HYBRID GANGS AND THE HYPHY MOVEMENT: CROSSING THE COLOR LINE IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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Abstract

HYBRID GANGS AND THE HYPHY MOVEMENT: CROSSING THE COLOR LINE IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY

by

Antoinette Noel Wood

Statement of Problem

Crips and Bloods-traditional gangs whose mere names conjure up fearful images of violence and destruction-are no longer at the forefront of the gang reality in Sacramento. Instead, influenced by the Bay Area-based rap music subculture of Hyphy, gangs calling themselves "Families," "Mobbs," and "Camps" are believed to be creating a new, hybridized gang culture.

Sources of Data

Employing grounded theory methods of qualitative data analysis, this paper examines four key areas in which this Hyphy-gang relationship is being portrayed: media created by people within the Hyphy movement; news sources covering Hyphy; trial transcripts that focus on offenders and victims who are believed to be involved in the Hyphy movement and gang culture; and police
reports and media releases concerning this relationship. Ultimately, I am concerned with addressing one key question: How new is this "new" reality?

Conclusions Reached

The data clearly demonstrates that the three themes examined; acts of retaliation for disrespect, snitching, and remembering the dead, are handled the same way by the three types of African American gangs that Sacramento County has.

__________________________, Committee Chair
Dimitri Bogazianos, Ph.D.

__________________________
Date
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INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Study

On June 11, 2006, in downtown Sacramento, California, Miguel Soto-Enriquez, a Fourth Avenue Blood (FAB) and Hot Boys gang member, and several of his fellow gang members, including Bryant Clark and Donta Fields were at the K Street Mall. At approximately 1:00PM, Soto’s group spotted a group of six males, among who were rival gang members. This other group included Anthony McCants, Malcolm Brewer, and Benjamin Brasley, who were 29th Street Crip gang members, and Erick Young, who was reputed to be a Bad Ass Youngster gang member. Soto’s group and McCants’ group exchanged verbal insults, all of which were gang related. The two groups eventually separated; however, they soon met up again.¹

At the second encounter, the two groups decided to fight, with Clark and Fields fighting McCants and Brasley. As the combatants took off their shirts and readied to exchange blows, Soto pulled out a gun and fired multiple shots into the crowd of people that had gathered to watch the fight, attempting to injure the rival gang members. According to witnesses, Soto fired as if he was “duck hunting,”

¹ Sacramento County Criminal Trial. Soto vs. State of California.
while screaming “FAB” and “Oak Park.” Soto’s shots struck and killed Young and wounded Brewer.

At first glance, it appears that this incident is just another in the long history of African American gangs, and the often senseless ubiquitous black gang member killing another black gang member. However, upon closer examination, this incident is part of a shift in the African American gang culture in Sacramento. According to Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Daniel Monk, who testified at Soto’s trial, there were three gangs involved, the first of which was Blood-based, the second that was Crip-based, and a third, a Bay Area influenced hybrid gang, which was neither Blood or Crip based.

The Soto case, therefore, embodies the significant changing reality of Sacramento African American gang formation and culture; i.e., gang culture is no longer exclusively a Blood vs. Crips war, instead, due to Bay Area based influences, gangs are now called Families, Mobbs, and Camps. These are the current terms that define the present gang reality of Sacramento County. Old rivalries are being forced aside by new alliances, emerging chances for profit, and in some cases, more violence than before is gaining momentum. In effect, the vocabulary that these gangs have created define their changing gang culture; “We killin for Jack,” “Gunz Up, Starz down,” “Death before dishonor,” have become

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2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
the terms that Sacramento African American gangs use to describe this
contemporary gang culture. In order to understand how this new African
American gang culture is being constructed in public discourse, this thesis uses a
grounded theory\(^5\) approach to analyzing three key source materials. The first key
source materials are the gang artifacts.\(^6\) The second key source materials are the
news media, and how they articulate African American gangs in Sacramento. The
third key source materials are trial transcripts generated within the last twenty-
five years that focused on offenders and victims who are involved in African
American gangs. These cases are Sacramento African American criminal street
gang cases that include the elements of hybrid, Hyphy-influenced or traditional
gang structure.

In this thesis, I argue that the sources described above all suggest that the
Hyphy movement has changed the African American gang structure and street

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\(^5\) In order to effectively and accurately present the concepts that were examined
by this thesis, and due to a lack of academic research, lack of well defined
concepts within the existing literature, and the inability to take random samples,
grounded theory was used to analyze all the sources utilized in this thesis. This
means that while the samples were clearly not random, every effort was made to
logically and systematically process the data, which was used to link local events
and social forces. The data included a range of documents and various forms of
media that expressed the phenomenon of hybrid gang and the Hyphy Movement,
from a legal and cultural context. The sources were coded according to grounded
theory data analysis, which includes line-by-line coding of all materials, and
theme development. See Strauss, Anselm L. and Corbin, Juliet *Basics of
Qualitative Research: Grounded Theory Principle*. Newbury Park, California:

\(^6\) DVD’s, CD’s and Youtube videos.
culture in Sacramento. The Sacramento Bee, for example, describes the evolving African American gangs as having “no regard for human life,” as they engage in a “turf war,” while law enforcement proclaims an increased level of violence from smaller, previously unknown gangs eager to make their mark on the Sacramento urban landscape\(^7\). The gangs themselves have created rap songs and DVD’s that portray a deadly level of violence as the gangs fight over territory, money, and for respect. All of the sources, therefore, suggest that Sacramento now has three distinct types of African American gangs. I argue, however, that these portrayals are the products of a complicated history that begins with the civil rights movement. In the following chapters, therefore, I outline the convoluted history of African American gangs as well as their ties to the civil rights movement and hip hop culture; in the end, I argue that the sources themselves suggest an alternative explanation: while the ways in which gangs represent themselves may have changed, they all still hold to the same core values—acts of retaliation for disrespect, snitching, and remembering the dead.

Chapter one explores the history of hip-hop and civil rights. It starts in New York, with DJ Kool Herc, founder of the hip hop movement, in order to establish how social movements and hip-hop have been linked since hip-hop’s inception, and discuss how the Black Power Movement (BPM) was eventually

\(^7\) Andy Furillo, “Deadly gang warfare plays out on Sacramento Streets,” Sacramento Bee, 28 December 2008 sec A.
halted by a lack a leadership. This lack of leadership created a void, which was filled by street gangs. Chapter two looks at the history of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), and its effects on the African American populace’s views of the police. The Watts Riots of 1965 are also explored, and its aftermath as a foundation for modern African American gang violence. Chapter three explores the beginnings of the Crips and Bloods by examining the life a Crip founder, Stanley “Tookie” Williams, and the beginnings of the crack cocaine epidemic.

Chapter four follows the evolution of hip-hop into gangsta rap in Los Angeles, as the Bloods and Crips evolve into criminal enterprises and the crack cocaine trade explodes, underscoring the poverty and violence existing in the inner cities. This chapter uses the life of Tupac Shakur to link together the aspects of gangsta rap and civil rights. Suge Knight is also portrayed, however, he is used to link together gangsta rap and gangs at an unheard of scale.

Chapter five describes the changes that crack brought with it to the Bay Area, and those forced to live in the area, focusing on one man, Mac Dre, who like Tupac Shakur, would become the voice of this movement. Mac Dre’s criminal and musical life is chronicled as he expresses the changes that are occurring in the Bay Area; as gang members realize that they cannot be hard “24/7,” and Mac Dre begins a movement called Hyphy that reflects the Bay Area’s inability to only be violent, for even gang members need time to relax. Chapter six details the history of gangs in Sacramento, starting from when the
Bloods and Crips migrated from Los Angeles, and ending with the current state of gangs in Sacramento.

Chapter seven explores the three key concepts for gang violence, acts of retaliation for disrespect, snitching, and remembering the dead. Within each concept, all three types of gangs are explored, by using an example from each type of gang. Furthermore, the gang’s artifacts are also examined to fully determine what is the expected behavior of the gangs.
Since this thesis is concerned with understanding Hyphy influenced gang hybridization, and how it is constructed by public discourse, this chapter will explore the history of hip-hop, and how hip-hop has been intertwined with the culture of African American gangs since hip-hop’s inception. This chapter will be a historical review of the circumstances that have led to hip-hop’s creation and the reasons it continues to be involved with gangs. Furthermore, this thesis will follow hip-hop and black gang migration and evolution from New York, to Los Angeles, to the Bay Area and finally, to Sacramento. In effect, this chapter will catalog both the history and the evolution of black gangs and hip-hop, from the early stages of the Bloods and Crips and Gangsta rap, all the way to the Hyphy movement and hybrid gangs.

Backdrop To Hip- Hop

According to hip-hop historian Jeff Chang, hip hop originated in New York during a time of social change and disruption that was occurring all over the United States. In 1966, due to civil rights inequalities, the Black Power

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Movement (BPM) emerged as an effort to secure equal rights for African Americans. The mission of the BPM was to bring racial dignity, gain freedom from the oppression by whites, and become economically and politically self-sufficient. The Black Panther Party was a vehicle used by the BPM to achieve regional, national, and international goals.

The Panthers’ called for all African Americans to protect their neighborhoods from police brutality, and to rebuild and improve the quality of life for other African Americans. For example, the Black Panthers’ began offering breakfast to school age children, and giving out free groceries to those in need. According to Chang, the “Panthers’ discipline and fearlessness drew in disaffected kids from the ‘hood to their offices in Harlem, Brooklyn, and the Bronx.” Furthermore, Fred Hampton, a Panther leader, was forming coalitions with powerful street gangs, which Hampton believed collected the “fearful and forgotten.”

Just as civil rights and the BPM came to the front of New York’s social conscious, there was a coincidental surge of immigration to the South Bronx and surrounding areas from Jamaica. Within this wave of Jamaican immigration, came the soon-to-be father of hip-hop, DJ Kool Herc and his family. Kool Herc, whose real name is Clive Campbell, came from Jamaica at age twelve, and brought with

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9 Ibid 46.
10 Predating the Bloods and Crips.
11 Chang, Can’t Stop, Won’t Stop, 46.
him the music and traditions of his native island. Herc’s early life in America consisted of attempting to adapt to the new culture that surrounded him in the South Bronx.

In his search to fit in, Herc began “hanging out” with some of the major street gangs of the Bronx. He first spent time with the gangs geographically closest to him, the Five Percenters, then with the Cofon Cats, eventually learning the slang and culture of the Bronx from them. In his process of assimilating, Herc earned the respect of the gangs. Herc was eventually asked to become a division leader\textsuperscript{12} of the Cofon Cats, which he turned down. Even in turning down the offer, he still managed to keep the good will of the gangs, and not alienate one faction or another, which allowed him to pass through gang held territory. Herc soon began using his mobility to go from one territory to another to reinvent himself through the use of graffiti. Herc became a part of the graffiti underground, quickly creating a reputation of being fearless and pushing the limits of a society which looked down on graffiti and the artists creating it.

As Herc metamorphosed, others in the South Bronx also reinvented themselves, attempting to create a utopia of equal rights and security with the influence of the Black Panthers, and other black power groups. Despite their achievements, however, the Panthers’ gains were often overshadowed by the image they presented in the media. The Panthers confrontational, militant, and

\textsuperscript{12} A significant position of power within the gang.
sometimes violent tactics, coupled with a suspicion of law enforcement and the lack of an objective media, left white America feeling as if the Panthers were more of a communist revolutionary group rather than a civil rights organization. J. Edgar Hoover, the Director of the FBI during this tumultuous time, called the Panthers “the greatest threat to the internal security of the county.” According to Chang, in order to deal with the threat that the Panthers and other “revolutionary” groups represented, Hoover created COINTELPRO, in March 1968 to “investigate and disrupt” dissident political organizations. To achieve these goals, the “FBI joined forces with local police agencies to round up the Panthers.”

COINTELPRO’s ability to infiltrate and discredit successfully created distrust between compromised group members, and effectively manufactured major disruptions within the Black Panther Party, and the BPM as a whole. With the threats and harassment of its high-ranking leaders and influential members, the BPM began to collapse. Due to a lack of leadership after its organizers had been removed, lack of education, and lack of jobs, there was no one to assist the rapidly growing contingent of African American needy. These conditions led to the inner cities becoming wastelands of poverty and despair, effectively creating a perfect storm of gang formation, with a teenage population that was enraged,

13 An acronym for the Counter Intelligence Program.
14 Chang. Can’t Stop, Won’t Stop. 48
15 Manufacturing and other blue-collar jobs were sent overseas.
disenfranchised, and ready to disobey the rules of a society that had forgotten them.

As the level of frustration grew at the perceived failure of the civil rights movement, the subsequent lack of leadership in the substantial African American population, and external pressures from organizations like COINTELPRO, there was a call by the young, jobless, and poverty stricken for a venue from which to express their lives, as social activism was no longer available. This call was answered by hip-hop, a musical movement that allowed urban youth an outlet for their frustrations, and let them forget their worries in a festive environment. Hip-hop, an expression of black youth urban culture, quickly became an outlet for many.

One of those so affected was Herc, who more than many, needed an outlet that allowed him to express who he was, and where he came from. Herc used his Jamaican roots as inspiration and helped create a musical statement built in the Jamaican tradition of toasting. Herc began DJing, and introducing different ways to use the music that had been produced, and was being produced at that time.

As Herc’s reputation as a DJ started to grow, he began to experiment with stereo equipment in an attempt to entertain large crowds. After finding a way to amplify the sound without distortion, and keeping its quality the same, Herc

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16 Impromptu speech that is boastful and over music.
began to host parties, in which large numbers of attendees would crowd into his home, and the homes of others to listen to him DJ. These house parties soon led to larger outdoor affairs, during which the participants could enjoy the music, unconstrained by structural space restrictions.

According to Chang, during this groundbreaking period, hip-hop began to evolve due in part to Herc’s tireless efforts to be innovative and capture his audience’s interest. In an attempt to create rhythmic tempos to dance to, Herc created the “break beat,” extending the climatic instrumental coda of a song, where it sounds the most basic. Herc extended the “breaks” from several seconds to several minutes, during which partygoers would dance wildly. Herc’s unique style of DJing evolved from these simple “break beats” at his first house parties, to adding in “shout outs” at large outdoor parties and later at the evolving club scene. These early “shout outs” consisted of simple phrases like “To the beat ya’ll,” and would later evolve full-fledged rap songs like “Rapper’s Delight.”

As hip-hop evolved, so did Herc’s DJ skills. He invented the “merry-go-round,” which consisted of combining segments of James Brown's “Give It Up Or Turn It Loose” into Michael Viner's “Bongo Rock,” and transitioning into Babe Ruth’s “The Mexican;” those lucky enough to hear it, loved it. The merry-go-round soon became the foundation for hip-hop’s image and sound. The first to

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17 Chang, Can’t Stop Won’t Stop 46.
18 The Sugarhill Gang.
react to the merry-go-round were Herc's Break Boys, or B-Boys, the original hip hop dancers, who practiced a style of dancing known as “breaking.” B-Boys quickly began to interpret Herc's merry-go-rounds with dances, moves, and choreographed routines.¹⁹

According to Herc, the merry-go-round was created one night, while Herc was:

waiting for the record to play out. Maybe there are dancers waiting for this particular break. I could have a couple more records got the same break in it -- I wonder, how it be if I put them all together and I told them: "I'm going to try something new tonight. I'm going to call it a merry-go-round."²⁰

As Herc’s popularity grew, so did his imitators, B-Boys, and people paying to come to the party. According to a core member of hip hop’s early history, Joseph “Grandmaster Flash” Saddler, those who were considered hip-hop's fundamental DJs had territories where they DJ’ed, and were careful not to intrude on someone else’s turf.²¹ Furthermore, Flash claimed these early

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²⁰ Ibid 18, 19.
²¹ Ibid 66.
territories were often drawn along old gang lines due to the fact that gangs assisted in gerrymandering the disarray of the South Bronx, which were left largely unorganized due to the Panthers’ forced extrication. In effect, the Panthers’ exodus created a power vacuum that only the local street gangs attempted to fill, in an effort to structure the chaos of the Bronx.\(^\text{22}\)

During the 1970s, as hip-hop became more popular, it began to evolve. Instead of only playing breaks or merry-go-rounds, DJs began to speak into microphones adding word fills to energize the crowd. Soon, famous hip-hop phrases such as “To the beat ya’ll” became complicated rhyming sections. At first, these sections were simply connecting words and phrases; however, they soon evolved into more complicated rhymes as one DJ attempted to outdo another. Soon, DJs were bringing others up on the stage to do the “shout outs” for them. Those doing the “shout outs” were called “Masters of Ceremonies,” or MC’s. The MCs were a way for the DJ to concentrate on mixing music; MCs were the hosts of the event, and were in charge of interacting with the audience as intermediaries between the DJ and the crowd. As MCs became more sophisticated, they began to link hip-hop phrases with the music, instead of simply filling gaps. In effect, the MCs became responsible for creating complex mixtures of rhythms and rhymes, which eventually evolved into rap and the role

\(^{22}\) Chang, “Can’t Stop Won’t Stop,” 49. Furthermore, Flash’s claim is corroborated by Strode and Wood, “The Hip Hop Reader,” 21, which states that rap’s early groups came out of the area gang’s structures.
of the rapper; effectively allowing those living in these gang-infested inner city ghettos a voice, which had never before been seen or heard.

