Gresham Gang Prevention and Enforcement Summit

May 1, 2014

City of Gresham Multi-agency Gang Prevention and Enforcement Plan

Summer 2014

CITY OF GRESHAM

Multi-Agency Gang Prevention and Enforcement Plan

Summer 2014

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Revised July 2014

FOREWORD

In Gresham's 109 year history, our community has grown from a rural agricultural community into a major urban city, now prominently Oregon's fourth largest incorporated community. With our size and prominence in Multnomah County, we have also encountered all that urban living has to offer, from terrific community amenities and events on the positive side, to new challenges with crime and gang activity on the negative side.

Last year, for example, the City had seven homicides, six of which were gang-related. Repositioning our community to address struggles with gang violence and its impact on our livability has been a challenge. Stemming gang activity and violence requires multiple approaches including prevention, enforcement, and creating more productive opportunities for at-risk youth.

As we approach the summer months and the end to the school year, we know through experience that we must keep a vigilant eye on youth violence and gang activity. While no urban community can fully eliminate the threat gangs pose, our intention is to be as coordinated and effective in our joint approach and response as possible.

The Gresham Gang Prevention and Enforcement Summit and the following plan – both the first of their kind in Gresham – detail a collaborative roadmap to addressing gang activity and enforcement in Gresham. The partners included in this plan are critical to achieving success, and our collective approach is the only productive way to address these issues head-on.

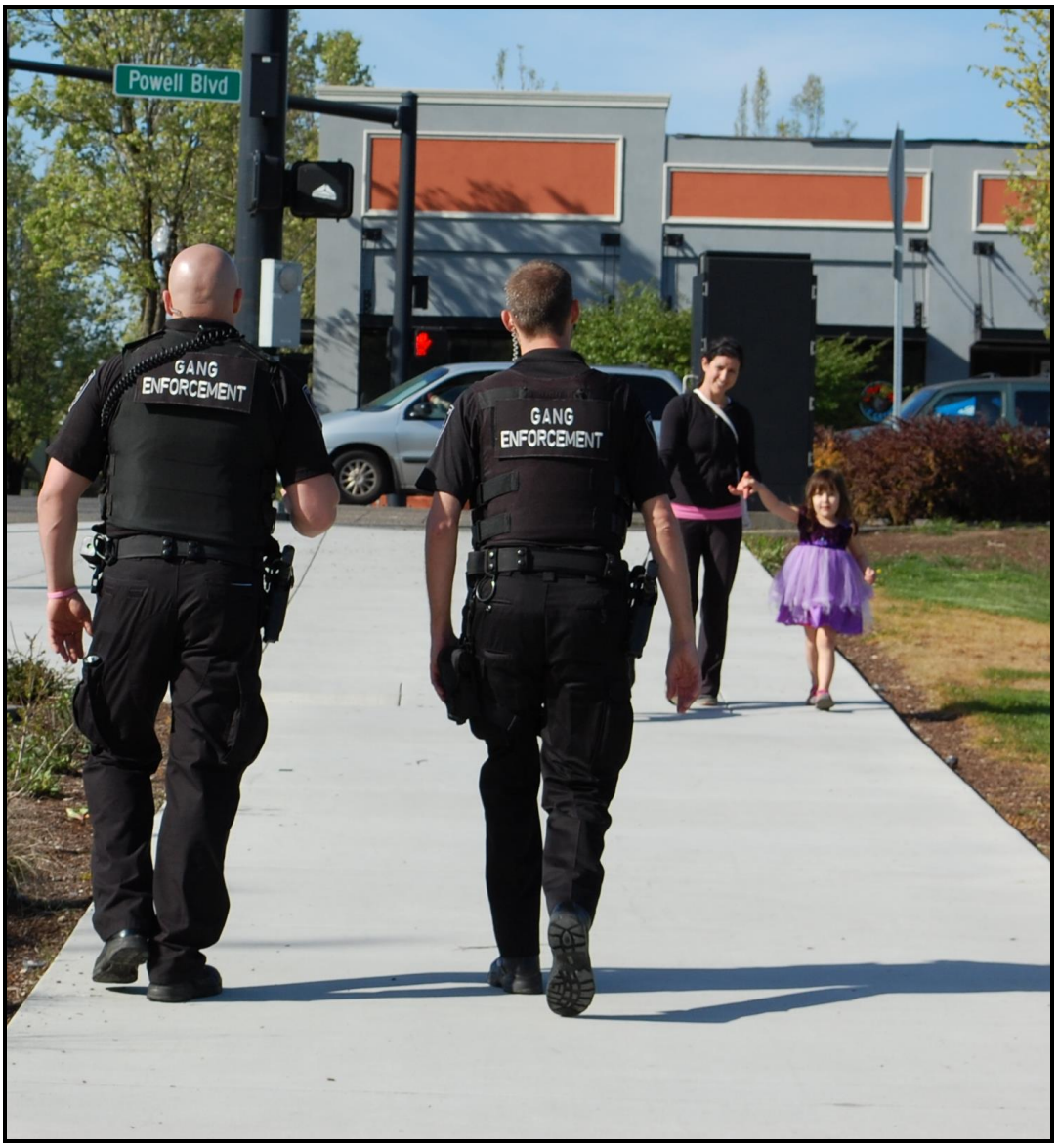
The City of Gresham is charting new territory on both the gang prevention and enforcement sides of the equation, but our work is futile without partner agencies helping in outreach, prevention, youth recreation and mentoring, prosecution, and social services. Gangs know no municipal boundaries, and we too must not be deterred by them in our response and intervention.

