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NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DEC. 20, 2017

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DA'S GANG IMPACT TEAM OPERATION IN PALM SPRINGS LEADS TO ARRESTS

PALM SPRINGS – A four-month investigation by the Riverside County DA's Gang Impact Team into a Palm Springs area criminal street gang culminated today, Dec. 20, 2017, with more than 20 arrest and search warrants being served.

During Operation Gatekeeper II, the Gang Impact Team has been conducting a covert investigation into the Gateway Posse Crip gang, which included gang members who were involved in the illicit sales of narcotics. During the investigation, law enforcement officers made undercover purchases of cocaine, crack, methamphetamine, and ecstasy directly from suspected gang members in the residential neighborhood the gang claims as its "territory." The investigation culminated today with several teams of law enforcement officers involved in the attempted service of 12 arrest warrants for narcotics sales and nine search warrants, as well as 11 probation and/or parole searches.

As of 9 a.m., seven people had been arrested, primarily for drug-related charges, and eight more people with outstanding arrest warrants involving drug sales from the undercover operation are actively being sought. One handgun and drugs including heroin, methamphetamine, and ecstasy were seized during the morning sweep, which began at about 5 a.m. Wednesday.

"Our Gang Impact Team continues to expand across the county," District Attorney Mike Hestrin said. "Today's operation is another example of the outstanding work they do going after the criminal street gangs that are responsible for so much of our crime.

"I want to thank the Palm Springs Police Department and Chief Bryan Reyes for their support and collaboration in today's operation," Hestrin added.

"District Attorney Mike Hestrin has once again proven his commitment to addressing crime in all areas of the county," Palm Springs Police Chief Bryan Reyes said. "I am grateful for the direction he has consistently taken in addressing crime as evidenced by this most recent operation.

"The Gang Impact Team is extremely effective throughout our county and I am fortunate to have a member of the Palm Springs Police Department on the team," Reyes said. "Through shared resources and a team approach, the community of Palm Springs and Riverside County will benefit from this ongoing approach on crime."

The Gateway Posse Crips gang was founded in 1988 and gang members have been involved in crimes ranging from the sales of narcotics to homicide and other violent crimes.

Operation Gatekeeper II is a spinoff of a 2009 operation that targeted members of the Gateway Posse Crip gang by members of the Gang Impact Team and the Palm Springs Police Department. Operation Gatekeeper I resulted in 17 arrests and the recovery of 37 firearms.

(MORE)

The Gang Impact Team is currently staffed by investigators and agents from the Riverside County DA's Office Bureau of Investigation; the Palm Springs Police Department; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the FBI, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations; U.S. Border Patrol; the Hemet Police Department, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation; and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General for Investigations.

The Gang Impact Team conducts criminal investigations countywide targeting gangs and organized crime. The two most recent operations include Valley Vigilance in the Hemet Valley and Desert Impact in the Desert Hot Springs area. Those two operations resulted in more than 70 state arrests, 17 federal arrests, and the recovery of more than 102 firearms and more than six pounds of methamphetamine.

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