While those who were disenfranchised by the collapse of the BPM and reabsorbed by the area gangs, the Bronx was still fortunate enough to be able to cling to hip hop; its lone outlet for the aggression, fear, and poverty that was endemic to the Bronx and surrounding areas. Those living in the Bronx began turning their hatred inward, which led to gang turf wars that became a violent, aggressive outlet to vent frustration left by the loss of the BPM.

Soon hip-hop’s contributions to music drifted to the West Coast. Inspired by the first rap song that was heard coast-to-coast, the Sugarhill Gangs “Rapper’s Delight,” and needing a way to represent the vacuum of social purpose from the civil rights movement, the lack of jobs, and the poverty of their community, hip-hop became an outlet for many. Furthermore, hip-hop’s ability to circumvent the normal social constraints and limits placed on poverty stricken African Americans and Hispanic youths meant that hip-hop had a waiting audience.²³

While hip-hop continued to grow and evolve in New York, in Los Angeles, it began to take root. Once hip-hop landed in Los Angeles, because of the different environment and culture that the West Coast presented, it began to morph. Much like what happened in New York, hip-hop was changed by the social and historical events surrounding it. One of the major institutions in the lives of African Americans in Los Angeles was, and still is, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). The mistrust of the LAPD did not begin overnight, and it is an important factor in how African Americans perceived the LAPD, and how gangs evolved. This chapter, therefore, explores the history of the LAPD, and one of its most influential chiefs, in an effort to better understand the gangs that arose out of Los Angeles.

**LAPD: The History of Hatred**

According to historian Joe Domanick, in his book “To Protect and Serve,” William Parker became the Chief of Los Angeles Police in 1950, after his return from WWII. Domanick states that when Parker assumed control of the LAPD, it

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was a corrupt and poorly run department. Parker quickly transformed it into an efficiently managed police force with professionally trained and well-paid officers.

Within the first month of taking control of the LAPD, Parker vowed, “to make this department the most respected police force in the United States.”

Parker quickly put into action several policies that would later come back to haunt him, including: “initiating proactive policing by training his officers to seek out suspects who might commit crimes and aggressively apprehend drivers who violated traffic laws.” These initiatives were his attempt to deter crime and criminals and would become the foundation of the practice of institutionalized racial profiling within the LAPD.

Furthermore, Parker firmly believed that his officers were “neither equipped nor authorized” to deal with economic or social problems. Parker clearly stated what he believed the police forces’ duties included as, “Our job is to apply emergency treatment to society’s surface wounds. We deal with effects, not causes.” This attitude would hurt Parker later when dealing with the effects of a police force that ignored and mistreated the minority populations of Los Angeles.

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26 Ibid 47.
27 Ibid 49.
28 Ibid 49.
Parker, though he did not know it, would soon need the help of the very African Americans he disregarded in his attempt to bring order back to Los Angeles.

In order to police Los Angeles, Parker developed a system of patrol, which he believed would deter crime. Parker, “moved officers from foot patrols to cars to create an ‘omnipresence,’ enabling officers to apprehend criminals or suspects more quickly and to reassure law abiding citizens of his commitment to crime prevention.” While this was an excellent way to patrol the vast areas that made up the city of Los Angeles, it also created distance between the officer and the citizen. Instead of creating rapport with the officer who patrolled his or her neighborhood, one only saw him when he arrested someone, or when one reported a crime. Positive interactions plummeted, and negative ones surfaced, creating a dramatically negative image of Parker’s LAPD. These images made officers appear as if they were not interested in community service but, instead, an “occupation of conquered territory by an alien army.” White Angelenos began seeing Parker as the savior of the city, while black residents looked upon the LAPD as those who harassed, beat, and arrested their friends and family.

Los Angeles in 1965 was filled with African American’s struggling to find jobs, living at or below federal poverty standards, and lacking basic civil rights. LAPD Police Chief William Parker felt that the African Americans who had

29 Ibid 59.
30 Ibid 94.
migrated from the South during the booming industrialization of WWII “came in and flooded a community that wasn’t prepared to meet them. We didn’t ask these people to come here.”

According to Pulitzer Prize winning Los Angeles Times reporter Jerry Cohen, by the summer of 1965, tensions between police and African Americans were at an all time high. At best, encounters were filled with mistrust; at worst, African American fears of brutalization, humiliation, and racism were confirmed by the officer’s actions, which went unnoticed by the general public and unreported by the mainstream media. With few African American officers on the force, the LAPD looked less like a protect and serve entity, and more like a belligerent military force, having no ties to the community it policed. The LAPD had little interest in maintaining law and order, and was highly motivated in keeping African Americans in “their areas” and out of the “white only areas.”

In Los Angeles, an increasingly large and vocal African American community was struggling with a lack of leadership, and their confinement to specific enclaves through Los Angeles, in particular the Watts area. Without education, job prospects, or civil rights, Los Angeles was ready to erupt. During a hot summer day, a simple traffic stop began six days of rioting that left Los Angeles forever scarred, and white America scared of the possibilities of what an

angry African American population could do. The frenzied violence did not bring out the best in LAPD Chief William Parker, as he would later liken the African Americans participating in the riot to “Monkeys in the zoo.”

According to Cohen, the Watts riots began simply as a routine traffic stop conducted by California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer Minikus. Minikus was, by all accounts, “the picture of police-textbook accounts-efficient, agreeable, authoritative.” On Wednesday, August 11th, 1965, during routine patrol, Minikus spotted a car going 50 MPH in a 35 MPH zone, and was informed by another motorist that the driver of the speeding car was a “hazard.” Minikus pulled the car over, to find Marquette and Ronald Fry, a pair of brothers who had recently moved to the area. Marquette was the driver, and during the course of speaking to him, Minikus came to the conclusion that Marquette was intoxicated. Bystanders stopped and watched Minikus and Marquette engage in a friendly round of verbal sparring, and recalled that Marquette was clearly intoxicated, and seemed to be a “Happy drunk.” It was not until word had reached Marquette’s mother, Rena that things turned ugly.

Minikus began preparing paperwork to arrest Marquette, and tow the car, when Marquette’s mother Rena arrived. Rena asked Minikus that the car be

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33 Ibid 59.
34 Ibid 59.
35 Ibid 60.
released to her, since it was her car. Minikus agreed, and as Minikus worked on releasing the car to her, Rena began speaking to her son, Marquette. While it is not clear what exactly was said, by the end of the conversation, Marquette was angry, and ashamed of the pending arrest. Marquette quickly began acting out as the growing crowd watched with interest. Minikus, sensing the ugliness of the crowd and Marquette’s active resistance, called for support officers, who arrived quickly. Upon arriving, support officers saw a large, angry crowd, and attempted to calm it; however, things quickly escalated. Seeing Marquette’s active resistance and believing that Marquette was a victim of police brutality, Rena and Ronald attempted to assist Marquette, and were arrested and placed in a police car. Cries of “White trash” and jeers of “Where’s the colored police” filled the air, as the officers attempted to leave.\(^{36}\) However, that soon became impossible when one of the bystanders spit at officers. Officers pushed into the crowd, and pulled out Joyce Ann Gaines, who was clothed in a large barber’s smock and appeared to be pregnant. The crowd’s rage grew quickly, at what they believed had been police brutality in the arrests of the Fry’s, and the “rough treatment” of a seemingly pregnant Joyce Ann Gaines.\(^{37}\)

\(^{36}\) Ibid 61.

\(^{37}\) Ibid 60-62.
According to CHP officer Leonard Moore, “I repeatedly gave orders to the crowd to disperse, but they paid no heed.”\(^{38}\) The crowd “replied with profanity” to Moore’s order and shouted, “Let’s get them cops.” The crowd began chanting defiantly, as officers used plastic batons and night sticks to push the crowd back. As the crowd grew more angry, and rocks and bottles were seen in the hands of many, officers decided that the best thing to do was to withdraw; however, “they had to move out in strength, leaving no stragglers to face the rage” of the crowd. As officers left the scene, their cars were “stoned” and had “bottles hurled” at them. Citizens also began running into the street “yelling and screaming.” According to officers, one “perspiring, goggle-eyed young male shrieked: ‘Burn, baby, burn!’”\(^{39}\)

After the officers left, the mob, “now estimated at one thousand, broke into angry clusters.”\(^{40}\) Rumors of the earlier incident with police that had sparked the mob were exaggerated, as new people joined the mob. The mob began destroying anything that was in its path; cars and buses that passed through the area had windows knocked out and received large dents from bricks, rocks, and bottles. “The more brazen elements, after stopping vehicles, snatched their terrified occupants from them, beat passengers and drivers, and overturned the

\(^{38}\) Ibid 61.
\(^{39}\) Ibid 62. This saying became the battle cry of the riot.
\(^{40}\) Ibid 65.
cars.” It was determined that the area was too dangerous, and “LAPD requested that all uniformed personnel to stay out of the area.”

A plan to handle the mob was formulated, and LAPD assembled at the corner of 118th Street and Avalon, along with reinforcements; however, “personnel available was insufficient to prevent potential victims from entering the area.” This problem occurred again, after police sealed “off about two blocks of Avalon, where the mob was the thickest, by cutting off entry and exit from cross streets” in an effort to contain the mob; however, due to a lack of personnel, the LAPD was unable to successfully enter and disperse the mob.

The theme of insufficient personnel continued through the entire riot, and was one of the main reasons that it took so long for the mob to disperse. The rioting lasted for six days, during which time numerous citizens were injured, some killed, and millions of dollars in property destroyed, as rage spilled into the streets in the form of arson, looting and vandalism. Even safety personnel such as firefighters and paramedics were not safe from the fury of the mob, as they were pelted with rocks, bottles and bricks as they fought to save homes and lives. In the end, only the deployment of the National Guard stopped the rioting. After the riots, blame was placed on the LAPD and Chief William Parker, who quickly attempted to shift it to the CHP.

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41 Ibid 70.
42 Ibid 71.
According to the FBI’s manual *Prevention and Control of Mobs and Riots*, “Whenever a civil disturbance or riot occurs, there are always certain factors or developments which have prepared the way.” Furthermore, the McConne Commission, which was created to find out the causes of the riot, found that the causes of the riot were the same causes that led to modern gang formation; poverty, lack of education, lack of civil rights, lack of jobs, and lack of the ability to provide a better life for themselves and their families. The commission made several recommendations; however, not much changed.

COINTELPRO had successfully destroyed the civil rights movement, and the coming generations had nowhere to turn, and no way to make life better. The only way to protect themselves from the predators that lived within the inner city was to join a gang and become predators themselves.
Chapter 3

LOS ANGELES GANG HISTORY

Since this chapter of the thesis will catalog both the history and the
evolution of the Crips and Bloods, it is important to understand what a criminal
street gang is as defined by California law.

A criminal street gang is an ongoing organization, association, or group of
three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its
primary activities the commission of one or more specified criminal acts,
having a name or common identifying symbol, and having members who
individually or collectively engage in a pattern of criminal gang activity. 43

Gangs in History

There have been gangs throughout recorded history, however, the gangs
that claim to be Crip or Blood based embody a significant reality change of gang
formation and culture. Crip and Blood based gangs today may seem “normal,”
even mainstream, there was a time when gangs were not considered street

43 People of the State of California vs. Roosevelt Jermaine Coleman et al. Filed in
(a),
terrorists, but, according to historian Mike Davis, simply groups of children who had been abandoned by society and their families who were attempting to survive on the streets. While in many cases this still holds true, a new element has been introduced, which is the use of extreme violence in order to gain respect, money, and social capital. According to Davis, another difference between the early gangs that existed before Crips and Bloods is that they never had the same level of commitment and membership found in today’s gang. Teenagers aged out of early gangs and into adulthood by getting jobs in their communities and creating families of their own. During this time, the BPM was also an outlet for their aggression and rage from their lack of civil rights. However, this changed when jobs were no longer available, and the BPM collapsed. Eventually, the only way to keep from being victimized, and becoming a “success,” was to become a gang member. In effect, gangs became the way for disenfranchised teenagers to become significant despite the poverty and brutality of the streets of Los Angeles. Despite its social and cultural importance, the history of Los Angeles African American gangs is ambiguous, and several reliable sources have competing theories of the origins of the Bloods and Crips. While these stories of Crip and Blood origins are similar, they do express key differences. This chapter,

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45 Ibid.
46 Ibid.
therefore, will go over those competing theories of the birth of the modern street gang.

*Stanley “Tookie” Williams*

According to his autobiography, Stanley “Tookie” Williams, the co-founder of the Crips, was first a gang victim before he was a gang leader.\(^47\) Williams’ first encounter with a gang was when he was robbed and beaten by older, larger boys who roamed his neighborhood looking for smaller, defenseless targets. After being robbed and beaten, Williams began to hate gangs and vowed never to join one. However, circumstances would soon force him change his mind in order to protect himself. Williams began recruiting others who had been similarly victimized, and while they did not immediately name themselves or share a common sign or symbol, they protected themselves and each other with the collective strength of the group. In Williams’ words, “Our crew’s fashion style was dissimilar to that of other street gangs, but more and more we began to emulate them.”\(^48\)

Williams detailed how powerful he felt when he overpowered a gang that had been harassing his neighborhood, and how exciting it was to earn his reputation for being a “villain,” willing to fight anyone, despite being

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outnumbered. Eventually Williams’ reputation spread to the point of attracting other like-minded teenagers, one of whom was Raymond Washington. According to Williams, Washington approached him at the Washington High School cafeteria in 1971, to discuss “uniting (the) homeboys.” Williams informed Washington how much he “despised gangs,” and told Washington that he would have to think about it. Once the conversation with Washington was over, Williams began envisioning “an unstoppable force that no gang in Los Angeles or the world could ever defeat.” With that idea in mind, Williams ultimately agreed to combine forces with Washington.

Washington and Williams began discussing names for this new gang, which would be stronger than any of the other gangs in the area. According to Williams, “Thrown into the hat were names such as the Black Crusaders, the Terminators… and many others.” According to Williams, Washington suggested the “Cribs,” which was accepted in a “unanimous vote”; however, the name was short lived, since most of the group, while “intoxicated mispronounced Cribs and started saying “Crips”- and it stuck.”

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49 Ibid 86.
50 Ibid 86.
51 Ibid 86.
52 Ibid 91.
53 Ibid 91.
54 Eventually the word “Crip” replaced “Crib,” but neither had any “underlying political, organizational, cryptic, or acronymic meaning.” This dispels one rumor,
Williams and Washington gained enemies as quickly as they gained power, and those enemies were not willing to handle things like the Crips did. According to Tookie, “The reputation of a black gang was usually built on its use of pugilistic skills against rivals. Toting a gun wasn’t our style, but we were getting shot at too often.” Williams additionally stated, “force and violence were a theme of our lives. The more we fought, the more we had to fight - a continuing escalation of violence.” According to Williams, the gang provided him with a place to feel powerful.

William Dunn, a Detective Sergeant with the LAPD, and a former CRASH officer, gives a slightly different account of how the Crips and Bloods came into existence. Dunn argues that Williams and Washington were an instrumental part of the Crips; however, Dunn also states that the Crips were formed after a split occurred in an older gang called the Avenues. According to Dunn, after the Avenues split, the Baby Avenues emerged, who were also referred to as “Cribs.” Furthermore, Dunn stated that Crips members appeared in crime which reported that Crip stands for Common Revolution In Progress, or Community Restoration In Progress, or short for cripple. Ibid 91.

