



## MULTI-AGENCY GANG UNIT WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

### **Multi-Agency Gang Unit (MGU) Investigation Leads to First-Ever Gang Injunction in Shelby County** *"Riverside Rollin' 90's Crips" Deemed a Public Nuisance*

MEMPHIS, TN – September 23, 2013 - Shelby County District Attorney General Amy Weirich and Memphis Mayor AC Wharton announced the first-ever injunction issued against a criminal gang in Memphis and Shelby County.

#### **MGU BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Edward L. Stanton, III  
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Western District of Tennessee

Todd McCall,  
Special Agent in Charge  
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Bill Oldham  
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Director,  
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District Attorney General Weirich and Memphis City Attorney Herman Morris filed the nuisance petition against a criminal gang locally known as the "Riverside Rollin' 90's Neighborhood Crips" (referred to in the injunction as "R90").

The petition was the result of the Multi-Agency Gang Unit (MGU) investigation into reports of criminal gang activity in the Riverside area of South Memphis. Judge Larry Potter issued the injunction against R90 in Shelby County General Sessions Criminal Court Division XIV. The court expressed concern for the safety of the citizens in the area and signed the injunction which creates a 4.6-square-mile safety zone in the south Memphis residential community of approximately 4,000 residents.

The injunction (the first ever filed and issued in Shelby County) declares R90 a public nuisance and enjoins R90 and its members' activities within the Safety Zone as listed in below:

1. **Do Not associate:**  
Members may not appear together in public view or anyplace accessible to the public (does not include inside a school while attending classes or a place of worship)
2. **No Intimidation:**  
Members may not confront or provoke any person known to be a witness to any activity of R90 members.
3. **No Guns or Dangerous Weapons:**  
Members may not possess any gun ammunition or illegal weapons and must not remain in the presence of them.
4. **No Graffiti or Graffiti Tools:**  
Members may not damage or deface private property of others, or possess tools for the purpose of "tagging" private property of others.
5. **Stay Away from Drugs:**  
Members may not possess sell or use any controlled substance or paraphernalia without a prescription.
6. **Do Not Act as a Lookout:**  
Members may not act as lookout to warn of the approach or presence of law enforcement.
7. **Stay Away from Alcohol:**  
Members may not possess any open alcohol container while in public view or in any public place.
8. **No Trespassing:**  
Members may not be present on or in any private property not open to the public without owner consent.
9. **No Forcible Recruiting**  
Members may not make threats to strike or assault another person nor damage or destroy personal property or disturb to encourage a person to join the gang.
10. **No Preventing a Member from Leaving the gang:**  
Members may not make threats to strike or assault another person nor damage or destroy personal property to prevent a person from leaving the gang.
11. **Obey all laws**

(more)

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The injunction gives law enforcement the authority to arrest any R90 members found in violation of the court ordered conditions. Police may arrest violators and charge them with contempt of court. Members who opt out of this injunction must adhere to the following requirements:

1. Must file a motion with the court and request to be dismissed.
2. Must declare in writing that they are a reformed or former member and renounce their affiliation and gang life.
3. Must truthfully declare that they have had no arrests for the past two years; have not been in the company of any other R90 members, other than immediate family.

The MGU investigation identified several self-declared members of the "Rollin' 90's" (also known as the "Riverside 90's," the "Farrington Street Boys," or the "Neighborhood Crips") as suspects in multiple crimes occurring in the south Memphis neighborhood bordered on the north by South Parkway East; on the south by West Malory Street; on the west by U.S. Interstate 55, and on the east by Florida Street. The petition refers to this area as "the Safety Zone." Investigators found that R90 members were involved in numerous violent crimes, drug sales, gambling, shooting and other criminal activities within the Safety Zone over the past three (3) years. The petition includes names of Rolling 90's members arrested in some of these incidents.

The petition includes documentation and photographs of gang graffiti and gang tags visible on approximately thirty (30) buildings and dwellings located throughout the defined Safety Zone. Two (2) of these addresses, 340 Hollowell and 1833 Farrington were the subject of nuisance petitions themselves and have been shut down. The houses are located less than half a mile from Riverside elementary and middle schools. Building code inspectors have declared them a danger to any inhabitants and ordered them vacated immediately. The gang graffiti and markings identified these buildings as R90 territory or "turf." The MGU Investigation revealed that R90 members routinely hid drugs and guns inside these houses and regularly gathered and loitered on the streets and sidewalks near them to sell drugs and to consume drugs and alcohol. Many residents in the Safety Zone have made frequent complaints of harassment and intimidation by R90 gang members.

Frequent gunfire riddles the area. During the ten-month investigation, the Safety Zone averaged approximately 1200 calls for police, with at least one (1) shooting call per day. Within a week prior to the filing of the nuisance petition, four (4) people were injured by gunfire near the intersection of Farrington and Hollowell. This area is the center of R90's criminal activities within the Safety Zone. Residents told investigators they were afraid to leave their homes and could not allow their children to play outside for fear of the gang's ongoing criminal activities within the Safety Zone. Some residents reported that they sleep underneath their beds at night because of the frequent gunfire. The MGU investigation revealed that R90 members frequently carry handguns and other firearms unlawfully without permit.

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**(Page 3)**

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There are three (3) Shelby County Schools within the Safety Zone: Carver High School, Florida-Kansas Elementary and Riverview Middle School. Students attending these schools and nearby schools continue to be exposed to R90’s illegal activities and aggressive recruiting tactics. Children describe attempts by R90 members to lure them into the gang and incidents of violence and intimidation by R90 members when they try to resist the gang’s recruitment efforts.

The Multi-Agency Gang Unit (MGU) was formed in 2012 in the Western District of Tennessee. The MGU is a joint effort of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Shelby County District Attorney General’s Office, the Shelby County Sheriff’s Office and the Memphis Police Department aimed at eradicating criminal gang activity in the region. The MGU’s purpose and goal is to reduce the criminal activities of street gangs.

The Tennessee legislature amended the State’s nuisance law in 2009 to include “criminal gangs” as a public nuisance. A Criminal gang is defined as “...a group with three (3) or more members who has as one (1) of its activities the commission of criminal acts and two (2) or more members who, individually or collectively, engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity” (Tennessee Code Annotated § 40-35-121).

The nuisance law also states that the District Attorney General has authority to bring a civil action against any establishment deemed a nuisance. The statute defines a nuisance, in part, as “any place in or upon which... unlawful sale of any regulated legend drug, narcotic or other controlled substance...quarrelling, drunkenness, fighting, or breaches of the peace are carried on or permitted.”

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