, Wheaton

B. U.S. Department Of Justice United States Attorney Comprehensive Anti-Gang Activity Strategy Grant

Project Pd: 01/01/2009-12/31/2010

Grant Administrator: MCPD

Total Amt: \$128,000

(MCP \$85,000; States Attorney Office \$15,000; HHS \$28,000)

- \$10,000 Training
- \$20,000 Prevention, Intervention
- \$55,000 Suppression

Funded Geographic Area: County wide

C. BJA FY09 Congressional Selected Anti-Gang

Project Pd: 07/01/2009-06/30/2012

Grant Administrator: MCPD

Total Amt: \$200,000

- \$161,695 Suppression, Prevention, Intervention
- \$38,305 Training

Funded Geographic Area: County wide

D. Maryland Regional Gang Initiative Expansion—Family Intervention

Project Period: 7/1/08 to 12/31/10

Grant Administered: HHS

Total Amount: \$424,820

- \$202,220 for Prince George's County for prevention programming
- \$147,600 for HHS for Family Intervention Specialist and programming
- \$75,000 for Corrections for youthful offenders program

E. UpCounty Youth Opportunity Center

Project Period: 7/1/09 to 6/30/12

Grant Administered: HHS

Total Amount: \$450,000

All used for contractual services.

2. Please identify other grant funding that is being pursued or likely to be received on FY12 for gang suppression, prevention, or intervention programs or activities. Please describe how will this funding is anticipated to be used.

Currently there is a pending Congressional Earmark for a Bi-County Gang Task Force with Prince George's County. The grant would fund a Sergeant and two gang investigators from Montgomery County Police, a Takoma Park Police gang investigator, a Gang Prosecutor, a Correctional Gang Intelligence Officer, a Gang Analyst and a Data Entry position. The grant award is 2.7 Million dollars to be split evenly between Montgomery County and Prince George's County. The monies awarded to Montgomery County have been designated to be shared between Law Enforcement/Suppression and HHS/Intervention.

The purpose of this grant is to conduct a regional approach to curb gang crime and trends along the Montgomery County and Prince George's County border. In recent years there has been an increase of gang members fleeing Northern Virginia and establishing themselves in our community. This is partially

due to tougher legislation and more resources as a result of the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force. Our effort will help law enforcement collaborate on a regular basis and share information more consistently. The initiative includes local police, prosecutors, corrections employees and intelligence officers. It also allows resources to be utilized for Prevention, Intervention and Suppression. The suppression aspect includes targeting active gangs responsible for violent crime in the targeted area.

3. Please describe how County agencies work together to coordinate efforts related to suppressing illegal gang activity or providing intervention or prevention services for youth involved in gangs.

In Montgomery County, the Anti Gang Initiative addresses gang related crime and problems intrinsic with the growth and development of gangs through tactical deployment (through crime mapping and citizen complaints). The Gang Investigative Unit, District Gang Investigators and Gang Prosecutors participate in an "all crimes" approach to gang prosecution through the State Attorney's Office (SAO). Health & Human Services (HHS) Street Outreach Network (SON) intervention and prevention outreach, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) directed prevention and intervention strategies through a "wrap-a-round" services approach, and *Positive Youth Development* (PYD) initiatives under the direction of the County Executive.

The Montgomery County Police Gang Investigative Unit collaborates with the active stakeholders from HHS / SON and Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator, the SAO, Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery County Recreation and Parks, Maryland Department of Parole and Probation, Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice, Montgomery County Detention Center, and numerous NGO's to enact intervention and prevention programs in the community. The Gang Unit is not only tasked with the suppression portion of this matrix, but also with prevention and in partnership with the HHS / SON for intervention.

Currently the Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator (YVPC) takes the lead in coordinating Prevention and Intervention services through a broad collective of County agencies, and community providers. There are two active Intervention Partnerships coordinated by Street Outreach Network (SON) staff in the Wheaton and Silver Spring areas. These Partnership meet bi-weekly to discuss recent gang related incidents in the interest of providing needed intervention services. The Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator plays a key role in identifying much needed intervention approaches. Some strategies include coordination of mediations involving rival gangs or neighborhoods, as well as community building activities to bring segments of the community together to prevent violence in the community.

Suppression Related Questions

1. Please provide an example of how coordination efforts have helped you target/prosecute gang activity. Do you see any need for certain improvements in communication or coordination?

The Gang Investigative Unit and the States Attorney Office Gang Prosecution Unit currently have a strong working relationship. This starts in some cases with the guidance the States Attorney office gives during the investigative stage of a case, through the arrest, bond reviews, prosecution and sentencing.

The Gang Investigative Unit brings the historical and most current intelligence on the gang, its structure and criminal enterprises.

One specific example is the arrest and prosecution of members of the 18th Street Gang who murdered a 15 year old boy because he was allegedly associate with MS-13. In this case an investigator was working with a Street Outreach worker when they obtained valuable information about the homicide. Based on that information the investigation "took off" and several gang members were arrested. After working closely with Gang prosecutors from the States Attorney's Office 10 gang members were arrested for murdering the 15 year old victim. The crime involved a kidnapping in Prince George's County and then taking the victim into Montgomery County and stabbing him over 72 times. The victim's body was dumped in a park in Gaithersburg.