55 Ibid 93.
56 Ibid 94.
57 Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums.
59 Ibid 188.
reports as early as 1970.\textsuperscript{60} This timeline puts Williams’s claims that he and Washington met at the Washington High School cafeteria in 1971 in an awkward position. \textsuperscript{61}

An interview by the Los Angeles Sentinel in 1973 echoes the idea that the Avenues split were the start of the Crips. According to “Eric,” a member of the Avenues,

Three years ago I didn’t have nothing to do, so I used to hang around 103\textsuperscript{rd} and Avalon, I was an Avenue then… The Avenues gang evolved into… the Crips… The (Crips) gangs… were born in the most dangerous part, in the bricks (projects).\textsuperscript{62}

Gang researcher Diego Vigil also agrees with Dunn that the timeline that Williams maintains is not supported with what newspaper sources reported at the time. In fact, Vigil states that “The first Crips gang was formed in 1969 and soon caught the attention of the authorities and the media.”\textsuperscript{63} Vigil goes on to state that after the creation of the Crips “A number of independent gangs-- e.g., the Brims, Bounty Hunters, Denver Lanes, Athens Park Gang, Bishops, and Pirus (some of

\begin{flushright}
\textsuperscript{60} Ibid 188.  \\
\textsuperscript{61} Ibid 189.  \\
\textsuperscript{62} Ibid 89  \\
\textsuperscript{63} Diego Vigil \textit{A Rainbow of Gangs: Street Cultures in the Mega-City}. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press 2002. 75.
\end{flushright}
them descendants of the pre-Watts (riot of 1965) gangs)-- became federated as the Bloods in response to the pressure from the Crips gang."\textsuperscript{64} Furthermore, Vigil states that by 1972, "three years after the first Crip gang was formed, there were 18 Crip and Blood gangs in Los Angeles."\textsuperscript{65}

Despite the differences in all three accounts, Vigil, Dunn, and Williams do agree that Washington ran the Eastside Crips and Williams ran the Southside Crips. This consistent leadership helped build a strong foundation for the Crips, and is in part what led to the Crips ability to outlast other gangs. Furthermore, all three accounts agree that due to a lack of black leadership, jobs, education, and possibility for improving their lives, led to a generation that was largely neglected until its members became too violent to ignore.

Despite this inability to pinpoint the origins of the Bloods and Crips, they became an obvious and deadly part of LA, and its street culture. By the time crack cocaine was introduced, gangs were firmly entrenched in criminal lifestyles. Crack cocaine gave them the ability to make money by using their connections to the neighborhood and the street culture to sell drugs.

\textsuperscript{64} Ibid 75.
\textsuperscript{65} Ibid 76.
Crack Cocaine’s Contributions

With the onset of the crack cocaine epidemic, a new street reality emerged. This perspective focuses on music culture, drug culture, and gang culture. The creation of this new reality bonds these three domains together in a fluid mix, creating a new urban kaleidoscope that shifted and presented a new image with every new artist, song, crack rock sold, and gang murder.

According to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), 1980 experienced a high watermark in the influx cocaine entering the United States, which caused the price to drop by as “much as 80 percent.” Instead of simply allowing the retail price to drop, drug dealers chose to convert the cocaine powder to “crack, a smokeable form of cocaine,” changing quality for quantity. Since crack was ready to use, simple to produce, and cheap to make, it was very profitable for dealers to sell. Crack was also able to draw in new customers who had been unable to afford cocaine. By 1981, “there were reports of crack appearing in Los Angeles, San Diego, Houston, and the Caribbean.” By 1986, “crack distribution and abuse exploded,” and “had a stranglehold on the ghettos.” By 1988, crack

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66 Gangsta rap.
67 Crack cocaine.
68 Bloods vs. Crips.
70 Ibid.
71 Ibid.
72 Ibid.
was available in “Los Angeles in multi-kilo quantities.” Soon, entrepreneurs like Rick “Freeway” Ross and Michael “Harry-O” Harris, were selling large amounts of crack, and raking in unheard of profits, using the gangs of Los Angeles to distribute their product at the street level.

Crack changed the gangs of Los Angeles which had formerly dominated areas where they were allowed to “hang out.” Crack forced gangs to search for and protect territory where they could sell their product. In effect, gangs stopped protecting their territory because they felt they had a connection to the area, or some type of ownership due to living in the neighborhood for an extended amount of time, and started protecting their ability to safeguard their sales territories.

Some gangs sold crack in an “open air market” style, where they stood on the street and hawked their wares to anyone who passed by. Other gangs used fortified “crack houses”, which allowed them to protect their inventory while selling daily. With the massive revenue crack created, dealers armed themselves with high velocity and large caliber weapons in an attempt protect themselves from those who wanted to rob them. They fortified their crack empires to make it harder for police to intrude on them, and they viciously dealt with anyone who got in the way of their enterprise. Old gang rivalries turned into full-scale wars as the gangs that were making money were able to arm themselves at an unheard of scale and quality. In effect, the vast amounts of money and unchecked power that

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73 Ibid.
the crack market provided led to an arms war on the streets of Los Angeles, with the populace and police caught in the middle.

Violence began to escalate as old rivalries were rekindled by the newly armed gang members, and turf wars were re-created by gang members attempting to get their piece of the American dream by creating their own crack empires. With each murder, drive-by, or robbery, there was an act of retribution; and for the act of retribution was another act of retribution. It appeared to those stuck in the crossfire that the only way to escape from the ghettos of Los Angeles was through athletics or through music.
By the 1980s, rap, a musical offshoot of hip-hop, had become the lyrical outlet of black urban youth, who strung together spoken or chanted rhyming lyrics describing their lives and a city ravaged by the crack epidemic\textsuperscript{74} and was being used extensively in Los Angeles. Gangsta rap, a subset of rap, provided a forum for young artists to reflect on the violent lifestyles of both gang members and the people who interacted with them. This musical lifestyle allowed rappers to make enough money to change their lives, and the lives of their families. While many artists rapped their way out of poverty and into a better economic situation, most of them did not leave their gang affiliations behind since a popular rapper still wanted to maintain his “street credit.”\textsuperscript{75} In some cases, like that of Tupac Shakur, rappers who had no gang affiliation were compelled to get one just to produce their music.\textsuperscript{76} Tupac’s life and death reflected the struggle of most young LA rappers, many of whom are born into poverty and violence. Tupac, who became the voice of his generation, melded together rap music and the Black Panther’s attempts to assist African Americans everywhere escape the harsh realities of

\begin{footnotesize}
\textsuperscript{74} Or in the case of a rap competition, the faults and fallacies of other rappers. \\
\textsuperscript{75} The rapper has done what s/he raps about, has lived in a poor area, used violence, and does not shy away from breaking the law. \\
\end{footnotesize}
living in poverty by giving them opportunities to change their lives. In effect, in Tupac’s music there can be seen a clear link between gangs, rap, civil rights, and crack.

**Tupac Shakur**

Tupac Shakur was born in New York City in 1971, and was named after Tupac Amaru II, a Peruvian revolutionary. Tupac’s early life and the lives of those around him were filled with oppression and incarceration. Tupac’s mother, Afeni Shakur, was an active member in the Black Panthers. While pregnant with Tupac, Afeni was tried and acquitted in the “Panther 21” case in New York. Tupac’s stepfather Mutulu Shakur spent four years on the FBI’s Most Wanted list beginning in 1982, in part for assisting Assata Shakur escape from a New Jersey maximum security prison. When Mutulu was apprehended, he was also tried and convicted for the robbery of a Brinks armored truck, in which a guard and two police officers were killed. During the 1980s Tupac’s mother also became addicted to crack.\(^77\)

Tupac alleges in a 1998 interview, featured in the documentary *Thug Angel*,\(^78\) that his mother, Afeni, was unable to hold a job in New York because of

\(^{77}\) Ibid.

\(^{78}\) *Tupac Shakur: Thug Angel* Produced by Quincy “QD3” Jones. Directed by Peter Spirer. 92 minutes. Image Entertainment, 2002 DVD.
her Panther background. Destitute and unable to find work, Afeni chose to move the family to Baltimore, Maryland, where, according to Tupac,

Baltimore has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy, the highest rate of AIDS within the black community, the highest rate of teens killing teens, the highest rate of suicide and the highest rate of blacks killing blacks. And this is where we chose to live. So as soon as I got there, being the person I am, I said no, I gotta stop this. So I started a “stop the killing” campaign, I started a safe sex campaign, an AIDS prevention campaign, and everything.\(^{79}\)

In an effort to protect her family and find a better life, Afeni subsequently moved them to Marin, California, into a public housing complex known as “The Jungle.” Afeni’s hopes for a safer life did not work out as planned, as soon after the move, Tupac claims he saw, “This lady slash a man’s throat cause he spit on her kid.”\(^{80}\) This experience influenced him to restart the Panthers’ community involvement in an effort to teach, “respect of yourself and of others. That’s what my mom taught me, respect.”

\(^{79}\) Ibid.  
\(^{80}\) Ibid.
Within a year of moving west, Tupac began attending a poetry class taught by Leila Steinberg. According to Steinberg in *Thug Angel*, Tupac was constantly reading in an attempt to educate himself.\(^81\) Tupac was also writing poetry to express how he felt about what was happening in “The Jungle” and to African Americans all over the country. Tupac’s poetry reflected the themes of his life, his Panther roots, his feelings of oppression, and the poverty that he faced.

Steinberg, Tupac’s first manager, organized a concert in 1989, which led to Tupac being hired as a back-up dancer for *Digital Underground*, a rap group from the Bay Area. This was Tupac’s entry into the world of commercial rap. His first big break was “Same Song” which he performed with *Digital Underground*. According to Shock G, one of the main rappers of *Digital Underground*, working with Tupac “felt like I was putting music behind Huey Newton or Malcolm X. I knew it was important. It was an honor when Pac called.”\(^82\)

To get closer to the “game,”\(^83\) Tupac moved to Oakland, and began working on his first solo album, *2Pacalypse Now*, which eventually garnered national attention. He began to become what he rapped about in order to “keep it real” to those who had produced him, and attempted to become the “Real Nigga.” According to cultural scholar Michael Dyson, Tupac was always in “conflict with

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\(^{81}\) Ibid.

\(^{82}\) Ibid.

\(^{83}\) A slang term used to indicate the rap industry.
the other sides of his personality,” constantly defining and refining his political and theoretical views.\textsuperscript{84} According to Tupac, he did not get a criminal record until he got a record deal; in effect he felt that he had to live what he was rapping about, he had to be a “Real Nigga.”

Along with the concept of refusing to “be quiet” about the injustices society had foisted on him, Tupac also created the “Thug Life” concept, which depicts having nothing, and overcoming your obstacles without giving up who you are.

Yes I am going to say that I’m a thug, that because I came from the gutter and I’m still here. I’m not saying that I’m a thug cause I wanna rob you or rape you. I’m a businessman, I mean you know I am a businessman because you find me at my place of business.”\textsuperscript{85}

Soon, Tupac felt that American laws would not protect him. Thug Life became the “ruling philosophy,”

We couldn’t never take the stand, which was our true stance to be straight soldiers straight warriors, until hip-hop came. When hardcore hip-hop

\textsuperscript{84} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{85} Ibid.
came, it was alright for a Nigga to say “Fuck ya’ll, you know we gonna
do what the fuck we want.” You know, bang, bang, it was cool for a Nigga
to do that.\textsuperscript{86}

In 1992, Tupac and Mutulu created the “Codes of Thug Life,” supposedly
designed to give order to the rising violence and drug dealing. These codes were
officially signed by the leaders of the Bloods and Crips gang at a peace rally
called the Truce Picnic. That same year, Tupac began acting, with a role in the
movie \textit{Juice}.

On November 18\textsuperscript{th}, 1993, Tupac was arrested for various forced sexual
acts with a 19-year-old woman, whom he met at a New York Nightclub.\textsuperscript{87}Tupac
pled not guilty to the charges, and a trial ensued. On November 28\textsuperscript{th} 1994, while
the jury was out deliberating on the charges of “sodomy, sexual abuse, and
weapons possession,” Tupac made his way to the Quad Recording Studios, to
make “seven thousand badly needed dollars for a guest appearance on a song.”\textsuperscript{88}
This deal had been brokered by Christopher “Biggie Smalls” Wallace, a new
friend and East Coast rapper. When Tupac arrived at the Quad Recording Studio,
he met L’il Caesar one of Biggie’s friends, who greeted him though an open
window. Tupac and two companions entered the building, and at the elevator

\textsuperscript{86} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{87} Randall Sullivan \textit{Labyrinth}. 80
\textsuperscript{88} Ibid.
were confronted by a “pair of black men who wore army fatigues and held identical 9mm handguns.”

Shots were fired; however, only Tupac was wounded, and was robbed of a “$30,000 dollar diamond ring and $10,000 in gold chains.” Tupac managed to make his way to the eighth floor where he was scheduled to perform. Upon his arrival, Tupac observed Andre Harrell, Sean “Puffy” Combs, and Biggie Smalls, all of whom refused to look him in the eye and were “dripping with jewelry.” Tupac became convinced by their behavior and the incident that the three men had conspired to have him killed. Tupac was taken to the hospital by ambulance, where he was treated. Tupac checked himself out that same day, claiming that his life was in danger if he stayed.

Tupac, in a wheelchair from his injuries, went to court the next day and was found guilty of sexual abuse, but not guilty of all other charges. He was given two months to heal, and when he went back to court was sentenced to four and a half years in prison. While in prison, he kept busy reading, giving interviews and getting visits. Tupac read letters from fans and associates. Some of those letters contained accusations that Harrell, Puffy, and Biggie were responsible for the shooting. In an interview, Tupac renounced Thug Life stating that he had lived it, and it was now time for someone else to live it. While incarcerated, Tupac was

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89 Ibid.
90 Ibid.
91 Ibid.
92 Ibid.
93 Ibid.
visited by Marion “Suge” Knight, CEO of Death Row Records. This meeting was to be a transformative event in Tupac’s life, one that many would later see as leading to Tupac’s death.

_Suge Knight_

According to Pulitzer Prize nominated investigative journalist Randall Sullivan, Suge grew up in Compton California, with two loving parents, Marion Sr. and Maxine, who both worked hard to provide Suge with what he needed. Suge was a gifted athlete, who during his college years played for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas football team, and earned the first team all conference honors. Suge, unlike his fellow inner city born and raised teammates, who were arrested for sexual assaults, armed robberies, and carjackings, worked as a bouncer at the Cotton Club. However, by his senior year, Suge had developed a “reputation as perhaps the biggest drug dealer on campus.”

In October of 1987, Suge’s future wife, Sharitha Golden, obtained a restraining order against him, and then had him arrested for “grabbing her by the hair and cutting off her ponytail during an argument.” On Halloween night, two weeks after the incident with Sharitha, Suge was arrested for shooting a man in the leg and wrist while stealing the man’s car. Suge pled guilty, and was given

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94 Ibid.
95 Ibid.
three years probation and a $1,000 fine. In 1990, Suge “used a loaded pistol to break a man’s jaw.” Suge pled guilty and was given a two year suspended sentence and a $9,000 fine. During this time Suge, who was working for singer Bobby Brown as a bodyguard, became interested in the music business. He then began working for sports agent Tom Kline, who had become interested in the music business, as a “driver-bodyguard-talent scout.” While working for Kline, Suge began talking about forming his own label; however, he needed money and artists. 96

Suge began gaining artists in the same way he would later convince Tupac to sign with him: by befriending them during their time of need and giving them the assistance essential to their continued success. Suge formed a relationship with Tracy “The D.O.C.” Curry of N.W.A. 97 while he was in the hospital “after a serious auto accident.” Suge managed to convince The D.O.C and fellow N.W.A. member Andre “Dr. Dre” Young, that Easy-E 98 was “robbing” them “blind.” 99

Suge also offered The D.O.C protection since The D.O.C. had become a target to “hard-core gang bangers who believed that whipping his ass would give them status on the streets.” According to The D.O.C., one night when he was leaving a club, “some nigga run up on me like he was fixin’ to hit me in the jaw.

96 Ibid.
97 Niggas With Attitude.
98 Who owned N.W.A’s label, Ruthless Records and was a member of the group.
99 Randall Sullivan, Labyrinth.
Suge just tore his ass up. I mean he broke him down to his component parts.”

