
NEWS RELEASE

Roberto A. Villaseñor
Chief of Police

Contact: Pete Dugan
Sergeant / Public Information Office
520-791-4852
On-call PIO: tucsonpdpio@gmail.com
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/police>

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SIXTEEN INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED IN CRACKDOWN ON EASTSIDE CRIPS STREET GANG

TUCSON, AZ—Today a multi-agency investigation into suspected racketeering activities of the Eastside Crips (ESC) in Tucson resulted in the arrest of 16 members and associates of the criminal street gang. The subjects of this investigation are an organized group of individuals suspected of homicides, narcotics trafficking, money laundering, trafficking in firearms, and committing violent crimes on behalf of the Eastside Crips leadership. The demographic makeup of the ESC is unique in its multi-cultural membership. The gang is loosely structured with several sub-entities and shifting leadership roles over time due to incarceration of several of the original leading members.

This case was initiated based on information gathered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), the Tucson Police Department (TPD) and the Arizona Department of Public Safety (AZ DPS) Gang Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM) and is being prosecuted by the Criminal Division of the Arizona Attorney General's Office in Tucson.

This morning before dawn a contingent of more than 200 local, state, and federal law enforcement officials executed search warrants at 9 Tucson locations and served 16 arrest warrants around Tucson. All warrants and arrests were executed safely and without incident.

Thomas G. Atteberry, the ATF Special Agent in Charge stated:

“Today’s arrests and charges are the result of long term multi-agency investigations conducted by ATF, the Tucson Police Department, the Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Arizona Attorney General’s Office. We will not sit on the sidelines while the violent gang culture attempts to intimidate our communities. Working cooperatively with our law enforcement partners, we shut down a significant arm of this violent street gang.”

Roberto Villaseñor, the Tucson Police Department Chief of Police, stated:

Today's joint operation is the culmination of nearly a year of investigation into an ongoing criminal syndicate based and operating in Tucson, but conducting criminal misconduct as far away as Florida and New York. The cooperation between the Tucson Police Department, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the Arizona Attorney General's Office and



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U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is a blueprint of how local, state and federal agencies can and do coordinate efforts to improve quality of life in a community. The elimination of this gang is removing several violent felons from the streets of Tucson, and crippling a criminal syndicate that has connections to numerous narcotic and money laundering violations, as well as several shootings and homicides.

Robert Halliday, the Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, stated:

“The Arizona Department of Public Safety's GITTEM Detectives worked very hard on this case gathering intelligence that culminated in today's arrests. We are proud to have played a part in dismantling this multi-state drug smuggling operation and placing a lot of these violent criminals behind bars. Hopefully Tucson is safer as a result.”

Tom Horne, the Arizona Attorney General, stated:

“Working alongside our state and federal partners to arrest and prosecute criminals is a priority for the Attorney General's Office. The AGO specializes in assisting in complex multi-agency investigations. We are pleased to be part of this successful operation.”

The individuals arrested today are facing various charges including, but not limited to, the following violations of Arizona law:

Illegally Controlling An Enterprise; Illegally Conducting An Enterprise; Racketeering; Money Laundering; Participating In or Assisting a Criminal Street Gang; Participating In or Assisting a Criminal Syndicate; Misconduct Involving Weapons; Possession, Use, Administration, Acquisition, Sale, Manufacture, or Transportation of Dangerous Drugs; Possession, Use, Administration, Acquisition, Sale, Manufacture, or Transportation of Narcotic Drugs; Possession, Use, Administration, Acquisition, Sale, Manufacture, or Transportation of Prescription-Only Drugs; Possession, Use, Production, Sale, or Transportation of Marijuana; and Conspiracy.

Indictments and complaints are not evidence that the suspects committed the crime charged. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in court.



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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

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