The following plan marks a new focus and an ever-evolving approach to a difficult community issue. The success of this plan will be in the strength of the partnerships it represents, and the opportunity for coordination. Combatting gangs and staking ownership over our community remain critical priorities in Gresham, and I am eager for new progress and fresh approaches.

Sincerely,

Shane T. Bemis
Mayor

Gangs in Gresham

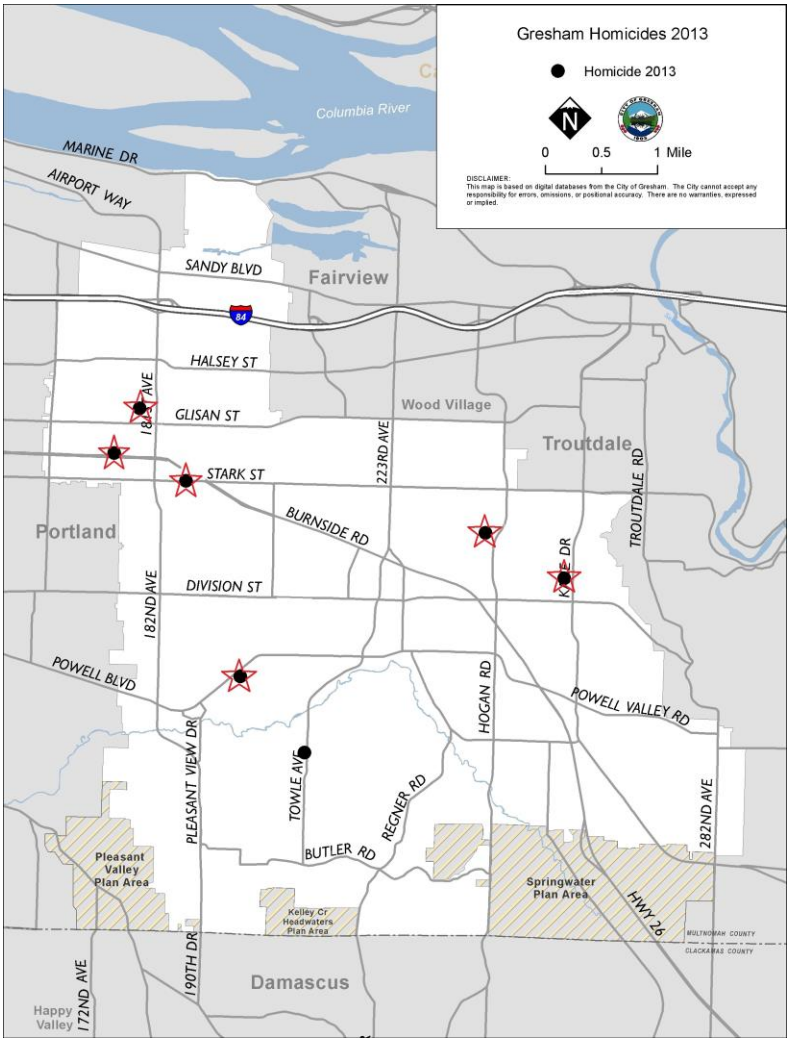


Gangs in Gresham

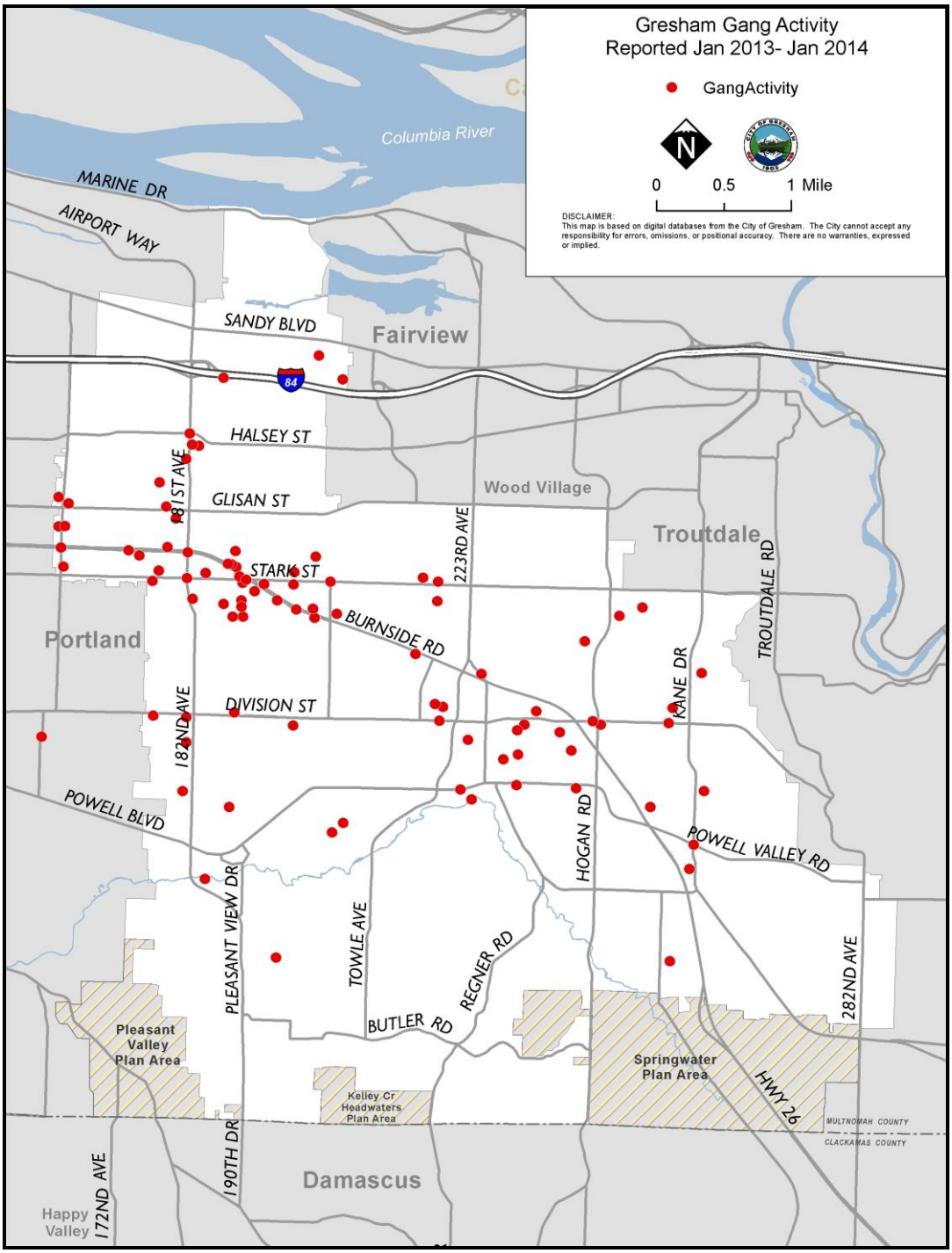
In the summer of 1989, gang activity arrived in downtown Gresham primarily in the form of Blood and Crip-related incidents. In 1990 a group of approximately 30 students called Posse 91 shocked the community with a series of burglaries, vandalism and brutal beatings. Throughout the 1990s, white supremacist, African American, Latino and Asian gangs were also active in the area, commonly engaging in drug dealing, robberies and assaults.

Gang-related crime has ebbed and flowed since that first activity 25 years ago. Some gang sets have become inactive or were dismantled by law enforcement while new ones have emerged. The names have changed, but the activities persist.

Clearly, gangs are not new to Gresham. What is new is the rapid increase in gang activity and levels of violence that have occurred in recent years. For example, the City experienced seven homicides in 2013. Out of those seven, a total of six were gang-related. For context, the City has averaged less than 3 total homicides per year over the past 25 years. The map below shows the approximate locations of all seven homicides in 2013; starred map points represent those that were gang-related.



Reported gang activity from January 2013 to January 2014 further demonstrates the widespread nature of the problem. Gang activity is no longer isolated to a few small segments of the community. The map below shows reports of activity in every corner of the City, impacting nearly every neighborhood.



The East Metro Gang Enforcement Team (EMGET) formed in 2005 after state legislators toured local gang violence hotspots, including the scenes of an execution-style double homicide in Rockwood. As a result, the legislature allocated $1.5 million to fund the anti-gang unit. Although funding levels have fluctuated each biennium, the state has continued its vital support of EMGET since 2005.

In 2013, EMGET made 1,595 gang-related contacts, documented 190 new gang members, seized 80 weapons from gang members, and made 255 felony and misdemeanor arrests. The upward trend has continued in the first three months of 2014 with 320 gang-related contacts, 34 new gang members identified, 20 weapons seized, and 58 felony and misdemeanor arrests.