Suge would also later offer Dr. Dre and Tupac protection from fans, lawsuits, and law enforcement.100

Suge began signing artists, one of whom was Mario “Chocolate” Johnson. Johnson claimed he had written and produced Robert “Vanilla Ice” VanWinkle’s hit “Ice Ice Baby.” In a media interview,101 Johnson stated that he was unable to contact Vanilla Ice about being paid for his contributions. Johnson informed Suge about this, and according to Suge, he went to get “paid, and get my client paid.”102

In a Prime Time Live interview with Vanilla Ice, Ice claimed Suge began intimidating him in an attempt to get the rights to the songs. In the final instance, Ice claimed that Suge showed up to his fifteenth floor suite at the Bel Ages Hotel with several companions. Suge and his companions displayed guns, and drove Ice’s body guards out of the room, leaving them alone with Ice. Ice was escorted to the balcony, where he was threatened by Suge that he would be thrown over the railing unless he signed over the rights to the songs. Ice signed over the rights to several lucrative songs, without any compensation for himself. Suge denied that this incident occurred, and claimed that he had merely negotiated well for his

100 Ibid.
101 Welcome To Death Row Records Produced by Xenon Pictures, Inc. Directed by Leigh Savage. 104 minutes. Xenon Pictures, 2001 DVD.
102 Ibid.
artist’s interests. Ice would also later retract his statements to Prime Time Live, and claimed that he wanted to sign over the rights to the songs.103

Suge then attempted to intimidate Easy-E and Jerry Heller, who were holding The D.O.C. and Dr. Dre under a “draconian” contract, into letting both the artists go. The level of intimidation rose to the point that Heller began taking a different route home every day, placed guns in various places in his home where he could “get caught,” and hired armed body guards, one of whom was named “Animal.” Eventually Suge would claim that he made those body guards crawl on their hands and knees like “dogs.” but Heller never released The D.O.C. and Dr. Dre; only Easy-E could do that.104

Negotiations began between the two groups, with Easy-E and Jerry Heller on one side, and on the other Suge, his new business partner Dick Griffey105 and Sony Records.106 Griffey informed Sony that they were trying to get Dr. Dre, and Sony offered Easy-E and Ruthless Records a million dollars for “Dre’s music publishing rights.” The two parties were still negotiating in April 1991, when Dr. Dre called Easy-E and invited him to a meeting at the Solar Records building to “discuss our differences.”107

103 Ibid.
104 Ibid.
105 Chairman of Solar Records.
106 Who had signed a deal with Griffey for several albums.
107 Randall Sullivan, Labyrinth.
Easy-E showed up to the meeting without his security team to speak with Dre; however, Easy-E was met by Knight and “two thugs.” Suge informed Easy-E that several artists wanted to leave Ruthless Records. Easy-E refused, and according to Easy-E, Suge informed him that he was holding “Jerry Heller hostage in a van outside” and he knew where Easy-E’s mother lived. While Suge denies that this ever took place, Easy-E signed away “five of his top acts—including the leading talent in rap—for no compensation whatever,” despite being offered a million dollars for just Dr. Dre.

With Dr. Dre and the other talented artists Suge had obtained from Ruthless Records for free, he was ready to start his label, but he still needed money. Suge’s “first major investor” was “legendary drug lord and ‘Ghetto Godfather,’ Michael “Harry-O” Harris.” While Suge would later deny that Harry-O had anything to do with Death Row Records, in a video filmed at the

108 Ibid.
109 Ibid.
110 Ibid.
111 When Harris, a Bloods gang member, later testified before the grand jury, he stated that he funded Death Row Records from the start. Harris also testified that the “link between” Harris and Suge was David Kenner, a criminal attorney. Kenner was handling Harris’ appeal when he set up the meeting between Harris and Suge. Kenner drafted a contract that “gave Suge control of Death Row’s day-to-day operations,” while Harris, who invested $1.5 million as start up capital, “provided the company’s overall philosophy and direction.”
party celebrating the start of Death Row Records, Kenner thanked “Harry-O” for his support.  

By the end of the Death Row Records “first full year in business” it had grossed more than $60 million dollars. Death Row Records was also quickly becoming known as “the first Gangsta rap label owned by real gangstas.” Suge exploited his ties to the Compton Mob Piru Bloods, and had Blood gang members acting as his “security personnel” all of whom were allowed to bring guns inside Death Row Records’ Tarzana studios. The décor of those studios, in true Blood fashion, was deep red, except for the white outline of Death Row’s logo, which consisted of “a man strapped to an electric chair with a sack over his head.”

Suge continued to gather artists in the same manner he used to convince The D.O.C. and Dr. Dre to work for him, by exploiting their needs. By the time Suge met with Tupac in prison, Suge was firmly entrenched in violence and the gang lifestyle. Suge promised to free Tupac and take care of his financial problems; however, Tupac was aware of Suge’s dark side. After signing a contract with Suge, and his label Death Row Records, Tupac hugged his childhood friend Watani Tyehimba, who begged him not to sign, and Tupac sobbed, “I know I’m selling my soul to the devil.”

112 Welcome To Death Row Records, DVD.
113 Ibid.
114 Randall Sullivan, Labyrinth.
Signing Tupac to the Death Row label gave Suge one of the most promising West Coast rappers. In an effort to keep Tupac happy, Suge spared no expense, buying Tupac lavish gifts, and putting his family up in expensive hotels. Tupac and Suge’s relationship became one of dependence; Suge was dependent on Tupac as his biggest moneymaker, and Tupac was dependent on Suge to pay his various lawsuits and keep the people who depended on him fed, clothed, and housed. This meant Tupac was forced to play the part of the “gangsta” in order to sell records, and keep Suge happy, who was enjoying being a gangster himself.

According to documentarian Nick Broomfield, who chronicled the lives and deaths of Tupac and Biggie in his film, *Biggie and Tupac*:

Tupac called Suge Knight “The Godfather” and they would endlessly watch *The Untouchables*. It was like they were playing parts in a movie. They called Death Row the “Untouchable Death Row.” Tupac called himself “The Don” and loved playing the part of the gangster.¹¹⁵

Furthermore, according to Sullivan, Suge was,

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obsessed with the Cuban drug dealer Tony Montana, played by Al Pacino in the film Scarface, Suge began to mimic the character’s paranoia, filling a cabinet behind his desk with six television sets that permitted him to supervise virtually every square inch of Death Row’s studios.\textsuperscript{116}

Suge’s paranoia coupled with his need to push the image of a gang lifestyle, led to the extreme “beef”\textsuperscript{117} between Suge, who was head of the premier West Coast label, and Sean “Puffy” Combs, head of Bad Boy Entertainment, the premier East Coast label. Furthermore, Suge held Puffy responsible for the death of his bodyguard, close friend, and fellow Mob Piru Blood, Jake “The Violator” Robles.\textsuperscript{118}

Robles’ death occurred at a birthday party for Jermaine Dupri, in Atlanta Georgia, at the Platinum Club. According to an off-duty deputy who was working the door as a bouncer, shortly after 4AM, “he was alerted to an argument” that was about to “become a brawl.” The deputy responded to the growing incident, and observed Suge and Robles “faced off against Puffy Comb’s cousin ‘Wolf’ and four other men he believed to be Crips.” The deputy began dispersing the crowd, and ordered Wolf and his entourage to leave, while Suge and Robles were to remain in the club to give Wolf time to leave. Everyone “reluctantly” agreed,

\textsuperscript{116} Randall Sullivan, \textit{Labyrinth}.
\textsuperscript{117} Dispute or problem.
\textsuperscript{118} Randall Sullivan, \textit{Labyrinth}. 
however Suge and Robles “became anxious to leave” and went to their waiting limo. They got in, but immediately got back out again to confront Wolf and his associates. The deputy observed that Wolf had a gun, and chased him to the back of the club, but lost him in the parking lot among the cars. When the deputy began to return to the club, he “heard three gunshots.” When the deputy got back to Suge’s limo, he observed Robles on the ground “mortally wounded.” As people began to flee, Puffy “stepped up to Suge and asked what had happened. Suge gestured to the prone figure of his friend and told Puffy, “You had something to do with this!”’” Suge would later insist that Puffy had put a “contract” out on him, and that Robles had foiled the murder attempt and given his life for Suge.\textsuperscript{119}

Tupac, as part of Death Row Records, was “required” to hate Puffy, and Puffy’s biggest star, Biggie Smalls. Tupac did not seem adverse to this, since he blamed Puffy and Biggie for his own attack. Tupac’s willingness to follow Suge resulted in an incident at the Death Row Christmas party at the Chateau Le Blanc mansion, where Mark Anthony Bell was attacked by Suge, Tupac and their entourage.\textsuperscript{120}

Bell had known Puffy since high school, and had occasionally worked for him as well. Sometime in September, “shortly after Jake Robles death,” Bell was contacted by an unknown man who offered Bell a “record deal” if he wrote

\textsuperscript{119} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{120} Ibid.
Puffy’s and his mother’s home addresses on a piece of paper and dropped it outside his door. Bell refused, and later stated that he felt that the unknown man was an employee of Death Row Records.  

Three months later, Bell was in Los Angeles with his friend photographer Richard Nixon, who was hired to photograph guests at Death Row’s Christmas party. Both men arrived at the party around 10:30PM. At approximately 2:00AM, Suge and his entourage showed up, and approached Bell asking, “Why didn’t you cooperate when you had the chance?” Bell claimed that he did not know where Puffy or his mother lived. Suge invited Bell to the “VIP room for a little chat,” and before Bell could refuse, he was “surrounded by six other men.” Bell recognized two of the men as Dr. Dre and Tupac. The VIP room was cleared once they all arrived, and Bell was told to sit in a chair in the middle of the room, while Suge sat in another chair “directly in front of him, while the others formed a semi-circle to his right and left.” Suge demanded to know why Bell “wouldn’t cooperate” and began asking him a “series of questions” about Puffy, while Tupac whispered in Suge’s ear. An “especially scary looking Blood” with gold crowns

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121 Ibid.  
122 Ibid.  
123 Ibid.  
124 Ibid.  
125 Ibid.
covering his teeth, “began to pace back and forth” and hit Bell “several times in
the face” while saying “This is for Jake.”

The unnamed Blood also informed Bell that they were planning to “kill”
him. Suge went to the bathroom and when he came back he had a champagne
flute filled with urine, which he attempted to force Bell to drink. Bell refused, and
the Blood struck Bell in the face again. Bell, understanding that he was a “dead
man” dropped the champagne flute and ran across the room, in an attempt to
escape via the balcony that was “suspended above the mansion’s main
entrance.” Bell was caught before he was able to get over the guardrail, and all
of those who were in the VIP room began beating Bell and trying to pull him
away from the railing. When Bell finally let go of the railing, he was punched,
kicked, and had bottles swung at him, as Suge bellowed, “Body blows only!” Bell
was also choked by the Blood, until he “nearly passed out.” The assault
ended when Bell “played dead” on the floor. Suge eventually allowed Bell to
stand up, and told him to clean up, while a couple of men were talking excitedly
“on what appeared to be police radios.” Suge directed those in the room “Don’t
let him leave till he’s cleaned up,” and then left, taking the Blood and Tupac with
him.

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126 Ibid.
127 Ibid.
128 Ibid.
129 Ibid.
Nixon, having observed Bell being escorted to the VIP room, stated that he “knew something wasn’t right.” Nixon’s suspicions were confirmed when fifteen minutes later he observed Bell on the balcony being assaulted. Nixon called the police “on a pay phone and fled the scene.”

When the police arrived, they observed that Bell had multiple injuries, but Bell claimed to have fallen. Bell did not report his assault to police until four days later, and the District Attorney’s office refused to prosecute Suge or Tupac. This re-affirmed the feeling of invulnerability around Death Row, as this and other assaults were swept under the rug.

By early 1996, Tupac released his album, *All Eyez on Me*, which sold “more than half a million copies during its first week in stores.” Tupac also released two “diss songs” that year about Biggie Smalls and his wife, Faith Evans. Tupac had been seen at several parties with Evans before the song came out, and had called him “mad cool.” Evans was shocked at the contents of the songs, one of which informed Biggie, “I fucked your bitch, you fat motherfucker.” Biggie responded to this via an interview with a reporter, “If honey was to give you the pussy, why would you disrespect her like that?”

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130 Ibid.
131 Ibid.
132 One rapper creating a rap song that disrespects another rapper.
133 *Hit ‘Em Up.*
134 *Biggie & Tupac*, DVD.
Biggie and Tupac both attended the Soul Train Awards in Los Angeles, a little more than a month after the release of All Eyez on Me. Biggie accepted his award, and thanked Brooklyn while “jeers erupted from the Death Row section.” Afterward, Tupac and Biggie “came face to face for the first time in almost two years,” Biggie looked into Tupac’s eyes and thought “Yo, this nigga is really buggin’ the fuck out.” Suge and several Bloods were with Tupac, and both Tupac and Suge began to shout that “We gonna settle this right now!” L’il Cesar, a Bad Boy artist, “shouted from behind the Southside Crips who were working security for Biggie, “Fuck you! Fuck you, nigga! East Coast mother fucker.’” The yelling continued and “the two sides faced off” until one of the Crips “drew a gun.” The crowd scattered while the “gang bangers” scuffled.135

As the violence around Suge increased, artists began making moves to get away from him. By April 1996, Dr. Dre called Jimmy Iovine at Interscope Records, and informed him that he wanted to leave Death Row and start his own label. Dre explained his reasoning in an interview, “The mentality is that you have to be mad at somebody in order for yourself to feel good or make a record.” Most people did not understand why Suge gave up Dre so easily; however it was later revealed that Dre gave up “an enormous financial stake” in Death Row to gain his freedom.136

135 Randall Sullivan, Labyrinth.
136 Ibid.
Tupac, in an effort to remain on Suge’s good side, began openly dissing Dre, “He was owning the company and chillin’ in his house, while I’m out here in the streets stompin’ nigga’s asses, startin’ wars and shit, droppin; albums, doin’ my thang, and this nigga takin’ three years to do one song!” Tupac also recorded two songs that accused Dre of being a closet homosexual.\textsuperscript{137}

Even though Death Row was focused on dissing Dre, it appeared that the Bad Boy vs. Death Row feud had become more violent; and real to everyone involved, as both Biggie and Puffy stopped denying that it existed. In April of 1996, Suge announced that he “intended to open an East Coast division” of Death Row Records in Manhattan. Tupac informed an Oakland radio station that Suge was planned on signing “New York-based acts like Big Daddy Kane and Wu-Tang Clan.” These announcements led to more East vs. West animus, as it appeared that Suge was attempting to take over the world of rap.\textsuperscript{138}

Suge was also making moves in Las Vegas, since he had property there, including a house “two doors down” from Mike Tyson. According to Sullivan, Suge had seen the house in the Martin Scorsese film \textit{Casino}. Suge also “took possession” of a club known as Botany’s, when it was owned by a man who had been convicted of “helping the Chicago mob skim money from the Stardust

\textsuperscript{137} Biggie \& Tupac, DVD. 
\textsuperscript{138} Ibid.
hotel.” Suge renamed it the 662 Club, which had various meanings. The first of which was that it spelled MOB, or Member of the Bloods. Tupac stated that MOB also meant Money Over Bitches. The final interpretation was that 662 is the part of the California Penal code that referred to Death Row inmates.

By August 1996, it was clear that Tupac was attempting to move away from Death Row Records when he fired his attorney David Kenner. A week later, at the MTV Awards show, Tupac attempted to de-escalate the situation between Death Row and Bad Boy by stating, “We are business men. We are not animals. It’s not like we’re going to see them and rush them and jump on them.” Tupac, in an effort to keep the peace, spoke to Suge at the awards show. Suge used the opportunity to invite Tupac to the Mike Tyson vs. Bruce Seldon fight in Las Vegas on September 7th.

Tupac went to Las Vegas to watch the fight, despite knowing that he was in a dangerous position since he was attempting to leave Death Row Records. Tupac’s bodyguard, ex-police officer Frank Alexander “fretted about Tupac’s vulnerability” while members of Death Row noticed that Tupac was not wearing the medallion that Suge had presented him, but one of his own making. This new medallion was “the emblem he had chosen for his own company, Euphanasia: a

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139 Ibid.
140 Using a telephone pad.
141 Randall Sullivan, Labyrinth.
142 Ibid.
black angel of death, on its knees, head tilted down, backed by enormous wings and a golden halo.”

Tupac was wearing his Euphanasia medallion when he met Suge at the MGM Grand before the fight. The fight did not last long, however, since Tyson had beaten Seldon within the first round. Tupac went backstage to congratulate Tyson, “but after only a couple of minutes Suge announced that they had to leave.” Tupac protested that this would “be the first time he had not congratulated” Tyson personally. Suge grabbed Tupac’s arm and steered him towards the exit. Tupac and Suge were accompanied by Alexander and a “Blood named Travon “Tray” Lane who approached Tupac and whispered something in his ear.” Alexander would later state that Tupac turned to look intently at a “young black man” who was waiting across the hallway “like he was anticipating the arrival of someone.” The man was later identified as Orlando “Baby Lane” Anderson, one of the Southside Crips that had supposedly “jumped” Lane, and stolen his Death Row medallion as they beat him.

In an effort to show Suge that he was still loyal, Tupac “charged across the hallway, toward Anderson, trailed by Knight and his entourage.” According to video taken by the MGM security cameras, and shown at Suge’s later trial for a violation of his probation, Tupac threw a punch at Anderson knocking him to the

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143 Ibid.
144 Ibid.
ground. Anderson offered “almost no resistance” as Suge, Tupac and Lane surrounded Anderson, “punching, kicking and stomping” him. During the melee, Tupac’s medallion was torn off of him and fell to the ground. As Tupac bent over to pick up the medallion, Alexander grabbed Tupac and moved him towards the nearest exit.  

Once Tupac was outside, he and Alexander were spotted by some fans that “chased them back to the Luxor.” Tupac changed his clothes and got ready to go to the 662 Club for a party. When Tupac and Alexander went to the main entrance to the Luxor, Suge and the rest of those with Death Row Records were loading up into various cars. Tupac attempted to ride in the Hummer with Alexander, however, Suge informed Tupac that they had “private business to discuss” and insisted that Tupac ride alone with him in his new BMW. After a stop at Suge’s home, the caravan went towards the Strip, where they were flagged down by a police officer who made them turn their music down. The caravan approached the Maxim hotel, and now had dozens of cars following them, “mostly with young women.” As women attempted to “catch Tupac’s attention,” who was in the passenger’s seat, a white Cadillac “screeched to a stop slightly in front and to the right” of Suge’s car.  

