



CITY OF OAKLAND  
**newsrelease**  
Office of the City Attorney

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Oakland files injunction against violent street gang**

OAKLAND, CA – City Attorney John Russo and Oakland Police Chief Anthony Batts held a press conference Thursday to announce a new tool in the fight against gang violence in Oakland.

The City Attorney and the Police Chief announced a civil lawsuit seeking a gang injunction against the North Side Oakland gang, which is known for drug sales and numerous acts of violence in North Oakland.

“This gang has terrorized our community, intimidated witnesses & recruited children to their criminal enterprise,” Russo said. “They are part of a malevolent force that has crippled our city for decades and continues to hold Oakland back today.”

A gang injunction is a court order that declares a gang a public nuisance and prohibits its members from conducting specific activities within a geographically defined area called a “Safety Zone.”

If granted by a judge, the injunction will declare North Side Oakland a public nuisance and prohibit certain activities within the Safety Zone – about 100 blocks between I-580, Emeryville, Berkeley and Telegraph Avenue.

Restrictions include:

- Do not associate with other gang members in public.
- Do not confront, intimidate or assault witnesses.
- Do not possess firearms or dangerous weapons.
- Do not possess graffiti/vandalism tools.
- Stay away from drugs.
- No trespassing.
- No gang recruitment.
- Obey all laws and time restrictions.

A violation of the injunction is considered contempt of court – a criminal misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and up to a \$1,000 fine.

The City is seeking an injunction against North Side Oakland in part because of the severe and increasing violence associated with the gang. According to police declarations, there were three NSO-related incidents involving murder, shooting or gun possession in 2007. In 2008, that number rose to seven incidents. In 2009 that escalated to 18 incidents, including seven murders.

Gang injunctions were upheld as constitutional by the CA Supreme Court in the 1997. Oakland’s petition relies on evidence of gang affiliation and criminal acts. All individuals covered by an injunction have due process rights – anyone on the list who is no longer associated with the gang can go through an “opt-out” process and file a petition with the court to be removed.

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