In total, EMGET has now documented **approximately 450 gang members in East Multnomah County**. Documented gang members represent only a fraction of total gang members; they are the percentage of gang members who have been contacted by law enforcement *and* who have met the strict criteria for gang documentation. EMGET estimates an additional three to five gang members for every documented member, for a total approximate gang population of 1,350 to 2,250 in East Multnomah County.

Gang members in East Multnomah County belong to any one of more than 100 unique gang sets, with membership ranging from a handful of members to several dozen per set. Gang sets are constantly changing and evolving, but most are aligned– or share similar qualities with – one of the following street gangs: Bloods, Crips, Sureños, Norteños, White Supremacy, and Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs.

Criminal activities vary from group to group, but two common themes emerge. First, the culture of violence prevalent among gangs leads to disproportionately high levels of crimes against persons including aggravated assaults, domestic violence, and even homicide. Second, most gangs are drawn to money-making criminal enterprises including drug dealing, theft, robbery, and most recently, human trafficking.

For the Period: 1/1/2013 through 12/31/2013

Number of criminal street gang related contacts	1,595
Number of new gang members documented	190
Number of weapons seized from criminal street gang members	80
Number of felony arrests	123
Number of misdemeanor arrests	132
Number of EMGET cases referred to the District Attorney for prosecution	62
Number of Community Presentations	16

A Collaborative and Comprehensive Approach

A Collaborative and Comprehensive Approach

In 1987, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) began supporting a project to design a comprehensive approach to reduce and prevent youth gang violence. This project resulted in the development of the Spergel Model of Gang Intervention and Suppression, later renamed the OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model. This model involves five strategies for dealing with gang-involved youth and their families. The five strategies are:

1) Community Mobilization: Involvement of local citizens, including former gang members and community groups and agencies, and the coordination of programs and staff functions within and across agencies.