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145 Ibid.  
146 Ibid.
The Cadillac carried four black males, and the one in the “left rear seat opened his window, extending the .40 caliber Glock he used to spray” Tupac’s side of the car with ten to fifteen bullets. As the shots rang out, Tupac attempted to get over the front seat to take cover in the back, but was shot four times before he could get there. In a move that would later cause law enforcement to question Suge’s role and motives in the attack, Suge made a U-turn against oncoming traffic, and continued to try to speed away without calling emergency services for Tupac. Police, who had heard the shots, managed to catch up to Suge, but only because two of the car’s tires had been shot out.\textsuperscript{147}

Tupac was taken to the University Medical Center, but by the time he arrived he had “lost a lot of blood.” Tupac’s “shattered left lung” was removed in the first surgery. He was given a “fifty-fifty chance of survival” by doctors and when he “regained consciousness” he was given even better odds. His fans gathered outside of the hospital, and inside the lobby with the Outlaw Immortalz who held a prayer vigil.\textsuperscript{148} Tupac was pronounced dead at 4:04 PM on Friday, September 13\textsuperscript{th} 1996. The cause of death was “respiratory failure and cardiopulmonary arrest.”

Tupac’s death was a turning point for gangsta rap. Tupac, while not the first rapper to be murdered, he was easily one of the most recognized. With

\textsuperscript{147} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{148} Ibid.
Tupac’s murder came people attempting to cope with the death of someone to whom they had closely identified. Tupac’s poetry and lyrics became ways for people to understand his duality. Tupac was seen as a thug and gangster for the most publicized part of his career, but his poetry speaks to his duality, and the reasons why he was such an influence on the rappers who followed. Tupac took topics that people were dealing with in the ghettos of the inner cities across the United States, and gave those topics that had never been spoken about a voice. In one instance, Tupac was inspired by the story of “Brenda,” a twelve year old girl who was impregnated by her much older “molester” cousin, hid her pregnancy, and whose baby was thrown down the trash shoot.\textsuperscript{149} By writing and recording \textit{Brenda’s Got A Baby}, Tupac gave a voice to the women that rap ignored, except to call them “bitches and hoes.”\textsuperscript{150}

Tupac was one of the first mainstream rappers to combine all of the elements integral to the evolution of gangs and hip-hop: crack, gangsta rap, and gangs. Tupac’s mother was a crack addict, whose addiction fundamentally changed how Tupac looked at crack, and how he rapped about it. Tupac was not a drug dealer, although, according to one interview he gave, the drug dealers in the neighborhood often helped him out, giving him money to support himself.\textsuperscript{151}

\begin{flushright}
\textsuperscript{149} Ibid.  \\
\textsuperscript{150} Ibid.  \\
\textsuperscript{151} \textit{Thug Angel}, DVD.
\end{flushright}
Tupac became associated with gang members in order to be able to become a rapper. Despite renouncing Thug Life while in prison, Tupac was forced by the entertainment world to become what he rapped about; a hard-core thug who did not fear death. Tupac used rap to entertain people, but he also attempted to educate them. There are snippets of songs and in interviews in which Tupac goes back to his Panther roots, and attempts to call attention to the lives of African Americans caught in the mire of the ghettos.

Tupac was able to highlight those who had been forgotten or overlooked by mainstream society. After his death, other rappers emerged who also rapped about crack and how it destroyed their communities. These new rappers, much like Tupac, combined all of the elements integral to the evolution of gangs and hip-hop; however, instead of being Blood and Crip based, these new gangs, would be hybrid gangs, based on neither Blood nor Crip principles.
Chapter 5

MAC DRE AND THE ROMPER ROOM GANG

The crack cocaine epidemic changed Vallejo, California as much as it did the rest of the country, and the “Crest,” – a housing project that was at the center of that change. Those who lived in the Crest experienced the same poverty and sense of hopelessness as those caught in any American ghetto. Much like Los Angeles, this was reflected in the lyrics of those artists lucky enough to have their music produced. Gangsta rap provided a way for those mired in the Crest to fulfill their desperate wishes. According to most, the Bay Area includes San Francisco, Oakland, Vallejo, and other surrounding cities. Furthermore, the Bay Area has a history similar to that of Los Angeles: black migration from the South during WWII; tensions between African American citizens and the police; the emergence of the Black Panther party in the 1960s; and the crack epidemic in the 1980s. Also emerging in the 1980s and 1990s were Bay Area-based artists such as MC Hammer and Too Short. While it has never been truly recognized as a musical focal point, Bay Area based artists have always created and produced music, creating a window into the ghettos of Vallejo, along with other cities.

152 Country Club Crest.
153 Such as Richmond.
154 Ghostride the Whip. Produced and directed by DJ Vlad. 83 minutes. Image Entertainment. 2008 DVD.
Andre “Mac Dre” Hicks

One of these was Andre “Mac Dre” Hicks. Growing up near the Crest, Dre was subject to the crime and poverty that comes with living in a low-income area that had been destroyed by crack cocaine.\(^{155}\) Dre’s inventive lyrics and ability to articulate life in the Crest gave him instant credibility with his underground audience. However, before he could reach that audience, Mac Dre needed money, which is where his gang, the Romper Room, came in.\(^{156}\)

According to Detective McGraw of the Vallejo Police Department (VPD), in a Black Entertainment Television (BET) documentary entitled *American Gangster: Romper Room Gang*, the Romper Room gang was a tightly knit band from the Crest.\(^{157}\) Two of these boys, Jamal Diggs and Simon “Coolio Da Unda Dogg” Curtis, would later mature into the main players in the Romper Room gang. Within the documentary’s narrative, Diggs states that the Romper Room gang’s name came from a kid’s show, and also due to the younger boys pulling pranks on the older “homeboys” from the gangs in the area. Soon, the

\(^{155}\) Ibid.
\(^{156}\) Ibid.
gang’s criminal activities would evolve from drug dealing to bank robbery while Dre began to evolve from a neighborhood kid to an underground rap star.\footnote{158}

According to Diggs, Dre’s first appearance as a rapper was at a local Boys Club. By the late 1980s, Dre had released his first song, “Too Hard For the Fucking Radio.” It was on a cassette tape, and was passed around until it became an “underground sensation.” Based on the success of “Too Hard For the Fucking Radio,” Dre released his first album, \textit{Young Black Brother}, which coincided with the time the Romper Room gang began committing robberies, which police believed were financing Dre’s music.\footnote{159}

During the early 1990s, the Romper Room gang needed a more lucrative way to earn money, and began doing “licks,” or robberies, of pizza parlors. According to Diggs, it was “easy money” if you picked the right pizza parlor, and robbed it at the right time. Diggs articulated that the robberies would be conducted in “takeover style” in which the robbers would quickly enter, secure any patrons and employees, demand money, and leave quickly. Diggs states that everything was always done in the same fashion, quick and methodical.\footnote{160}

The VPD had received several leads that made them believe that those responsible were tied to the Crest, began surveilling the Crest, and following those who came out of it. Since there were only two ways in and out, it was a

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\begin{itemize}
    \item \footnote{158}{Ibid.}
    \item \footnote{159}{Ibid.}
    \item \footnote{160}{Ibid.}
\end{itemize}
naturally “insulated” community, which made surveilling it easier in some aspects, and harder in others. According to Diggs, they all knew they were being watched, and they were being stopped constantly. Curtis claimed “they aren’t even calling us by our government names;” instead they referred to all three by the names they rapped under. Curtis also claimed that due to the “harassment” from the VPD, Dre wrote *Punk Police*, which taunted the VPD’s inability to arrest the criminals responsible for the robberies, and detailed the harassment Dre faced.\(^{161}\)

All three believed that they were still safe, since there was no way that law enforcement linked them to any specific crimes. That would change when the FBI and VPD found an informant. According to FBI Agent Michael Repucci, during the trial of Diggs, Dre, and Curtis, the FBI and VPD’s informant, Cory DeAndre Dunn, was used by the three men to steal getaway cars used in the robberies.\(^{162}\) The FBI rented a car for Dunn to claim that he had stolen it, and used a “trustee” at the jail to make the car appear as if it had been stolen by altering the steering column. Dunn was then given the car, and was supposed to give it to Dre, Diggs, and Curtis to use in a robbery in Fresno. According to Detective Becker of VPD, Dunn was “wired for sound,”\(^{163}\) and that during the drive from Vallejo to a hotel

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\(^{161}\) Ibid.  
\(^{162}\) United States vs. Simon Curtis, Jamal Diggs, and Andre Hicks. Fresno California  
\(^{163}\) Had a recording system on his person.
in Fresno, Diggs, Dre, and Curtis discussed the robbery, which was scheduled to take place March 26th.

According to FBI Agent Lindsay Gentry, who worked the surveillance on March 26th, there were three people in the car, Dre, Diggs, and Curtis, along with the informant. Gentry observed the car enter downtown Fresno where it made numerous circles, first going past the Bank of America, then the First Interstate Bank. According to Gentry, there were numerous vehicles and an airplane involved in the surveillance, which were necessary since Diggs, Curtis, and Dre engaged in counter surveillance techniques that consisted of rapid lane changes and erratic driving including excessive speeding, and slowing down unnecessarily.

According to Fresno Police Department Detective Frank Rose, once the suspect felt safe enough, they went to the bank intending to rob it. However, once they arrived at the Bank of America, Diggs observed a news van, just as he was exiting the vehicle to commit the robbery. Diggs, not sure what was taking place, immediately got back into the car and sped off. All three men were arrested shortly thereafter.

\[\text{Channel 30.}\]
While awaiting trial, Dre spent a year in the Fresno County Jail, where he recorded, via telephone, most of *Back In Da Hood*. Dre also gave an interview via phone to 106 KMEL, a Bay Area based radio station, to inform people of the circumstances of his arrest. During the interview, Dre mentioned that Dunn was an FBI informant. KMEL broadcasted the entire interview, including the portion labeling Dunn a snitch. The next day the FBI showed up and spoke with the owners of the station, warning them of the consequences if the informant’s name was broadcast again.

During his trial, Dre explained his song, “Punk Police,” which was played during opening statements. According to Dre, his song was a way for him to express how he was being treated by the VPD, and the criminal justice system. Dre claimed that he was innocent in the song: “I’m not criminal minded, punk police. I’m a dope rhyme dealer, not a money stealer.” Dre went on to make fun of the VPD’s efforts, as they were “steady accusing, but these cases you losin,” which Dre said meant they were constantly filing charges but could prove nothing. Dre even went so far to call out a specific member of the VPD, “Ima dedicate this to Detective McGraw,” because Dre felt McGraw was the one pushing for the arrest of the Romper Room gang members.

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165 The rest was recorded at U.S.P. Lompoc, which is where Dre was sent after he was convicted.
166 *American Gangster: The Romper Room.*
167 *US vs. Curtis, Diggs, and Hicks.*
Dre went on to state,

Punk police with a one-track mind,
Man ya can't even find who's been robbin' ya blind.
You got deuced so you had to blame somebody.
What's next? You gon' frame somebody?\textsuperscript{168}

Dre articulated that he felt the police brought a case against him because they had to accuse someone. Dre then made references to civil rights issues.\textsuperscript{169}

Punk police are nothing clean,
Look how they did Rodney King.
In every neighborhood, state, city and town, a crooked policeman can be found. Off duty he neva would squab hard,
But give 'em that gat, badge, and that squad car,
Then it's jack time, Fuck wit a black time.
I'm talkin real man, listen to a Mac rhyme.\textsuperscript{170}

\textsuperscript{168}\textit{US vs. Curtis, Diggs, and Hicks:} Played at trial
\textsuperscript{169}\textit{Ibid}
\textsuperscript{170}\textit{Ibid}
During questioning, Dre stated that there was a Romper Room gang, however, Dre claimed he was not a member. Dre stated that the Romper Room Gang came into existence when he was, like sixteen. When I first started hanging out in the Crest, the older generation, the older guys used to call the younger people in the Crest the Romper Room because they used to ride around happy-go-lucky. They named them after the kids TV show “The Romper Room.”

Dre also stated that there were requirements to join, two of which was growing up and living in the Crest, neither of which he met. While Dre claimed he was not a part of these robberies, law enforcement’s primary suspects were financing his music, and that information coupled with an informant’s testimony was enough to send him to prison.

In the end, VPD Detective Nichelman stated that the task force believed there were forty-seven robberies that could be attributed to the Romper Room Gang. By 1992, the FBI and the Vallejo Gang Suppression Task Force had enough evidence to prosecute, and convicted Mac Dre of conspiracy to rob a bank, while Diggs was convicted of attempting to rob a bank. According to Diggs,

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171 Which was he referred to as the Romper Room Crew
172 US vs. Curtis, Diggs, and Hicks
173 US vs. Curtis, Diggs, and Hicks
Dre was convicted because Dre refused to “snitch.” After the convictions, the FBI called 106 KMEL, and dedicated a song to Dre, “I Fought the Law, and the Law Won.” Dre was sentenced to five years in a federal institution.\(^{174}\)

Upon his release in 1996, Mac Dre was a changed man. According to Diggs, instead of wanting to continue his hard-core gang lifestyle, Dre realized that the lifestyle he yearned for was one that included a non-stop party.\(^{175}\)

*Mac Dre and the Hyphy Movement*

Upon his release from prison, Mac Dre’s epiphany was that life is “too short” to be a hard-core gangster all the time.\(^{176}\) This realization led to his transition into the Hyphy movement, the radical over-the-top musical movement centering on partying and drug use\(^{177}\) that originated in the Bay Area.

Hyphy was born from a few key historical changes in gang life and music, and is essentially a reformulation of Bay Area hip-hop. Hyphy’s ties to music and drugs is reminiscent of Gangsta rap’s ties to crack; however, in the case of Gangsta rap, which encourages *selling* drugs, Hyphy culture focuses on drug *use*. This change reflects how rap has evolved in the Bay Area in an effort to mirror the lives of those it represents.

\(^{174}\) *American Gangster: The Romper Room Gang*  
\(^{175}\) Ibid  
\(^{176}\) *E-40 & The Hype on Hyphy*. Produced by Denise Williams. Directed by Adam Rothlein. Reprise Records. 80 minutes. DVD.  
\(^{177}\) Specifically ecstasy and marijuana.
According to Earl “E-40” Stevens, a recognized Bay Area Hyphy artist, Hyphy is a

Musical movement that is fueling a subculture in the Yay [Bay] Area. High energetic music. San Francisco Bay Area version of crunk... Hyphy started off without dance, it was just energy. Then it became the title of a dance. Then it became a movement, sideshows, stunna shades, dreadlocks, extreme Hyphy train parades.¹⁷⁸

While E-40’s definition may seem to be lacking, as Keak da Sneak,¹⁷⁹ a popular Hyphy artist, stated, “(you) can show (Hyphy) better than you can tell (define it).”¹⁸⁰

Hyphy is based on portions of Bay Area culture that existed long before Hyphy began. One of those pieces is the “sideshow.” The sideshow is an impromptu car show¹⁸¹ that originally began as a place for people to gather, show off their cars, and mingle. According to Traxamillionare and Stanley “Mistah F.A.B” Lox, in the song The Sideshow:

¹⁷⁸Ibid.
¹⁷⁹ Keak is also given credit for coining the phrase “Hyphy.” Supposedly, he was referred to by his mother as “hyperactive” as a child. Keak shortened “hyper” to the now famous, “Hyphy.”
¹⁸⁰ Ibid.
¹⁸¹ Rumored to have began in the Eastmont Mall parking lot.
The sideshow, they wanna shut us down
While we swang something in every corner of the town
Police mad, the streets are wild
3 o'clock in the morning and the beats is loud
Man, it don't stop, don't stop
Near Wood somebody gonna swang something in every hood
They profound wit coolest things
Now a day’s niggas would swang anything
Boxes, Buicks, buckets and Chevy’s
Driving hella fast like Mario Andretti
100 down the block on the other side.
Only time they slow down when they ghost ride,
When they hop out the car, walking, steer.
And then Thizz face, like they sippin bitter beer.
The sideshow 2006,
Ain't nothing like it was with Richie Rich.

Sideshows can start anywhere. As Dre stated, “Every club every event, someone going to start a side show. They gonna close down the freeway at the
As people attempted to “out-do” each other, the Sideshow began to change. Instead of just cruising, people began “watching ‘em swang.” A single person swanging turned into multiple cars swanging, while bystanders watched. Soon, people started dancing close to the cars, often becoming a part of the sideshow. Some of the bystanders were injured or even killed when a driver lost control of their vehicle, and hit someone.