This case involved multiple police agencies at the local level, prosecutors at both the local and federal level and coordination and collaboration that led to several additional homicides that occurred in Washington, D.C. The prosecutions are ongoing. However, I mention this case because it shows the collaboration and success we can have when working together effectively with various agencies.

2. Do you coordinate efforts with private entities, such as community groups?

Yes. The Gang Investigative Unit is called upon to frequently give gang presentations to community groups across the county. As a result of these contacts with the community, GIU investigators are contacted by citizens with information relating to gangs, membership and crimes being committed in their community.

The Gang Investigative Unit also works with NGO's in dealing with issues involving their clientele, some of whom are gang members and some who are on the fringes of gang involvement. This involves maintaining a delicate balance

between the GIU and the NGO so as not to betray the trust the NGO needs to work with the at-risk youths.

Gang investigators have particularly developed an excellent working relationship with Identity Inc. The Gang investigators have provided training to staff members to help them understand police procedures. Investigators have also helped clients get out of gangs and worked with those who want to provide information about gang activity and gang crime.

On June 10, 2010, Detective Chad Garnes participated in a roundtable discussion at the Washington Office for Latino Affairs (WOLA) regarding the benefits of law enforcement working with community organizations and non-governmental organizations to curtail gang crime. The focus was particularly garnered toward individuals from Central America. This discussion included Dr. Carlos Ascencio, the Director of the National Civilian Police (PNC) in El Salvador; Director Ascencio was interested in learning about the experiences of police in the DC area who have dealt with gang issues, particularly those that involve Central American immigrant youth such as MS-13 and 18th Street gangs.

3. Please describe informational databases (e.g. H.I.D.T.A.) that you use to assist you in gang-related programs. What other departments or jurisdictions enter or use data? How is this used to help target efforts against gang-related activity?

Currently, the Gang Investigative Unit uses the GangNet informational database which is regulated by H.I.D.T.A.. GangNet was selected so information could be shared by most major police jurisdictions in the State of Maryland. Over one hundred agencies participate in this system and it is 28 cfr compliant.

Today, gangs are expanding their base of operation from local neighborhoods to a more regional focus. Montgomery County gangs are influenced by Prince George's County, Northern Virginia, Washington, DC and Baltimore. Many of the Hispanic gangs operating within Montgomery County are transnational gangs and their leadership is selected by clique leaders in El Salvador.

An informational database allows for information, in this case gang related information, to be correlated, analyzed and acted upon. The information generated from the database can also confirm gang membership, size of the gang, regional movement/recruitment by gangs, type of crimes different gangs commit, gang territory, locations where gang members are stopped, vehicles used by the gang members and can assist the States Attorney Office at sentencing.

4. If a private citizen has a concern about gang activity, is there a centralized point of contact in County government that would be responsible for coordinating efforts with local municipalities? If not, how would that citizen's concern be relayed to the appropriate entity?

Currently the police department uses Tipsoft phone/text for anonymous tips for gang, narcotics or general tips on criminal activity in a person's neighborhood. The call/text is sent to a regional call center that is manned 24/7/365 days a year. They have call takers who are fluent in Spanish or French. Once the text or call is taken, the information is immediately sent to a designated officer in the unit or district station where it is assigned. The message is numbered and requires the officer to reply with what action was taken to address the complaint.

The Tipsoft can be found on the Police Web Page along with the phone number 240-773-TIPS (8477). On the web page you can type in your crime tip on a form that will be sent to the central call center for dissemination, you can text from a phone or simply call and the info will be taken over the phone.

Intervention Related Questions

1. Are the County's intervention services included the Youth Opportunities Centers, the Street Outreach Network and the Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator eligible to gang involved youth who reside in local municipalities, e.g., Takoma Park, Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Chevy Chase?

Yes, these services are available to all youth in the County. The new Up County Youth Opportunity Center will make it possible to serve more Up County youth. When youth need assistance with transportation due to distance or safety reasons, staff from the SON provide transportation in order for youth to access services throughout the county. The YVPC provides services throughout the County as well. A Family Intervention Specialist (FIS) also works with the parents and families of the youth served from these areas.

2. What intervention services are offered by the local municipalities? Please describe formal and informal efforts to coordinate the County's efforts with those in other local municipalities or Prince George's County.

The SON has been working in partnership with the City of Gaithersburg and City of Rockville to serve high risk and gang involved youth through the Graffiti Alternative and DJ Projects. In addition, Rockville and Gaithersburg have several after school programs and community events where there is collaboration with the SON. The SON recently has established a new partnership with Takoma Park in order to serve additional African American youth.

The Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center is a long standing collaboration with Prince George's County. Both counties have worked together to support the site, to provide resources and to increase partnerships. The two counties also have worked together to coordinate intervention and prevention strategies and training.