2) Opportunities Provision: The development of a variety of specific education, training, and employment programs targeting gang-involved youth.

3) Social Intervention: Youth-serving agencies, schools, street outreach workers, grassroots groups, faith-based organizations, law enforcement agencies, and other criminal justice organizations reaching out and acting as links between gang-involved youth and their families, the conventional world, and needed services.

4) Suppression: Formal and informal social control procedures, including close supervision or monitoring of gang youth by agencies of the criminal justice system and also by community-based agencies, schools, and grassroots groups.

5) Organizational Change and Development: Development and implementation of policies and procedures that result in the most effective use of available and potential resources to better address the gang problem.

One key element of this model is the involvement of multiple citizens, program and agencies. No single entity can expect to achieve needle-moving change in a problem as complex as criminal street gangs. The model also makes it clear: a balance of prevention, intervention and suppression strategies is the only way any community has ever been able to curb the growth of gangs. Consequently, the City is collaborating with a variety of regional partners to implement a coordinated and comprehensive approach targeting the root causes of gang involvement. The Multi-Agency Gang Prevention and Enforcement Plan outlined in the following pages demonstrates the City's strong commitment to this approach.

Multi-Agency Gang Prevention and Enforcement Plan

City of Gresham

Multi-Agency Gang Prevention and Enforcement Plan
City of Gresham

Understanding that it can't rely solely on police enforcement to reduce the impact of gangs on the community, the City has incorporated a number of prevention and intervention-based strategies, engaged in new partnerships, and is participating in several collaborative initiatives designed to reduce youth violence and gangs. These include:

1) Investing in a new Rockwood Public Safety Facility, which houses several key police functions including the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team. This building improves police services to the area while creating opportunities for community partnerships.

2) Hiring a Gang Outreach Worker in partnership with Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, a local non-profit agency that helps at-risk youth achieve success through education, family outreach, job training and job placement. In just four months, the Gang Outreach Worker has contacted more than 2,000 high-risk youth and made nearly 500 referrals to education, employment and social services.

3) Hiring a Gang Prevention Policy Advisor to assess the City's gang issues, coordinate a comprehensive approach, foster new collaborations, and explore funding opportunities.

4) Participating in the Rockwood/Rosewood Enrichment Neighborhood Enforcement Workgroup (RENEW), a multi-agency initiative led by the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office charged with improving safety and livability in the target area.

5) Participating in a countywide gang assessment led by the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council. This project will provide valuable information about gangs, help guide strategic decisions and qualify the City for new gang prevention funding sources.

6) Partnering with the Boys & Girls Clubs to build a new facility in Gresham. This organization offers a variety of programs to meet each youth's interests and needs, including a gang resistance training curriculum.

7) Partnering with Friends of the Children to locate a new facility on park property. This local non-profit agency provides long-term mentors to at-risk youth.

8) Partnering with WorkSystems this summer to employ low-income youth in entry-level jobs such as removing graffiti and cleaning our City's parks. Youth who work are more likely to return to school, have a job in subsequent years, and less likely to engage in crime and other high-risk behaviors.

9) Planning a new program that would provide free recreation activities and lunch to low-income youth at several of our City's parks this summer.

10) Exploring several state and federal grant opportunities to bring new prevention and intervention resources to the community.

11) Removing graffiti from public places quickly and effectively to discourage future graffiti. In 2013, the City's maintenance crews removed 3,500 instances of graffiti from the public right of way.

Multi-Agency Gang Prevention and Enforcement Plan

Gresham Police Department

Multi-Agency Gang Prevention and Enforcement Plan
Gresham Police Department

Effective enforcement is critical to a comprehensive gang approach. The Gresham Police Department is employing a variety of strategies to combat gangs and improve livability in gang-impacted areas. These include:

1) Leading the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team (EMGET), an interagency law enforcement task force funded with grant assistance from the State of Oregon, with two officers and the supervising sergeant. Other members include police officers from Fairview Police Department, Troutdale Police Department, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and prosecutors from the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office. The state-funded team investigates gang-related crimes, documents gang members, provides a higher level of police presence in gang-affected areas, intervenes with at-risk youth, educates parents and the community about gangs and works with regional units on gang-related missions.

2) Partnering with various agencies and enforcement teams on select missions including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Marshals Service, Tri-Met Transit Police Division, Department of Community Justice, and Portland Police Bureau's East County Major Crimes Team, Human Trafficking Team, East Street Crimes Unit, and Gang Enforcement Team. Sharing resources, information, and conducting joint missions helps capture fugitives, solve homicides, rescue women from trafficking, disrupt the drug trade, hold accountable gang members on parole or probation, and keep neighborhoods and transit systems safe.

3) Creating a new Neighborhood Livability Officer unit to act as liaisons to neighborhood associations and residents to address quality of life issues such as drug houses, graffiti and chronic nuisances.

4) Participating in the RENEW steering committee and law enforcement sub-committee to improve communication and coordination across jurisdictional boundaries, and to develop and implement strategies designed to improve safety and livability in the target area of Rosewood and Rockwood.

5) Coordinating with Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center's gang outreach worker to ensure effective communication with EMGET, to ensure outreach services are directed to the areas of highest need, and to coordinate referrals of at-risk youth in need of services.

