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## **Delgadillo, Bratton, Perry Announce Crackdown on South L.A.'s 38<sup>th</sup> Street Gang**

### **Injunction Bans Gang Members from Alameda Swap Meet and Prohibits Use of Replica Firearms**

**LOS ANGELES** – City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, joined by Councilwoman Jan Perry and Los Angeles Police Department Chief William Bratton, announced the details of a new injunction designed to curb illegal activity of one of South Los Angeles' oldest and most notorious street gangs. Among the injunction's provisions, the targeted 38<sup>th</sup> Street gang is banned from the Alameda Swap Meet, where gang members are known to extort local merchants, deal drugs and threaten and attack security guards.

"Today, our City is taking a defining step in the battle against gangs," Delgadillo said at a news conference. "The 38<sup>th</sup> Street Gang is destroying the legitimate businesses here at this swap meet. Now is the time for our City to stand up to the 38<sup>th</sup> Street Gang."

The preliminary injunction against the members of the 38<sup>th</sup> Street Gang, granted August 18 by Judge David Yaffe, establishes a 3.87 square mile Safety Zone in South Los Angeles bounded by Washington Boulevard, Alameda Street, Slauson Avenue, Main Street and San Pedro Street.

The order contains two unique provisions designed to reduce crime and extortion at the Alameda Swap Meet and curb the use of replica firearms in crimes. Under the injunction, members of the 38<sup>th</sup> Street Gang are banned from the Alameda Swap Meet without written permission from the owner. Gang members are also banned from possessing replica firearms used to terrorize residents.

The injunction also contains standard provisions restricting known 38<sup>th</sup> Street gang members from associating with each other in public, imposing a 10 p.m. curfew, prohibiting any intimidation of residents within the safety zone and ordering gang members to stay away from drugs, alcohol, graffiti materials and dangerous weapons.

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“We are sending a strong message today that drugs, intimidation tactics, and other criminal behavior will not be tolerated in our community. This legal action will aid our officers and our community in fighting this criminal element, taking us one step closer to creating a safer environment for the entire area,” said Councilwoman Perry.

The 38<sup>th</sup> Street criminal street gang is one of Los Angeles’ oldest gangs, dating back to the 1920s. The estimated 350 members of the 38<sup>th</sup> Street gang are known for dealing drugs, primarily marijuana and crack cocaine. Other illegal activity includes a sophisticated auto theft ring utilizing chop shops and Vehicle Identification Number-switching, street muggings and extortion of local businesses. Gang members are also known for intimidating residents using Ross Snyder and Fred Roberts Parks and vandalizing the area with gang graffiti.

State Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, an early supporter of the injunction, said: “Crime by violent gangs cripples our communities. Now it is time to cripple the gangs. The preliminary injunction against the 38<sup>th</sup> Street gang will give the police the tools they need to stop criminals before they can harm our neighborhoods and families.”

“This injunction marks a turning point for this community,” Nunez said. “A new beginning that will improve the quality-of-life for those who live and work here. A chance for people to walk the streets without fear of being caught in the crossfire of gang violence or intimidated by gang members.”

“Thanks to our City Attorney, Rocky Delgadillo, who sought the injunction, we will turn the tables on the 38<sup>th</sup> Street gang,” Nunez said. “And thanks to our Police Chief, William Bratton, and the officers of the Los Angeles Police Department, this injunction will be enforced fairly and effectively to take thugs off our streets.”

Los Angeles is home to 800 known gangs and more than 56,000 gang members, according to the LAPD. Currently, there are 23 active injunctions in the city of Los Angeles. Gang injunctions have been credited as a vital component in achieving a nearly 50% reduction in gang crime in Hollywood and a 31% reduction in the Harbor area this year.

In 1997, the California Supreme Court upheld the use of public nuisance laws to obtain injunctions prohibiting known gang members from nuisance and criminal behavior in narrowly defined areas. The Court upheld the legality of the orders, noting that unlawful and violent behavior does not come under the protection of the Constitution.

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