While all types of cars are used at sideshows, the “scrapper” is one of the most prolific. When someone drives at a sideshow, it is expected that the drivers will entertain those who went to the sideshow. According to The Federation,

>We like to fuck it up. Ya’ll know what I mean. If you at the sideshow, and you come through and you ridin slow. If you don’t tear your shit up, niggas might throw a rock at your shit, like nigga, you better spin that shit, do something. Pop a tire, something nigga or we gonna tear that shit up. We gonna hop on your roof and act a goddamn fool.

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182 *Ghostride the Whip*, DVD.
183 Watching someone drive a vehicle in a manner that causes it to do skidding, 360 degree turns.
184 A scrapper is a Buick Regal or LeSabre from the 1990s or earlier. The car will have 20” or larger chrome rims that will rub or scrape the cars wheel wells.
185 Ibid.
Drivers also began “ghost riding the whip,”\textsuperscript{186} which, while slower than swanging, is still as dangerous. According to Mistah F.A.B., “It’s like walking the dog. Member, when you do the yo-yo. You walk the yo-yo, you walk the doggie? Walk ya car, man.”

As more people began to attend these sideshows, the police throughout the Bay Area began to take action, confiscating cars and citing people. This did deter some; however, as Dre stated in an interview, police “used to come through with riot gear. Trying to shut it down. Its not gonna stop. We gonna swang till we pop. That’s what niggas do in the Bay. We drive crazy.”\textsuperscript{187} Dre also stated that some “niggas get sideshowed out.” Dre explained that this meant that the driver had wrecked their car, “wrapped that thing out,” gone home, gotten their second car, and wrecked it.\textsuperscript{188}

While sideshows are an integral part of the Hyphy movement, dancing is even more important. According to MC Hammer,

The very essence of the Hyphy movement is dancing. The Hyphy movement is based around going dumb, which is dancing. Dancing is

\textsuperscript{186} When a driver jumps out of their slow moving vehicle and walks or dances along side it while the car rolls along without a driver. The door is normally left open, and some drivers prefer to ride on the hood or the door. Passengers also get out and participate in the same manner as the driver.

\textsuperscript{187} Ibid.

\textsuperscript{188} Ibid.
essential to hip-hop, cause the man that controls the dance floor controls the game. 189

While each neighborhood in the Bay Area evolved its own style of dancing, they are all considered to be part of Turf dancing, or Turfin. 190 Turfin has B-boy roots, and is also closely related to Poppin. 191 It has controlled, fluid movements that attempt to take up as much “turf” as possible on the dance floor. While turfin started out in the streets of the Bay Area, it progressed to the clubs. Dre invented a number of dances that reflected the qualities of turfin, including the Thizz Face and the Furley, during which the dancers would “shake dem dreads.” 192 Dreads 193 are another portion of Bay Area culture. Shaking dem dreads is often added to turfin, and is an integral part of “going dumb.” 194

Along with the hyperactive lifestyle that the Hyphy movement not only encouraged, but expected out of the people who were a part of it, drug use came

189 Ibid.
190 TURF stands for Tearing Up Room on the Floor according to the Architeckz, a dance group that has appeared in multiple Hyphy music videos.
192 Which means to shake your dreadlocked hair from side to side and up and down wildly.
193 Matted coils of hair.
194 Going dumb is putting together most, if not all, the portions of the Hyphy movement
to the forefront quickly. The marijuana popularized by the Hyphy movement is called “Purp”\textsuperscript{195} and is considered to be extremely potent.

Ecstasy is a drug that was seen primarily in raves and the club scene before it became popular within the Hyphy movement.\textsuperscript{196} As Ecstasy began to become popular in the Bay Area, Dre, with his finger on the pulse of the culture that he had become a symbol of, incorporated the trend into his music. Dre began calling ecstasy “Thizz” and used the “T” symbol to represent it in his performances. Dre also put Ecstasy on the cover of one of his albums, \textit{Pill Clinton}.

By combining the party atmosphere of Hyphy music, recklessness of the sideshows, dangerousness of drug use, and the style of dreads and stunna shades, the Bay Area successfully created it’s own African American counter culture that represented the change that black urban youth yearned for. As the Hyphy movement gained popularity, Dre, hoping for a fresh start, decided to move to Sacramento, California.\textsuperscript{197}

\textsuperscript{195} Purp is the slang word for a type of marijuana, which is also known as Grapes. It's most commonly found in the Bay Area, where it originated. Many Bay Area rap artists have referred to Purp in rap songs, such as the song \textit{I Got Grapes} by E-40, and The Federation.

\textsuperscript{196} Ecstasy induces euphoria, diminishes anxiety, and creates a sense of intimacy with others, making it the perfect party drug.

\textsuperscript{197} Renaming his company “Thizz Entertainment” in the process.
Chapter 6
THE MOVE TO SACRAMENTO

Dre, the Hyphy movement, and the Bay Area’s culture would ultimately lead to gang hybridization; however, Dre and Hyphy were not the first to migrate to Sacramento and bring change to the gangs in the area. During the 1980s, Sacramento saw the same type of migration experienced in the Bay Area, with gang members coming from Los Angeles to sell crack. This chapter will explore how migration from more urbanized cities has changed Sacramento, and will give the history of the events that have lead to Hyphy influenced gang hybridization, and explain the gang structure that currently exist in Sacramento. In effect this chapter will define the traditional, hybrid and Hyphy influenced African American gangs.

Gangs in Sacramento

Traditional gangs in Sacramento, according to Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Laura Garcia,198 “as we know” them, began in the late 1970s to early 1980s. The early gangs before the traditional gangs claimed their neighborhoods as their territory; however, unlike the traditional African

198 State of California vs. Quintin Barksdale, Terrell Cole, and Marcus Washington
American gangs of Los Angeles, Sacramento gangs were not yet Blood or Crip based. Those who claimed the area known as Oak Park, located in South Sacramento, called themselves the “Funk Lords.” Those who claimed the area known as Del Paso Heights, located in North Sacramento, called themselves the “Dogs,” while those in the area known as Meadowview, located in South Sacramento, called themselves the “Dog Catchers.”

According to Garcia, during the early-to-mid 1980s, Crips and Bloods began coming up from Los Angeles to sell crack cocaine, bringing with them their gang structure and tradition, effectively creating the traditional gang. The Funk Lords became the Oak Park Bloods. The Dogs became the Del Paso Heights Bloods, and the Dog Catchers became the Meadowview Bloods, which began the tradition of naming a gang after the area or block it occupies. This type of gang still exists in Sacramento, and is referred to as a traditional gang. The traditional gang follows conventional gang knowledge in both name and “color tripping,” or having problems with another gang solely based on what color they claim.

199 Ibid.
200 Ibid.
201 A Blood example of this is the Del Paso Heights Bloods claiming Del Paso (which used to include the Strawberry Manors, until there was a conflict and the Strawberry Manors residents became the Strawberry Manors Gangsters. A Crip example of this would be the Garden Block Crips, whose territories encompass the area that used to be known as the Correla Gardens, and includes 29th Street, 24th Street, and 21st Street, and Florin (This means that a 29th Street Crip would also claim to be a Garden Block Crip).
202 Ibid.
The court records, law enforcement, and media accounts portray that one of the factors of the Blood and Crip migration from Los Angeles to Sacramento was the sale of crack cocaine via the “I-5 corridor.”\textsuperscript{203} Crack cocaine trafficking was an easy way for a young, black male with little to no education, to make money. Columnist Mari McQueen of the Sacramento Bee, for example, has detailed the early years of gangs and crack in Sacramento. McQueen reports that in Los Angeles crack cocaine was selling for about $600-800 an ounce, but in Sacramento, where the market was not flooded by an over abundance of product, crack could be priced much higher.\textsuperscript{204} This led to an exodus of Los Angeles gang members, who, according to McQueen, were arrested at an average of eleven per month from January 1987 to August 1987. McQueen also suggested that the Los Angeles gangs that migrated often used, and organized, “local youngsters” to sell their product in an effort to avoid the “more severe penalties imposed on adults.” Furthermore, McQueen alleges that the Los Angeles gang members brought more than just crack with them, they also brought the violence of the streets of Los

\textsuperscript{204} Mari McQueen \textit{Gang, Narcotics Create An Explosive Mix In Capital} Sacramento Bee 1987.
Angeles, as that by 1987, the “majority of violent crimes are connected to the use or sale of illegal drugs.”

McQueen argues that Los Angeles gangs were responsible for much of the violence in Sacramento in 1987, and that crack cocaine sales were the engine that drove gang life. By 1988, the Sacramento Police Department had created a Drug and Gang Task Force to, according to then SPD Chief John Kerns, “keep pressure on gangs and gang/drug activity.”

Similarly, Bee columnist Diana Sugg has emphasized that most of the violence in Sacramento was gang related; however, during the passage of time between McQueen’s and Suggs’ reporting new concerns arose, no longer was it Los Angeles gang members creating havoc, most of these new gangsters were born and raised in Sacramento.

Sugg’s article suggests that gang members did no longer need the Los Angeles transplants to show them how to be violent. In early 1991, there were four murders in three weeks, and even police were stunned by the level of violence, one calling it the “worst” he had seen “in years... They are just getting killed one after another.” After noting the unprecedented level of violence, Sugg detailed a gang meeting that, “according to police and a local gang member,” called together all the 29th Street Crips together, by an “unnamed parolee” in an

205 Ibid.
effort to “earn a name for himself and the gang by regrouping and retaliating for the murders of three 29th Street Crips since 1988.” 208

The violence and gang wars continued, with more innocent bystanders dying, and more people migrating to Sacramento to sell drugs and escape the life of crime ridden cities. By the 1990s, the migration was mainly coming from the Bay Area, not Los Angeles. According to columnist Stuart Leavenworth, “Everyone knows the Sacramento Area is thick with Bay Area Refugees.” 209

Leavenworth gives three reasons for people moving to Sacramento from the Bay Area. The first was that “Silicon Valley companies” began moving here, and their employees followed. The second is that some “low-income service workers” were unable to afford the rents that “top $1,500 for a two-bedroom apartment.” The third is that people who had recently sold their homes in the Bay Area at “whopping prices” and were able to purchase a home in “upscale subdivisions” for much less than they received for their Bay Area homes. Along with the law abiding citizens of the Bay Area came gang members, who quickly created a gang that reflected the characteristics of the gangs of Oakland. 210

Since the inception of African American gangs in Sacramento, there have been distinct groups defining themselves, and each other, through their specific

208 Ibid.
210 Ibid.
histories, traditions, and structures. While these distinctions may seem trivial to
the casual observer, they are, in fact, matters of life and death. In effect, gang
members live and die by their differences, which are often expressed by their
changing vocabulary. This need to highlight their dissimilarities, coupled with the
migration of Bay Area based gang structure, led to the emergence of three
different types of gangs within Sacramento.

The Sacramento African American gang’s uniqueness, therefore, lies in
the complicated histories that are used to differentiate it, which is a collective
effort on the part of gangs, media, and law enforcement. These histories are
vitaly important to understanding current realities simultaneously; however, this
gang culture is unique to Sacramento. Consequently, this next section will
examine the shift from solely traditional gang structure to a new gang reality in
which three types of gang structures fight for dominance in the urban landscape of
Sacramento.

*Hybrid Gangs of Sacramento*

According to multiple criminal and civil cases, the first hybrid gang in
Sacramento was G-Mobb. G-Mobb is a gang that was created by a group of
teenagers and young adults who came with their parents from Oakland,
California. The migrating families moved into the Franklin Villa housing
community\textsuperscript{211} and were quickly preyed upon by the local gangs already established in that area, specifically the Garden Block Crips. In order to defend themselves, the newcomers from Oakland created G-Mobb,\textsuperscript{212} fashioning it to be a replica of the type of gangs they left behind, creating what is considered to be the first hybrid gang in Sacramento. The founding members did this by following specific ideals adhered to by Bay Area based African American gangs, which included not “claiming colors”\textsuperscript{213} and identifying “themselves by the area of town” or street on which they live. Furthermore, Bay Area gang sets “refer to their gang sets as Family or Mob.” This type of gang structure is considered to be a Hybrid gang, as that it reflects Bay Area based gang structure, not the traditional gang structure of Los Angeles.


\textsuperscript{211} Which the locals often referred to as “G-Parkway.”
\textsuperscript{212} Also referred to as G-Parkway Mobb, and later, Killa Hoe Camp, which at first was a “feeder” or “pre-gang” that allowed potential members to prove their loyalty to the gang and their toughness.
\textsuperscript{213} They do not identify themselves as Crips or Bloods.
\textsuperscript{214} The complex itself is often referred to as the “G.”
G-Mobb rapidly became a force within the Franklin Villa housing complex by selling drugs, and using violence against those who got in their way, gaining a reputation for ruthlessness, and a willingness to commit heinous acts up to and including murder, in order to sell drugs and rule their territory. In an effort to afford the residents of the Franklin Villa housing complex some protection, the Sacramento Police Department (SPD) dedicated specific officers to work the area. Armed guards at the entrances were also provided by the housing association; however, this backfired as it allowed G-Mobb to become more powerful since the other gangs that used to operate in the area migrated to other areas that were not as heavily patrolled. This led to G-Mobb gang members taking over the garages of some residents, and using them as “hang outs,” where they could sell drugs without competition. Gang members also robbed residents, falsely imprisoned them in their homes, trespassed, defaced buildings, and stole property.

By July 2004, the City of Sacramento filed a gang injunction against the gang to assist police in making the area safer, by getting rid of the area’s absentee landlords, who allowed the buildings to fall into disrepair or did not screen

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215 G-Mobb controlled the drug trade in the North end of the Franklin Villa housing complex, specifically the Franklin Blvd/La Fresa Ct alley, which was nicknamed “Murder Alley” due to several murders that occurred there between 2000 and 2001. The Garden Block Crips controlled the South end of the complex, with G-Parkway being the dividing line. The Crips sold drugs in the alley between Franklin Blvd and El Mango, which was nicknamed “Crip Alley.”
tenants. The Sacramento Housing Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) took over all the homes, converted the alleyways into yards,\textsuperscript{216} began screening tenants, and rehabilitated all the buildings. The SHRA also renamed the major streets in the area, in an effort to give people a sense of change. The Franklin Villa housing complex became known as Phoenix Park and G-Parkway was renamed Shining Star Dr. The SHRA and the gang injunction also prohibited members of the gang from entering the Franklin Villa housing complex without written permission from a homeowner. This, coupled with other changes, forced G-Mobb to move out of the Franklin Villa housing complex, and take the drugs it sold elsewhere.

As it moved into other gang’s territories, and out of the 29\textsuperscript{th} Street Crips territory, G-Mobb’s relationship with other gangs in south Sacramento also changed.

G-Mobb’s long standing war, for example, with the Oak Park Bloods intensified, as both groups had emerging subsets that were competing for money, power, and respect. According to trial transcripts, G-Mobb spawned the Bad Ass Young Stars (BAY), which evolved into the Starz/Stick Up Starz/Starz Up/Bad Ass Youngsters.\textsuperscript{217} While they were no longer allowed to congregate in the G-Parkway area since it had been revitalized, BAY gang members still paid homage to the G-Parkway O.G.’s\textsuperscript{218} by naming themselves after G-Parkway’s new name, Shining Star Dr. BAY members also wore their hair in dreadlocks, just like the

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{216} To help deter crime and loitering.
\item \textsuperscript{217} State of California vs. Marvel Barksdale
\item \textsuperscript{218} Original Gangsters
\end{itemize}
members of G-Mobb did; however, they began dying the tips of their hair to indicate which illegal activities they were involved in.\textsuperscript{219}

By 2006, another subset of G-Mobb emerged, the Guttah Boiz, which, according to Detective Scott MacLafferty, was primarily made of young kids that were in middle schools and high schools. This meant that G-Mobb members were the oldest gang members, BAY gang members were in the middle, and Guttah Boiz were the youngest gang members under the “G-Mobb umbrella.” Despite the age differences, all of those who are G-Mobb, or affiliated with the gang, all have of the same enemies.

\textit{Hyphy Influenced Gangs}

From at least 2006 to present, the most violent enemies of G-Mobb are the Oak Park Bloods, and its main subsets, the Fourth Avenue Bloods/ Fuck A Bitch (FAB) and Ridezilla. FAB, a Hyphy influenced gang, has ties to a traditional gang, the Oak Park Bloods, but is still influenced by hybrid gangs in how it represents itself. Furthermore, FAB is the largest subset of the Oak Park Bloods, and has a subset of it’s own, the Hot Boys.

According to SPD Detective Wendy Brown, Ridezilla is a distinctly different type of gang that had not been seen in Sacramento before G-Mobb’s arrival. Ridezilla is mainly made up of Oak Park Bloods, however, unlike other

\textsuperscript{219} \textit{State of California vs. Marcellus Motley}
gangs it is also made up of members from other gangs including the Meadowview Bloods and Valley High Pirus, and does not “color trip.” This new clique was made up all of G-Mobb’s enemies, and is primarily portrayed to be one of the most violent gangs in Sacramento. According to Brown, the “reputation for Ridezilla is all about the soldiers, the gang members having guns, using guns, being people who are willing to commit crimes with gangs.”