3. What services are provided to gang-involved youth who may be returning to the community after residential placement? If these youth need and qualify for educational services, how are they integrated into the school system and how does the County and MCPS coordinate their services to these youth?

The SON staff have very strong working relationships with Potomac Ridge, Noyes, RICA, and other residential programs. The programs often contact SON staff once they identify a client who is gang involved and in need of services. The SON staff is able to proactively engage and provide services to the youth or refer them to the services of the Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center (CYOC), Lead for Life Inc., Pride Inc., and Germantown Hardknocks. SON staff often work closely with school administrators to ensure youth are able to re-enroll in school and assure the administrators that the SON will provide all the needed supports to the youth and most importantly to the family to ensure the success of the youth in school. Success is measured by the youth avoiding re-engaging in gang activity, re-arrests or suspensions.

The SON and CYOC often work closely with the Down County MCPS Security as well to provide needed mediations when there are conflicts involving youth at the schools. These mediations have been successful in maintaining peace both in the schools and in the community. Often these mediations are a good mechanism to engage youth who need services from the SON, CYOC, and some of the many other community organizations that we partner with on a daily basis.

**Coordination of Gang Suppression, Prevention, and Intervention –
Questions**

General Questions

1. Please describe all grants that support County gang suppression, prevention, or intervention programs or activities. Please provide the total amount of each grant award and describe what amounts and how the funds are used for gang suppression, prevention, or intervention. Please also identify the extent to which funding is targeted at specific geographic locations.
2. Please identify other grant funding that is being pursued or likely to be received on FY12 for gang suppression, prevention, or intervention programs or activities. Please describe how will this funding is anticipated to be used.
3. Please describe how County agencies work together to coordinate efforts related to suppressing illegal gang activity or providing intervention or prevention services for youth involved in gangs.

--- The SAO and MCPD are constantly working together to coordinate suppression efforts. Both gang units have had a working relationship for some time that involves constant communication regarding current investigations, arrests or simply knowing what is currently a trend on the street. The goal is for MCPD to forward to the SAO a 109 form when an arrest is made of a gang member. The form is simply filled out to inform the SAO that an arrest of a gang member has been made. Once we receive this form we are able to assign it to the correct gang prosecutor whether its district, juvenile or circuit court. We also have constant communication with the jail and their gang Sgt. It's another mechanism used to identify gang members to make sure the case is assigned to the appropriate prosecutor.

Suppression Related Questions

1. Please provide an example of how coordination efforts have helped you target/prosecute gang activity. Do you see any need for certain improvements in communication or coordination?

--We think there is always room for improvement regarding communication. Our gang prosecution numbers have decreased slightly over the last couple of years and I don't think there are any of us that particularly think that the gang issue has decreased. The reality is that unless we can id all gang members committing offenses our numbers will continue to fluctuate. It's easy to id a case when its gang on gang, gang motivated or gang related. The more difficult mission is identifying a defendant who for example committed a misdemeanor type crime that was arrested by a street officer. We need to

figure out a way for those individuals to be better identified so that their case can be handled by a specially trained gang prosecutor.

2. Do you coordinate efforts with private entities, such as community groups?
-The SAO gang unit is constantly involved in prevention and intervention projects that are private as well as public. We have coordinated efforts with Identity and other organizations to also open up the lines of communication. We are constantly invited to speak to students, parents and concerned citizens in many different types of venues.
3. Please describe informational databases (e.g. H.I.D.T.A.) that you use to assist you in gang-related programs. What other departments or jurisdictions enter or use data? How is this used to help target efforts against gang-related activity?
4. Please provide an example of how coordination efforts have helped you target/prosecute gang activity. Do you see any need for certain improvements in communication or coordination?

As mentioned above we believe there is always room for improvement. There are times when cases are investigated and indicted and months after the process has begun we find out late in the game that the defendants are gang members. We want our unit to be responsible for prosecuting every identified gang member that commits a crime in this County. It's a challenge.

5. If a private citizen has a concern about gang activity, is there a centralized point of contact in County government that would be responsible for coordinating efforts with local municipalities? If not, how would that citizen's concern be relayed to the appropriate entity?

I think the first step should always be the police department. If there is a safety issue, etc than the police should be contacted and a gang detective or investigator will be assigned the issue. In reference to intervention and prevention the SAO does feel that it's appropriate for us to coordinate many of these efforts.

Intervention Related Questions

1. Are the County's intervention services included the Youth Opportunities Centers, the Street Outreach Network and the Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator eligible to gang involved youth who reside in local municipalities, e.g., Takoma Park, Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Chevy Chase?

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2. What intervention services are offered by the local municipalities? Please describe formal and informal efforts to coordinate the County's efforts with those in other local municipalities or Prince George's County.
3. What services are provided to gang-involved youth who may be returning to the community after residential placement? If these youth need and qualify for educational services, how are they integrated into the school system and how does the County and MCPS coordinate their services to these youth?