



CITY OF OAKLAND
newsrelease
Office of the City Attorney

Wednesday, October 13, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Attorney Press Office (510) 238-3148
Oakland Police Press Office (510) 238-7230
On line at: www.oaklandcityattorney.org

Oakland seeks injunction against one of city's most violent gangs **Court order to restrict 42 members of Norteños gang in Central Oakland**

OAKLAND, CA – On Wednesday, October 13, the City of Oakland filed a [petition](#) seeking an injunction against the Norteños street gang – one of the most violent gangs in the city.

Oakland City Attorney John Russo and Oakland Police Chief Anthony Batts announced plans for the injunction Wednesday. If ordered by a judge, it will restrict 42 members of the Norteños in an area of Central Oakland that has been terrorized for years by murders, assaults, robberies and other acts of violence committed by the gang.

“In neighborhoods of Central and East Oakland, residents and businesses have been caught in the middle of a decades-long firefight between this gang and its rivals,” City Attorney John Russo said. “Bullets have taken the lives of countless young men who have been recruited and used as little more than cannon fodder by the leaders of these gangs. And shots fired at or by members of the Norteños too often injure or kill uninvolved bystanders – many of them children as well.”

According to Oakland Police data, members of the Norteños have been involved in at least 35 shootings in 2010 alone either as targets or as suspects.

An injunction is a civil court order – much like a restraining order. It is designed to protect the community by restricting the ability of individual gang members to commit crimes within an area called a “Safety Zone.” All defendants included in the injunction have due process rights and the opportunity to a hearing, and they can only be included with approval from a judge based on clear and convincing evidence of criminal behavior within the Safety Zone.

The proposed Norteños [Safety Zone](#) is an area of Central Oakland roughly between 21st Avenue and High Street and below Brookdale Avenue.

Within the zone, enjoined gang members are restricted from carrying guns, menacing or assaulting witnesses, recruiting young people, selling drugs, vandalizing the city, associating with each other in public and being on the street during late night hours (10 p.m. to 5 a.m.). There are clear exceptions to the last two restrictions for work, school, religious activities and emergencies. Importantly, anyone no longer associated with the gang can go through an “opt-out” process to be removed. More information can be found at www.oaklandcityattorney.org.

Oakland's first injunction – against 15 members of the North Side Oakland gang – was granted June 3, 2010 by Superior Court Judge Robert Freedman. A violation of the injunction is considered contempt of court – punishable by up to six months in jail and up to a \$1,000 fine.