6) Providing gang awareness training for educators and parents to improve recognition of gang activity and encourage early intervention for youth in the early stages of gang affiliation.

7) Utilizing saturation patrols in identified gang hotspots. All enforcement tools, from minor violations to warrants to crimes in progress will be used as appropriate.

8) Strengthening ties between School Resource Officers (SROs) and the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team to help SROs better recognize gang behavior in schools and encourage identification of at-risk youth who would benefit from early intervention.

9) Increasing Spanish speaking capacity to two bilingual officers on the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team, which will aid communication with Spanish-speaking gang members, parents, and gang-affected youth.

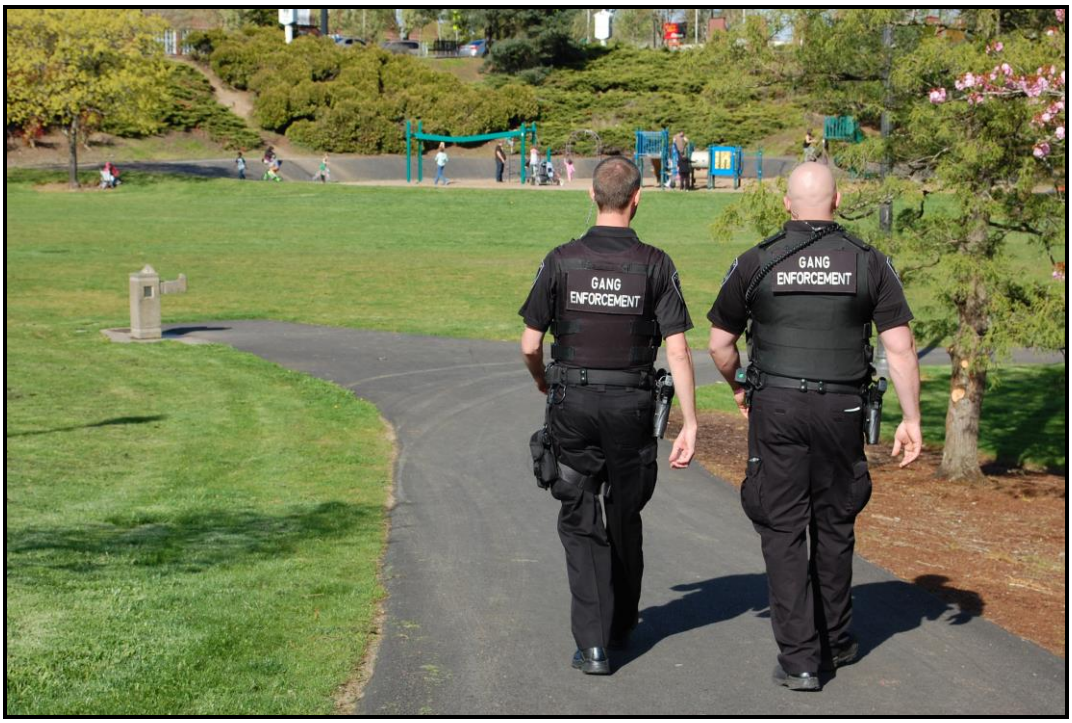
10) Implementing a planned and coordinated response to gang shootings that includes intelligence gathering, communication with multiple agencies and proactively contacting known gang members to dissuade further violence. In the event of a gang shooting or other serious gang violence, the following steps will be implemented to the extent possible (with investigative considerations taking precedent in each case):

    a. Gather intelligence. It is essential to gather witness statements before gangs have a chance to intimidate victims and other witnesses.

    b. Contact resources including the Major Crimes Team, Portland Police Bureau, and Department of Community Justice probation officers to share intelligence and inform initial threat assessment considerations such as potential for retaliation.

    c. Proactively contact homes and known hangouts of identified gang members involved in the crime.

    d. Utilize all laws, city ordinances, Safe Streets program, and probation officers to immediately remove problem gang members from the streets to allow a break in the violence.



Multi-Agency Gang Prevention and Enforcement Plan

Multnomah County District Attorney's Office

Multi-Agency Gang Prevention and Enforcement Plan
Multnomah County District Attorney's Office

The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office dedicates significant resources to crime prevention and to reducing gang violence in Gresham and mid/east Multnomah County. These resources include: 1) a gang prosecutor assigned to the Rockwood Public Safety Facility; 2) a prosecutor located at the Gresham Police Department; 3) a neighborhood prosecutor with an emphasis on the Rockwood Public Safety Facility and the surrounding area; 4) a misdemeanor prosecutor assigned to the Gresham Courthouse; 5) three prosecutors assigned to the East County Major Crimes Team; 6) a county human trafficking prosecutor located at east precinct and emphasizing mid and east county; 7) a support enforcement prosecutor assigned to the Gresham Courthouse; 8) a prosecutor assigned to coordinate on-scene assistance to the East County Major Traffic Crimes Team; and 9) four child abuse prosecutors located in mid/east county at the County's MDT facility.

