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Judge Orders Injunction against North Side Oakland Gang Court's order designed to break up criminal organization with a history of robberies, shootings and other major crimes in North Oakland

OAKLAND, CA – A [narrowly tailored injunction](#) restricting the operations of a violent criminal enterprise will go into effect to protect the North Oakland community, Superior Court Judge Robert B. Freedman ordered Wednesday.

The injunction – a response to demands of residents and businesses in the area – is similar to a restraining order. Within a 100-block area called a “[Safety Zone](#),” it restricts the activities of 15 adults found by the court to be active members of the North Side Oakland crime organization, a group responsible for murders, robberies, shootings and dozens of other major crimes in North Oakland in recent years.

The judge's order grants the injunction as it was proposed by the City in court.

“On behalf of the entire North Oakland community, we are grateful that Judge Freedman recognized the immediate threat posed by the members of this criminal enterprise,” City Attorney John Russo said. “By itself, an injunction cannot solve all gang-related crime. But it is an opportunity to change a neighborhood and prevent more gang members from destroying their lives – as well as the lives of uninvolved bystanders.”

North Side Oakland gained widespread notoriety just over one year ago, when four NSO members allegedly gunned down a man on the street in Berkeley with assault weapons, and then allegedly killed two bystanders in North Oakland when they sped through a stop sign and crashed into another car. Those four are in prison facing murder charges.

The injunction will apply initially to 15 North Side Oakland members based on their records of criminal and nuisance activity, including numerous arrests, plus convictions for armed robbery, carjacking, grand theft, drug sales and other felonies. All are adults – no minors will ever be included.

With exceptions for things like work, school and emergencies, the injunction will prevent the 15 individuals from hanging out together in public and being on the street between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. It also restricts them from carrying guns, threatening witnesses and recruiting young people into the gang. Details about restrictions and exceptions can be found in the judge's [order](#). A violation is considered contempt of court – punishable by up to six months in jail and up to a \$1,000 fine.

Constitutional safeguards – due process, court review, the right to appeal – are carefully protected in the injunction. Any gang members added to the injunction in the future will be named as individual defendants and have the opportunity to argue their case in open court. They will only be included after approval from a judge based on extensive evidence of criminal/nuisance conduct, and the burden of proof is always on the City.

Judge Freedman's order also includes an "opt-out" process proposed by the City that will allow anyone who is no longer associated with the gang to be removed from the injunction.

Only one of the 15 defendants – Yancie Young – opposed the injunction in court. In his own words, Young is a "veteran dealer." He has convictions for drug- and gun-related crimes, as well as domestic battery. Search warrants on his home have recovered guns, large amounts of drugs, body armor, a stun gun, a large amount of handgun and assault rifle ammunition, loaded high-capacity magazines, a silencer and packaging materials. Last year, police responded to a call from a woman who said Young had just hit her in the head with a submachine gun. In a recorded jail conversation, he admits hitting the woman with the gun and says "we're going to be looking for her." Police found another assault weapon and a stolen handgun in Young's storage unit. He is currently facing multiple felony and misdemeanor charges.

Next steps: Police will personally serve the injunction to each defendant, at which point it will become effective.

The City Attorney's Office will report to the judge within 120 days on the implementation of the injunction.

The City intends to file at least two more injunctions in other parts of Oakland this fall.