G-Mobb’s and the other Bay Area resident’s migration changed not only South Sacramento gangs, but North Sacramento gangs as well. While it used to be primarily the Del Paso Heights Bloods and the North Highlands Gangster Crips who fought, both gangs now have subsets that have been influenced by hybrid gang structure and are increasingly violent, despite their often small size.

Stoops states that Beast Mobb has been around since “at least 2002,” and was created by Ahmed Epps.221 Sacramento Sheriff Department (SSD) Detective Robert Quinn notes that Beast Mob was as a “black rag gang”, which means that it did not claim Blood or Crip affiliation.222 Quinn also stated that slowly, over time, Beast Mobb has aligned with the larger gang in the area, the Del Paso Heights Bloods, and effectively became a Hyphy influenced Del Paso Heights subset. Despite the similarities between Del Paso Heights subsets and Bay Area based gangs, the Trigga Mobb Gang, a Del Paso Heights subset, has had an

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220 State of California vs. Ricky Ware
221 Epps stated that the “Beast” in Beast Mob stood for the “beast in me (Epps).”
222 State of California vs. Matthew Jones, Cassell Meadors and Joshua Nickerson
“ongoing feud” with Keep It Lit, a hybrid gang that migrated from the Bay Area.

Another North Sacramento Hyphy influenced gang is Monk Mob. According to Quinn, Monk Mob also originated as a “black rag gang”, which means that it did not claim Blood or Crip affiliation. Furthermore, “slowly, through the last couple of years they’ve aligned themselves with” the North Highlands Gangster Crips (NHGC), “now becoming Crip gang members (and) their major opponents are Beast Mobb who aligns with Del Paso Heights Bloods.” Another subset of the NHGC that is Hyphy influenced is Tearin’ Niggas Apart (TNA); however, unlike Monk Mob, TNA has always been a Crip subset. Despite these differences, some TNA members are also Monk Mob members. Both Monk Mob and Beast Mob reflect Hyphy influences in their name, but continue to color trip like the traditional gang. In effect, Beast Mob, Monk Mob, and TNA are Hyphy influenced gangs, which is a blend of Bay Area and Los Angeles influences, and creates a unique Sacramento gang culture.

*Hip-hop and Gangs In Sacramento*

Similar to Los Angeles and the Bay Area, the history of gangs in Sacramento is tied to hip-hop. Due to this influence, this portion of the thesis will

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223 The name supposedly came from gang members wanting to keep their marijuana constantly lit
224 *State of California vs. Doshmen Johnson*
articulate the changes on the black urban youth culture of Sacramento that occurred with the gang and musical migration from Los Angeles and the Bay Area.

While there have been countless gang affiliated rappers in Sacramento, one of the earliest and most publicized in the mainstream media has been Anearae “X-Raided” Brown, a 24th Street/Garden Block Crip gang member. Brown’s first album, *Psycho Active*, was recorded with another Crip gang member and Sacramento rapper Brotha Lynch Hung225, and was released in 1992. According to multiple media interviews, Brown claimed that during the time he recorded the album there was an ongoing “war” between the Garden Block Crips and the Meadowview Bloods. Brown’s album artwork, text and lyrics are clearly gang related, which Brown has never denied; Brown does deny, however, the charges that were leveled against him for the March 1992 murder of Patricia Harris.

According to trial transcripts, witness statements, and police reports Brown devised a plan to murder Jamal and Kerry Harris, brothers who were Meadowview Bloods, and whom Brown blamed for the death of two high ranking Crips. The plan was similar to a story line outlined by his rap song *Tha Murder* from his rap album *Psycho Active*,226 which involved Brown kicking in the door, pretending to be the “police” else in order to distract the occupants. While the

225 Real name Kevin Danell Mann (Xref 1812499).
226 The album cover shows Brown with a .38 caliber handgun to his head, which police believed to be the murder weapon.
plan mainly went the way it was supposed to, neither Harris boy was shot, instead, their mother Patricia Harris was killed.

Due to the sensationalism of the murder, there were multiple news articles written, referring to the murder and to Brown’s rap album. In light of the negative publicity and public outcry, Tower Records refused to carry Brown’s new album because it was “recorded in jail” and out of “respect for the Harris family.” Brown was eventually convicted, however, this would not be the last time that music and gangs mixed in Sacramento.

By the 1990s, Bay Area residents began searching for better lives and cheaper housing. Along with these sojourners came gang members who began establishing gangs in Sacramento that mirrored what they had experienced in the Bay Area. The musical culture, along with the gang culture began to change, as rappers also began to migrate, one of whom was Mac Dre.

According to an interview given in The Block Report\textsuperscript{227} Sumthin Terrible rapper Charles “Pha Sho”\textsuperscript{228} Barksdale, a validated G-Mobb gang member, claimed that Dre had moved to Sacramento before they met. Furthermore, Barksdale stated that he had “a lot to do with that Thizzelle album. I was the first one to ghost ride the whip. Swoop was the first one wearin stunna shades and

\textsuperscript{227} The Block Report Produced by Thizz Films. Directed by Locke and Lomax. 97 minutes. City Hall Records. 2007 DVD.

\textsuperscript{228} Formerly Chuck Beez.
takin out the lenses.”229 During the interview, Eric “Stupid Swoop” Alston,230 a validated G-Mobb gang member, agreed with Sho, stating that he took the lenses out to be “different.”

Alston has appeared in multiple interviews on Mac Dre produced DVDs, and his rap group, Sumthin Terrible, has also appeared on a song with Dre, called Get Stupid.231 Furthermore, Dre produced DVD’s have also featured Sumthin Terrible songs, and Sumthin Terrible is listed on the Thizz Entertainment website as being part of the label, however, these are not the only ties that G-Mobb and its subsets have to the Hyphy Movement. Mistah FAB has appeared on the Sumthin Terrible song Stupid In Ya Buick, stating, ”From Oakland to Sac you can catch me in the G going dumb with the Mobb boys Sauce and C.”232 Messy Marv was also featured on Sumthin Terrible’s song 1 Hunit.233 Keak Da Sneak234 was featured on Im Da Nigga.235

One of G-Mobb’s subsets, Starz, also has ties to the world of rap. Donald “Lavish D” Oliver is a validated Starz gang member who raps for Banked Up E.N.T.. Oliver was featured on Jayda’s song We Gonna Get You and Whoever

229 Barksdale was featured on Dre’s track Thizzelle Dance, on the Thizzelle Washington album.
230 Also a member of the Hyphy rap group Sumthin Terrible.
231 Which was also featured on the Treal T.V. 2 soundtrack.
232 Sauce refers to Sauce Salito, a member of Sumthin Terrible along with Barksdale and Alston.
233 1 Hunit featured on the U Stupid album.
234 Who coined the phrase “Hyphy.”
235 Im Da Nigga featured on the U Stupid album.
Oliver also has several albums of his own, and has been a part of numerous Youtube videos.

In Oliver’s music video for his song titled *Project Nigga*, Oliver has dreads, a scrapper, stunna shades, and Oliver’s lyrics and the beat are clearly Hyphy influenced. Oliver raps about his gang affiliation, “I grew up in G-Parkway you know about the Mobb. Starz Up, Gunz Down, ” as he and the other people in his video threw G-Mobb, Starz, and Guttah related hand signs. Like most artists, Oliver not only raps about his gang affiliation, he also raps about his experiences with law enforcement, one of which ended in a prison sentence:

Task kicked in the door and found a couple guns

Canines was everywhere I couldn’t even run

No evidence, my fingerprints wasn’t even on them guns

I just took that five years so they wouldn’t take my son

Despite the differences in the three types of gang structure all of the gangs in Sacramento have committed crimes, which have been widely reported.

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*King of the Block* album. Jayda is also a Sacramento based rapper, as is his label, Goodfella Records.

Donald Oliver. *Project Nigga*.

The first type of gang in Sacramento is the traditional gang, which is Blood or Crip based, and follows conventional gang knowledge in both name and color tripping. An example of this is the Del Paso Heights Bloods, or the North
Using grounded theory to analyze some of these crimes, this thesis examines whether these hybrid gangs are simply structurally different, or if they are distinctly different, and should be handled differently by law enforcement.

Highlands Gangster Crips This type of gang structure arrived with the migrating Bloods and Crips from Los Angeles. The second type of gang exhibits Hyphy influenced gang hybridization in its name and does not color trip. An example of this is G-Mobb. This type of gang structure arrived with those that migrated in the 1990’s from the Bay Area. The third type of gang, the Hyphy influenced gang, is still Blood or Crip based, however it incorporates Hyphy influences in its name, and may not be as prone to color tripping. An example of this is Beast Mob or Monk Mob. These gangs appear to be a combination of Los Angeles and Bay Area influences.
Chapter 7

THREE KEY CONCEPTS

Clearly, the history of African American gangs in the United States reveals a complicated reality, whose only constant appears to be change. Often, each new change within the gangs is seen by law enforcement, the media and the gang artifacts as a radical departure from “typical” gang behavior. The portrayal of Sacramento African American hybrid gangs and their ties to the Hyphy movement are no different. These changes are being presented as fundamentally altering the African American gangs in Sacramento, however, these current perceptions are problematic in that these gangs are not clearly different. In this chapter, I problematize the perception that Hyphy influenced gangs are radically different by viewing a wide range of sources to determine the exact type of changes that have occurred.

Law enforcement, the media, and the gang artifacts primarily portray a complex picture, a reality that includes not only substantial changes to how Sacramento African American gangs are representing themselves, but also an unchanged existence of a code of violence, whose brutality is articulated by three key concepts that dominate the landscape of the African American gangs basic value system. These three core concepts, drawn from a wide range of sources, and various forms of documentation, revolve around Sacramento African American
gangs, and their chronicled decree of violence for a violation of any of these core concepts, effectively creating a bedrock for gang related violence. These three concepts, as follows, acts of retaliation for disrespect, snitching, and remembering the dead, therefore, create a unique window into the world of gang violence, and articulates reasoning where most see none.

This chapter examines all three of these distinct gang concepts for violence, and uses an example from each type of Sacramento African American gang structure in an effort to understand if the gangs are only different in how they represent themselves, or if the Hyphy Movement and Bay Area based gang structure has changed not only how the gangs portray themselves, but the actions they take to defend their core values. In effect, by comparing examples of the three concepts, and the reactions of the three types of gangs, traditional, Hyphy influenced, and hybrid, this chapter argues whether the effects of the Hyphy Movement and Bay Area based gang structure are superficial or if Sacramento African American gang members are living and dying for a new gang value system.

Acts of Retaliation for Disrespect

The first core value to be explored are acts of retaliation in response to disrespect; which is primarily portrayed by law enforcement, the media, and the gangs as a gang member who uses violence to gain revenge on anyone who the
gang member believes disrespected them. An example of an act of retaliation for disrespect in traditional gang can be seen in the case of Lamont West.\textsuperscript{239} In the days leading up to January 11th,\textsuperscript{240} West, a validated Nogales Gangster Crip, was involved in an altercation with two other Nogales Crips, Kenyatta Hudson, and Paul Bell. Hudson had physically assaulted Bell, and since West considered himself to be a mentor\textsuperscript{241} to Bell, he was forced to confront Hudson to maintain his status within the gang. During the confrontation with Hudson, Hudson was able to convince Bell to state in front of West that Hudson was Bell's "Big Homie."\textsuperscript{242} This was a direct insult to West, and constituted a statement of disrespect within the gang.\textsuperscript{243}

Upset by the turn of events, on January 11, 2007, West sought to regain the respect he felt he had lost. West and his girlfriend, Donita Brooks got into her van with her three children,\textsuperscript{244} two other adults, and another infant, and began driving. West stopped at a house on Belden Street, where he met with Mauryce Liggins, another Crip. West and Liggins spoke for about thirty minutes, and then left the house along with the others in the van.\textsuperscript{245}

\textsuperscript{239} State of California vs. Mauryce Liggins and Lamont West
\textsuperscript{240} When the shooting took place
\textsuperscript{241} Within the gang
\textsuperscript{242} Gang mentor
\textsuperscript{243} State of California vs. Mauryce Liggins et al.
\textsuperscript{244} Ages six, four and two
\textsuperscript{245} State of California vs. Mauryce Liggins et al.
West drove by Bell's house on Los Robles Avenue, stopping in front. Liggins and West fired several shots at Bell's house, and then fled. As the two were firing the shots, the Sacramento Police officers around the corner in their patrol vehicles heard the shots, and saw the van drive around the corner from where the sound of the shots had come from. The officers pulled in behind the van, and followed it for several minutes until they activated their lights and pulled it over, arresting both West and Liggins. 246

Law enforcement primarily portrays acts of retaliation for disrespect as an expectation in urban gang culture. In the case of West and Liggins, SPD Detective Justin Johnson testified that if Liggins and West “were to lose respect, to get that respect back they would have to do something to regain that respect, to show that they’re still a strong individual within that gang.” 247 Johnson further stated that by not regaining the respect, the two would be seen as “weak” and would be putting themselves at risk of becoming a “target” to members of their gang, opposing gangs, and citizens. 248

Johnson’s portrayal is echoed by the gang artifacts. In Death Riders, 249 Sacramento Crip gang member Shawn “C-Bo” Thomas, raps about respect,
Ain't no nigga gon' step on my toes
Without gettin bullet holes through his car door
Or a broken nose, they say I'm hostile
But I'm just raised block style

An example of an act of retaliation for disrespect in a Hyphy influenced gang can be seen in the case of Sacramento County vs. Allen et al. On September 15th, near 84 Nedra Court, Emery “Jude” Allen, a Gunz Up gang member, and Jerrin Jones, a Guttah Bois gang member, got into a verbal argument. Quentin Washington, a Gunz Up gang member, was “backing up” Allen, while Jones was alone. Jones informed Allen that Jones had called his “boys” and that they would be helping him “take care” of the issues between the two. Jones retreated to wait for his fellow gang members, while Allen went back to his home.

A short time later, according to the statement Allen “Diddy” Oliver, a Gunz Up gang member gave SPD detectives,

I was standing in the front yard of Jude’s house. I was standing there when I saw three dudes come around the front… We ran to the back of Jude’s

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251 84 Nedra Court #4.
house, and I saw four more guys coming through the field coming toward us. We ran back to the front where we had just come from, and I did not see the three guys… Ran toward the back again, but for some reason I didn’t go to the back, I ran into the garage.

Oliver alerted the rest of the Gunz Up members, and Emery and, according to Sacramento Police Department Detective Justin Saario,

The other members from Gunz Up ran to the front to try to locate the them (Guttah Bois), and then subsequently ran towards the back of the alley where the shooting subsequently happened.

During the “mutual shooting” both Gunz Up and Guttah Bois gang members exchanged shots with each other. Those involved in the shooting included Allen, Oliver, Quentin Washington and Quincy Washington, brothers who were both Gunz Up gang members and Todd “Stink” Williams and Junius Winters, who were both Guttah Bois gang members. Winters was shot, and transported to the hospital by Williams and Nehemiah Barksdale, a Guttah Bois gang member. Winters survived the shooting.

According to Saario, when asked by the DA what the expectation is of the armed gang members who were at the shooting, the “expectation is that you’re
going to fire back.” Furthermore, there was an expectation that both gangs were supposed to “confront” the other, in a show of strength. According to the Bee, this need to confront each other has led to an “all out gang war.”

The gang artifacts reflect this “war.” Lavish D, a known Starz rapper, in his music video, *Project Nigga*, issued a direct challenge to Gunz members when he rapped, “Starz up, Gunz down.” Lavish further elaborated on the gang’s willingness to resort to violence in *Whoever Want It*, with Jayda,

\[\begin{align*}
\text{Do a murder,} \\
\text{Broad daylight,} \\
\text{No mask,} \\
\text{On anybody’s Street or Ave}
\end{align*}\]

An example of an act of retaliation for disrespect in a hybrid gang is the prosecution of Marvel “Dick” Barksdale for the murder of Robert Haynes. On the evening of August 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2008, a party was raging at 7818 Detroit Blvd. Several of the attendees were Guttah Bois gang members, including Marvel Barksdale, Larry “June” Henderson, Desmond Oates, and Earnest “Poonie” Barron.\textsuperscript{253} The Guttah Bois were in the backyard smoking, while people inside the house danced. During

\textsuperscript{252} *King of the Block.*

\textsuperscript{253} There were approximately forty-five to fifty people attending the party, most of who were male and female juveniles.
the evening, multiple witnesses claimed they observed Barksdale sitting on a chair in the backyard with a gun in his lap, and heard him bragging he had a “bang.”