In addition to these prosecutor positions, the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office has support and advocacy staff to assist in prevention, intervention and prosecution efforts and is an essential partner in the following programs and teams, which are all focused on reducing gang violence in Gresham and east Multnomah County:

1) RENEW (the Rosewood/Rockwood Enrichment Neighborhood Enforcement Workgroup) is a collaborative effort led by the Multnomah County District Attorney's office and includes a variety of partners including the City of Gresham. The RENEW geographical boundaries include much of Rockwood and a large section of outer east Portland known as the Rosewood area. The RENEW mission is to coordinate the development and execution of law enforcement and community based strategies for the reduction of criminal behavior and the improvement of community livability. Transparent communication between organizational partners is of the utmost importance to achieve this end. RENEW will employ a broad set of flexible service and support options with an integrated evidence-based approach, while recognizing that existing models can, and do, share the mission of RENEW. Overall, RENEW represents a shared responsibility among partners to improve life for residents of the East Multnomah County RENEW District. The public will have an opportunity to interface directly with RENEW law enforcement partners during its second community meeting, scheduled for May 7 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rockwood Public Safety Facility located at 675 NE 181st Avenue. This meeting will explore the definition of livability, with law enforcement, community agencies and residents sharing their perspectives and hopes for how livability in the target area can be improved through the RENEW initiative.

2) EMGET (East Metro Gang Enforcement Team) is an interagency law enforcement task force charged with reducing gang activity in east Multnomah County. Members include police officers from Gresham Police Department, Fairview Police Department, Troutdale Police Department, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and prosecutors from the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office. The team investigates gang-related crimes, documents gang members, provides a higher level of police presence in gang-affected areas, works with at-risk youth to keep them out of gangs, educates parents and the community about gangs and works with regional units on gang-related missions.

3) GIFT (Gang Impacted Family Team) is a program designed to reduce the negative effects of the gang lifestyle on families through suppression, intervention, prevention and reentry for youth and adults impacted by gang involvement. The GIFT program focuses on the highest-risk gang-involved individuals and families, providing intensive services in an effort to break the inter-generational cycle of gang involvement and violence. Although GIFT was initially a collaboration between the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office and the Portland Police Bureau, many of the clients and services involved are located in the City of Gresham.

4) The Court Bench Probation Mentoring Program is run by the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, which utilizes legal incentives for low-level gang-involved criminal offenders. These offenders meet with a community mentor to counteract ongoing gang recruitment and serious gang violence. Partner services involved in this project are the Office of Youth Violence Prevention, faith-based community program 11:45 as well as other citizen business and community leaders.

5) Gang Impacted Human Trafficking / Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC): The Multnomah County District Attorney's Office works with the CSEC Steering Committee to make decisions related to a coordinated community response addressing the needs of CSEC victims, including: identifying, interviewing, assessing and tracking CSEC victims; investigating and prosecuting traffickers and buyers; addressing the physical and emotional wellness of CSEC victims; providing training, resources and outreach to community partners and concerned citizens; identifying housing, treatment and legal interventions that are beneficial to CSEC victims; building collaborative partnerships across programs and jurisdictions who are working with CSEC victims; and addressing the needs of CSEC victims as they "age-out" of the youth system.

6) The Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) was formed in 1995 to reduce crime, improve public safety, and promote an effective justice system. The Executive Committee consists of community leaders including Portland and Multnomah County elected officials, the Multnomah County District Attorney, law enforcements officials and Multnomah County judges as well as representatives from the Oregon Youth Authority, Health Department and related human services, local school districts and community organizations. The Executive Committee directs and oversees the work of subcommittees including the Youth and Gang Violence Subcommittee, which has endorsed a comprehensive, three-pronged approach to youth and gang violence that balances suppression, intervention and prevention strategies and pursues well-defined long-term goals and outcomes. The mission of the Y&GVSC is to reduce youth and gang violence, reduce related disproportionate minority contact and lessen the disproportionate negative impacts of gang violence on communities of color. The Y&GVSC provides leadership, support and oversight to programs within Multnomah County that pursue aspects of this three-pronged approach.

7) The East County Major Crimes and Crash Teams coordinate complex investigations occurring in Gresham and east Multnomah County. This law enforcement team consists of detectives from multiple agencies including Fairview Police Department, Troutdale Police Department, Oregon State Police, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and the Gresham Police Department as well as members of the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office.

Multi-Agency Gang Prevention and Enforcement Plan

Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center

Multi-Agency Gang Prevention and Enforcement Plan
Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center

Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC) reconnects at-risk youth affected by poverty, family instability and homelessness with education and career training programs designed to meet their unique needs.

1) In 1983, POIC established Rosemary Anderson High School (RAHS) in North Portland to concentrate its efforts on answering the demand for more effective alternative educational programs focused on at-risk minority youth ages 14-21 who were underperforming in the larger public school system. In 2012, RAHS opened its second campus located in Gresham at SE 182nd Ave near Division Street. The school offers quality education combined with wrap-around services to 125 youth primarily from the Centennial and Gresham-Barlow school districts.

2) Career training is provided through POIC Work Opportunity Training (WOT) programs. This summer, in partnership with Work Systems Inc., approximately 30-50 youth from East Portland and Gresham will be placed in paid summer work experiences as part of the SummerWorks program. SummerWorks is a 180-hour internship, and also includes training and support to ensure client success in the workplace. This is achieved through work experience, job site tours, mentoring, workshops, summer internships, and job application skills training. WOT also manages career training for older high school graduates, and provides ongoing support and system of care services to the age of 25.

3) Ongoing support is provided to Rosemary Anderson High School graduates through age 25 via the Rosemary Anderson Transitions Program. Staff members fulfill the role of keeping graduates on track, support and mentor them through the uncertainty of post-graduation life changes, and work with them to secure scholarship and financial aid support.

4) Gang outreach is provided through gang outreach workers who engage youth on the street, at schools, and on public transit. Workers build positive and trusting relationships, and case manage gang-involved youth who are ready for change. They assist youth by connecting them to community resources, providing school advocacy, and employment opportunities. The City of Gresham has partnered with POIC to provide street-level gang outreach in Gresham, and is currently exploring funding opportunities that would expand capacity to two or more outreach workers.

5) Community Healing Initiative (CHI) is a gang violence prevention program working primarily with African-American youth and their families that have involvement in the Department of Community Justice and live within Multnomah County. The Department of County Human Services (DCHS) and the Department of Community Justice (DCJ) partner with POIC to provide each family with a Care Manager that provides intensive case management. CHI youth and families have access to parent training and support, educational assistance, employment support, basic needs/skill building, youth development activities, and community engagement.

Multi-Agency Gang Prevention and Enforcement Plan

Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metropolitan Area

Multi-Agency Gang Prevention and Enforcement Plan
Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metropolitan Area

Prevention is a key component of Gresham's overall gang abatement strategy. By steering young people in a positive direction, agencies like Boys & Girls Clubs can decrease the number of future gang members while increasing the number of productive citizens and community leaders.

Since 1946, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Portland Metropolitan Area has been doing just that by providing thousands of young people with affordable, high-quality after-school and summer programs. Programs are designed to help youth ages 6 to 18 develop the qualities they need to become responsible citizens and leaders. The Boys & Girls Clubs offer kids what they need most: safe, clean, fun places to go when they're not in school; caring adults who respect and guide them; and challenging programs that teach them life skills and keep them engaged in productive activities.

Recognizing the growing need for prevention programming in East Multnomah County, the Boys & Girls Clubs and City of Gresham are working together to bring youth services to Gresham youth. Programs are already underway in Rockwood at the former Drake's 7 Dees site at SE 165th Avenue and Stark Street, which the Boys & Girls Clubs is leasing from the Gresham Redevelopment Commission. A capital campaign is raising funds for a new 30,000 square-foot facility that will serve up to 400 youth per day and will include a full-size gym, kitchen, cafeteria, space for arts and music programs, games room, and teen center. Completion is expected in the spring or summer 2016.

Artist's rendering of the future Rockwood Boys & Girls Club.

Additional Community Partners and Resources

Additional Community Partners and Resources

The Multi-Agency Gang Prevention and Enforcement Plan described in this document portrays a significant - but incomplete - picture of the work being done in this community. There are dozens of agencies and thousands of individuals making an impact along the spectrum of gang prevention through enforcement – even if they don't identify their work in such terms. With far too many to name (much less describe in detail) this plan focuses on the few agencies that are most directly involved with the City's gang abatement efforts.

Our local schools are a great example of institutions that have a tremendous impact on gangs. Youth who succeed in school are highly unlikely to become gang-involved. Schools also provide one of the most effective antidotes to delinquent behavior – positive adult role models. On the other hand, youth who are unable to build relationships with positive peers and adults, disconnected from their school communities, and failing academically are much more likely to go down the wrong path. Furthermore, students who turn to delinquency and gang involvement pose a significant threat to safety and disrupt the school climate. Schools thus become key battlegrounds for the prevention of youth gangs.

Other institutions that play a key role in gang reduction include social services, businesses, churches, service organizations, neighborhood associations, re-entry programs, and youth and adult parole and probation. There are many that are already working hard to improve the community, actively engage with gang-impacted youth and families, or improve coordination with the City of Gresham and other agencies. These include:

Multnomah County Department of Community Justice
The Department of Community Justice provides supervision and treatment resources to prevent the recurrence of crime among juvenile and adult defendants and offenders, and collaborates with the City of Gresham in multi-agency initiatives including RENEW.

Portland Police Bureau
Portland Police Bureau coordinates with Gresham Police Department, EMGET, and other local law enforcement agencies, sharing resources and intelligence in cases with cross-jurisdictional elements. Participation in RENEW promises to open additional opportunities for collaboration.

Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere (STRYVE)
One of four demonstration sites in the nation prioritizing a public health approach to violence prevention, STRYVE coordinates several prevention efforts with youth in Portland and Gresham.

Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC)
LPSCC promotes coordinated, data-driven public safety operations and policies in Multnomah County, and is currently spearheading a countywide gang assessment that will be completed in late June.

Office of Youth Violence Prevention (City of Portland)
The Office of Youth Violence Prevention coordinates services, administers grant funding and facilitates community problem solving. OYVP is working closely with the City of Gresham, sharing information and seeking new avenues for increased coordination.

Rockwood Business Coalition
The Rockwood Business Coalition, which promotes the growth of businesses in the Rockwood community, has engaged with RENEW's community subcommittee to improve public safety and livability in the target area.

City of Gresham Neighborhood Associations
The City's neighborhood associations have coordinated crime prevention activities and neighborhood improvement projects that directly impact public safety and livability throughout the City.

Friends of the Children
In partnership with the City, Friends of the Children will build its new facility on the former Police Activities League site at Northeast 172nd Avenue and Glisan Street to better serve its growing East Multnomah County youth population through long-term professional mentoring.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest
Big Brothers Big Sisters supports mentoring of approximately 100 youth in Gresham, and is working with the City to identify opportunities for program expansion in East Multnomah County.

Salvation Army
The Salvation Army provides low-cost after school programs for youth ages 6 to 17 at its community center on SE Stark Street and 194th Avenue, and is planning to expand its facility to include a covered outdoor basketball court.

Home Forward
Home Forward, which provides affordable housing and services in Multnomah County, collaborates with the City on a variety of crime prevention issues. Home Forward also participates in RENEW, and recently announced plans to contribute funding to the Gresham Police Department.

Pathfinders of Oregon
Pathfinders of Oregon provides prevention and intervention services for high-risk individuals, youth and families with multiple locations in Gresham, and is involved with several collaborations such as RENEW and Rock the Block.

The Rosewood Initiative
The Rosewood Initiative partners with residents, apartment buildings, businesses, churches, social services agencies, neighborhood associations, and public safety agencies to make the Rosewood area a desirable place to live, work and play. Its community center located at SE 161st and Stark Street serves youth, adults and families from Portland and Gresham.

Defending Childhood Initiative
Multnomah County's Defending Childhood Initiative is part of a national initiative aimed at addressing children's exposure to violence as both direct victims and as witnesses, and works closely with STRYVE to address youth violence.

Free Arts NW
Free Arts NW provides arts experiences that empower underserved youth to find their creativity, passion, and voice, and is partnering with STRYVE this summer to engage youth in a painting project at Plaza del Sol.

Human Solutions
Human Solutions helps low-income and homeless families and individuals gain self-sufficiency by providing affordable housing, family support services, job readiness training and economic development opportunities.

SnowCap
SnowCap provides food, clothing, advocacy and other services to low income individuals and families in East Multnomah County.

Northwest Family Services
Northwest Family Services offers a variety of programs including counseling, parenting, job placement, and youth programs. In partnership with Gresham Police Department and several other law enforcement agencies, NFS coordinates the Four Cities Peer Court, which acts as a diversion program for youth ages 12-17 with first-time, low-level law violations.

WorkSystems
WorkSystems coordinates workforce development programs to help youth and adults gain the skills, training and education they need to go to work or to advance in their careers. The City is partnering with WorkSystems to provide low-income youth with their first paid job experiences this summer.

Schools Uniting Neighborhoods (SUN)
SUN Community Schools are full-service neighborhood hubs where the school and partners from across the community come together to make sure kids and families have what they need to be successful - in school and in life. There are 21 SUN locations in the Reynolds, Centennial and Gresham-Barlow school districts.

Gresham Redevelopment Commission
The Gresham Redevelopment Commission is building community and enhancing livability through projects such as the creation of the new Rockwood Public Safety Facility and the development of a new Boys & Girls Club facility.

Latino Network
The Latino Network, which recently opened a Gresham location at 18725 SE. Stark St., provides programming for Latinos in areas such as civic engagement, early childhood development, and parent involvement.

Rockwood Community Development Corporation
The Rockwood Community Development Corporation is a non-profit organization working to eliminate poverty, improve health outcomes; expand the supply of quality affordable housing, and encourage commercial development in Rockwood. The RCDC is also engaging residents and capturing community voice through its Rockwood Speaks program.

Community Involvement

Community Involvement

The issue of gangs and youth violence is complex, involving a variety of factors and moving parts. It is impacted by peers, adult role models, family functioning, community norms, neighborhood influences, poverty, education, job opportunities, popular culture, and more. No single organization can be expected to impact problems so complex. Even a comprehensive, multi-agency response will fall short of its goals without broader community support. Community involvement thus becomes a key factor in the success of an overall gang abatement strategy.

There are a number of ways that community residents, neighborhood associations, business owners, church congregations, service groups and others can join the solution.

1) Volunteer your time. Youth need adult mentors. Non-profit agencies need volunteer expertise and operational support. Initiatives like RENEW need citizen voice and engagement. The City needs residents to help remove graffiti, create Neighborhood Watch programs, or serve in the Citizen Volunteers in Policing program. Your time can make a difference.

2) Make a donation. Non-profit agencies such as Boys & Girls Clubs, Friends of the Children, Pathfinders of Oregon and Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center rely on the support of the community to meet the growing demands for their critical services.

3) Know your neighbors. It's one of the oldest crime prevention tips for a reason – it works. Get to know your neighbors and their children so you can look out for one another. Beyond that, positively engage with the teenagers in your neighborhood instead of simply keeping an eye on them. Let them know you're paying attention, but also let them know you value them as neighbors. Living in a "caring neighborhood" is one of the building blocks for healthy youth development as identified by the Search Institute.

4) Hire a young person. Programs like SummerWorks partner with local businesses to provide paid, entry-level jobs to low-income young people in Gresham. Recognizing that youth who work are less likely to engage in crime, the City will hire two low-income youth this summer and encourages our local business community to follow suit. Those who don't own a business may consider hiring a neighborhood teen to help with landscaping, home improvement projects, or wash cars. Local employment rates for low-income youth are as low as 12%, so every opportunity helps.

5) Report what you see. If you witness any crime in progress, call 9-1-1. If you have information about gang-related activity, call the Gang Tip Hotline at 503-666-1844. To report graffiti on your property, call Gresham Police Non-Emergency at 503-823-3333 or visit greshamoregon.gov/policereports, and include a photo if possible. To report graffiti on other property, call the Graffiti Information and Reporting Line at 503-618-3089. Photograph the graffiti and send it to CodeCompliance@GreshamOregon.gov along with the address of the graffiti.