While the Guttah Bois were in the backyard, approximately six to eight males walked from the Meadowview light rail station to the party, including victim Robert Haynes, and his half brother, Daniel Bush, both of whom were armed. Most of the males in Haynes’ group were from the Oak Park area of Sacramento, and of those, many of them were validated Fourth Avenue Blood (FAB) gang members, or were known as gang associates to law enforcement. When the FAB members arrived at the party, they were confronted by some Guttah Bois who threw gang signs, and disrespected FAB by yelling, “Kill 6-1-2.” Several members of the FAB group, including Haynes, disrespected Guttah by throwing gang signs and yelling, “Fuck Guttah.”

At some point during the confrontation, an unidentified person informed Barksdale that FAB had arrived. Barksdale immediately entered the home through the sliding glass door. While it is unclear who fired first, shots were exchanged, Haynes was struck in the head and died instantly. FAB members began returning fire at Barksdale, and other Guttah members, most of who fled out the back. Barksdale was eventually convicted of murdering Haynes.

254 Slang term for gun.
255 6-1-2 is the number code for FAB.
In the case of Marvel Barksdale, SPD Detective Maclafferty testified, “When a gang member or gang is disrespected, there’s an expectation of getting that respect back.” Furthermore, Maclafferty stated that, “each time that a gang retaliates against the other group to get that respect back, there’s a way that they are grabbing the power back in gang culture, and that’s how they instill that fear.”

The media primarily portrayed the death of Robert Haynes in a similar fashion as the trial transcripts and police reports, using quotes from the District Attorney’s (DA) office, which called the shooting “a gang war between two rival sets.” However, there is one difference between the media and law enforcement; they disagree about the level of Haynes’ gang activity, and his participation in the events leading up to his death. Trial transcripts indicated that Haynes was an active participant in the gang activity at the party, in his daily life, and was carrying a gun. Despite this information, the Sacramento Bee portrays Haynes as putting “a troubled past behind him;” stating that Haynes was no longer involved in gang activity. The Bee also failed to mention that not only did Haynes bring a gun with him to the party; he had that gun in his hand at the time of his death. Furthermore, the media quoted Haynes’ family as stating that Haynes was “not a gang member” at the time of his death. In effect, the media alludes to images of warfare, creating a good vs. evil type of drama for the reader by portraying the victim as an innocent bystander, even when they go into a home with a gun in
their hand knowing that there are rival gang members inside who are also most likely armed.

The gang artifacts reflect that gang members are expected to retaliate, or be considered weak and a “bitch” or “ho.” G-Mobb rap group Sumthin Terrible, in their rap, *Do Sumthin*,

If you don’t like it,
Do sumthin,
He a bitch,
He a ho,
He ain’t with shit, bro,
See you gettin mad,
You don’t like it do sumthin,
You call yourself a sav,  
But you just frontin.

In all three cases, while each group made references to their own gang structure, all three gang groups continued to follow the same codes of conduct. In effect, while various elements have changed, the practice of violence itself in the face of a perceived act of disrespect withstands the test of time and the changing way that the gangs represent themselves.

256 Short for savage.
The media primarily portray an act of retaliation by a gang as an “attack,” often committed in the “territory” of a “rival gang” that can turn into “high profile murder cases.” While it does make distinctions between gangs, and gang structures, the media suggest that the gangs are perceived as reacting to disrespect in a similar manner, by using violence. The media often bemoans that the victim is an “innocent bystander.”

The gang artifacts portray acts of retaliation for disrespect as a valid part of street culture. Rapper San Quinn, for example, stated in an interview for The Block Report\(^{257}\) about his neighborhood, “I had a sense of pride that I wasn’t going to take no shit from no area.” Noonie from Sumthin Terrible correlates that statement in an interview\(^{258}\) when he talks about an act of retaliation for disrespect: “They was both our homies. Words exchanged, it just led into gunplay,” leaving one dead and the other in prison. In “Damn!!!” Lavish D raps, “I was born in East Oakland, but I bang Sac. If you don’t want to see your grave you better watch what you say.”

Rapper Genaro “GP the Beast” Patterson, a Del Paso Heights Blood, stated in his song The Coff,\(^{259}\) that he would kill anyone for disrespecting him,

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\(^{257}\) A DVD that goes from neighborhoods in the Bay Area and Sacramento and interviews rappers and gang members about their area.  
\(^{258}\) Also for The Block Report.  
\(^{259}\) The Best of GP the Beast Album. GP also worked with Suge Knight, and often wears a Death Row Records medallion in memory of Tupac, and to thank Suge for his assistance.
GP, nothing soft,

No more break ‘em off

I’ll blast ‘em in the neck

For respect can make ‘em cough

Huh, huh

Bitch ass mother fuckin nig,

Huh, huh

Coughing up the blood, and now they dig

I’ll blast that ass for just saying\(^{260}\)

Anaere “X-Raided” Brown in his song, *Vengeance Is Mine*,\(^{261}\) reflects how the Garden Block Crips deal with disrespect,

Pack da pity when you discuss me with animosity

Enemy tones are disrespectful

But my velocity is to swift for you to get up the steps

Injury prone I run up in enemies' homes wit tec's

\(^{260}\) Ibid

\(^{261}\) *Vengeance Is Mine* Album. This album was recorded while X-Raided was serving a prison sentence, with an illegally-acquired DAT recorder.
Aint no otha set to do it any harder way

While there are differences in how the victims and aggressors are portrayed by the media, law enforcement, and gangs, all three clearly not that the gang member’s actions were a result of a perceived slight. All three sources also portray the gang’s principles of justice: swift, certain, and deadly.

Snitching

The second core value to be explored is snitching; which is primarily portrayed by law enforcement, the media, and Sacramento African American gangs as someone who assists law enforcement in an investigation, or gives eyewitness testimony in court that could lead to someone’s conviction. An example of snitching in a traditional gang can be seen in the case of Myron Hardy. According to testimony, on January 1st, 2007 Del Paso Heights Bloods gang members Myron “Scarface” Hardy and Larry Zachary got into an argument with Danny Hickman over a parking space. According to Zachary’s girlfriend, who did not want to get involved, convinced Zachary to leave, and as they were doing so, Hardy struck Hickman from behind. Hickman attempted to defend himself, but was quickly overwhelmed and fell to the ground as his girlfriend watched from the driver’s seat inside the car. After Hickman fell to the ground,

262 Ibid
Hardy pulled out a gun and shot Hickman, killing him. After the shooting, Zachary went to Hickman’s car, pulled out Hickman’s girlfriend, and took possession of Hickman’s car, and drove away in it. Hardy immediately left the scene in a car driven by Brandon Jay Boyer, a DEA informant. According to Boyer, during the drive, Hardy threw away evidence linking him to the crime.

Once on the stand, Boyer stated, ”my family's in danger -- by people on the street,” and once he was finished testifying, Boyer was escorted out of the courtroom by a District Attorney Investigator and relocated; however, Boyer’s grandfather’s home was “shot up” the night after he testified against Hardy. Despite the witness intimidation, and the witnesses retracting their statements, Hardy was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

In the case of Hardy, the Sacramento Bee continued to publish articles with Boyer’s name in them, despite knowing that the articles were most likely putting Boyer in more danger. Boyer’s home was “shot up” less than forty eight hours after the Bee published the story detailing “Boyer’s testimony and his history as an informant;” which had led to the “biggest cocaine bust” in Sacramento’s history. Additionally, Boyer’s assistance also helped solve three homicides. Furthermore, when the detective working the case was asked if the news article may have placed Boyer in danger, Sgt. Norm Leong stated, “Although we can’t tie the shooting to directly that, we certainly believe it did not help that his name was exposed.” The Bee continued to write about Boyer, even
though they knew that they were possibly putting him in danger.

The gang artifacts reflect the dangers to the snitch. Known Del Paso Heights Blood rapper GP the Beast, in a song that featured Mac Dre, called *Bang My Shit*,²⁶³ rapped,

Fuck all snitches,

They sleep with the creeps,²⁶⁴

They sleep in the streets

Under white sheets²⁶⁵

An example of snitching in a Hyphy influenced gang can be seen in the Lerome Franklin case. According to trial testimony, police reports, and news articles, on March 15, 2007, at approximately 4:00PM, Timothy “T-Money” Hurst and Taurus Baker were sitting in a van next to Nielsen Park/Mack School waiting to conduct a drug deal. While they waited for a buyer, Lerome Franklin and Anthony Colbert approached the van. Colbert stated, "This ain't about you T-Money," as Franklin pulled on the passenger side door, telling Baker to open up the door. When Baker refused, Franklin pulled out a chrome revolver from his

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²⁶³ *The Best of GP the Beast*. 2005
²⁶⁴ Refers to the fact that snitches are often housed in Protective Custody, along with sex offenders.
²⁶⁵ *The Best of GP the Beast*. 2005
waistband and pointed it at Baker. Colbert then spotted a marked SPD patrol unit, which was observing what was going on. Colbert yelled "Police" and jumped into the car that had pulled up along side the van. Franklin dropped the gun, and fled on foot.

Officers gave chase, eventually catching Franklin, and brought him back to the scene. Franklin was transported to the Sacramento County Main Jail, where he was booked on a parole violation and placed in a holding tank. Once detained, Franklin placed several phone calls. One to Floyd Martin was to make sure that Hurst would not be able to snitch on him any further. A few hours after Franklin finished ordering the "hit" on Hurst, Hurst was approached by several men while walking in the area of El Camino and Del Paso, near the Economy Inn. After a verbal exchange, Martin pulled a gun and fired five or six shots at Hurst, who was struck multiple times and ran bleeding from the scene. Hurst was taken to UCD Medical Center where he was treated for multiple gunshot wounds to the hand, back, and groin. When Hurst spoke with police investigators, he claimed that he did not know who shot him.

In October, Sacramento Sheriff’s Department (SSD) Detective Quinn was conducting a gang suppression intelligence investigation, contacting individuals who might have information regarding and ongoing dispute between Keep It Lit (KIL) and Trigga Mob Gang (TMG), a subset of the Del Paso Heights Bloods. Quinn contacted Hurst, and showed him several photos of suspected gang
members from both KIL and TMG. Hurst was cooperative, and identified individuals he knew to associate with the two groups. As Hurst was looking at the photos, he stopped and indicated that one of them had been the person that shot him in March. Hurst stated he had been afraid to talk, and while he would not talk about it on the record, he did give Quinn the names of those who were there and ultimately named Martin as the person who shot him. Martin and Franklin were eventually convicted.

In the case of Franklin and Martin, the media suggests that only with “a promise of police protection” did Hurst decide to “cooperate.” Furthermore, the articles depict Hurst as forgiving man who “expressed sympathy for the men who tried to kill him.” Additionally, the article clearly states that Hurst was willing to give up additional information, but did not suggest what.

An example of snitching in a hybrid gang can be found in the prosecution of Marvel Barksdale for the murder of Robert Haynes. Haynes, a gang member himself, was murdered at a party in the Meadowview area of Sacramento in November of 2008. Barksdale was a member of the “Guttah Bois” gang, which police, prosecutors, and the media articulated as a hybrid gang, which is a subset of the original Sacramento hybrid gang, G-Mobb.

During the trial of Barksdale, Judge Michael A. Savage, ordered that four “reluctant” witnesses be jailed until they could testify. The Sacramento Bee published several articles on Larry “June” Henderson, a “Guttah Bois” gang
member, who was forced to testify. The articles suggested the testimony
Henderson was expected to give, and how there had been at least two attempts on
his life by gunmen as he walked on the streets of Sacramento. Henderson was
eventually jailed on other charges, and while in custody, ripped up the subpoenas
ordering him to appear in court and testify against Barksdale.

Henderson’s father, Larry Henderson Sr., stated in an interview with the
Bee, “I didn’t say he won’t testify. I said he can’t testify” in reference to the
threats made against his son by the Guttah Bois, and the community as a whole.
Henderson’s sister, Shamela, said that the entire family would be at risk if her
brother testified. She was quoted as saying, “Everyone was saying he snitched. It
got around, and now everybody’s against him.” Shamela also stated that while at
a beauty shop she was approached by a few girls, one of who asked, “Are you
June’s sister?” and another told her, “Yeah I heard he was snitching.”

Once on the witness stand, Henderson testified that he observed Barksdale
“point the gun and shoot inside the party.” Henderson also testified that while
incarcerated at the Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility he was attacked
by gang members\(^266\) in retaliation for testifying. Furthermore, Henderson stated
that testifying “jeopardizes my family, puts my family in danger, and me.”

Despite the danger posed to Henderson, the media continued to report his

\(^{266}\) From a gang that is friendly with the gang that Henderson and Barksdale both
belonged to.
name and information, implying that despite the emphasis placed on the danger that he was facing by assisting law enforcement, and the fact that he was a juvenile, that he deserved to have his name repeatedly published.\textsuperscript{267} Which is in a sharp contrast to refusing to publish the names of some of the other juvenile witnesses who were not labeled as gang members or snitches were not published. Henderson’s criminal history was also published, as was his status as a juvenile probationer, which because he was a juvenile, should have remained undisclosed. Furthermore, the articles articulated how important Henderson was to the investigation, and gave his current location to anyone who may be searching for him. Additionally, it should be noted that in other gang related articles, the Bee refused to name juvenile murder suspects, even though they had been charged as adults, because they were “juveniles.”

The gang artifacts portray that snitching can get someone killed. In \textit{Damn!!!},\textsuperscript{268} Lavish D, a known BAY gang member, raps, ”I’m from the sickest part of Sac. I was taught that niggas get clapped for bumping their yaps.”\textsuperscript{269} The G-Mobb rap group Sumthin Terrible\textsuperscript{270} echoes these thoughts with their song \textit{Keep My Name Out Cha Mouth},\textsuperscript{271} in which they state, “You never use another niggas name... Keep my name out ya mouth... Thirty rounds in the Glock. Click, 

\textsuperscript{267} As were the names of his immediate family.
\textsuperscript{268} \textit{Young Bops Album}.
\textsuperscript{269} Slang terms that indicates someone talking.
\textsuperscript{270} At least two members are validated G-Mobb members.
\textsuperscript{271} From their \textit{Do It For Da Mobb} album.
click boom homie.”

The media primarily portray snitching as an informant putting his/her life in danger to reveal the truth. The media also convey that “snitch testimony” should be looked at with some suspicion, and often justified this position by listing the crimes that the “snitch” had committed. In effect, while the media often left out the victim’s criminal history and misdeeds, those who were testifying in an effort to bring the killers to justice often faced some of the harshest exposure.

Law enforcement primarily portrays snitching as a necessary investigative tool, which often results in danger for the “snitch.” Stoops testified that there is “extreme loyalty” within a gang, and even when there is a “heinous crime” it is expected that nobody “reports that there’s been a crime committed.” Furthermore, snitching is unique to gangs, because of the “extreme retributions, and sometimes you get beat down and sometimes you get shot and killed because you snitch.”

The gangs primarily portray snitching as the ultimate form of disrespect, and that by doing so; the snitch puts him/herself and their family in danger. “Snitches Get Stitches” is a familiar slogan to law enforcement and gang members. As Mac Dre stated, “Don’t tattle tale, the number one ruley. Don’t ask me shit. I won’t tell. Send me to jail.”

272 In Vengeance Is Mine, X-Raided raps, “Some nights I might bleed. But for life I'm a keep it trunk tight for my G's,”

272 Don’t Snitch J-Diggs and Mac Dre Thizz Nation, Vol. 3.
because, “ain't no violence reported.” Nicholas “Nicholi Soltize” Newsome, a known Fourth Avenue Blood and Ridezilla gang member, raps in his Youtube video Nicholi Soltize:

Fatal attraction to the Mob,
Got me gang related,
Hanging with killas,
With gang graffiti facial paintings,
We given facelifts in exchange
For making statements.

Remembering the Dead

The third and final gang concept to be explored is remembering the dead; which is any action taken by a gang member to avenge the death of a fellow gang member, or remember them in a gang related fashion. An example of an act of remembering the dead in a traditional gang can be seen in the case of Anerae “X-Raided” Brown, a 24th Street Crip/Garden Block Crip. On March 14th, 1992 Abdul “Scooby” Griffin and Maurice “Baby Bread” Proctor, a 29th Street Crip gang member, left Griffin's apartment and walked to a gas station to obtain

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273 Currently pending trial for the murder of David Blanks. The murder was reported to be gang related.
274 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=737JT5hWxiQ&feature=related.
cigarettes. Once at the gas station, they ran into Demond and Demtri Potts, brothers and Oak Park Bloods gang members. Insults were exchanged, and eventually a physical altercation began between Proctor and the Potts brothers, with Griffin just watching. The fight broke up when a security guard arrived, and Proctor ran back to Griffin's apartment.

Once at the apartment, Proctor yelled at Griffin for not helping him in the fight with the Potts brothers. Griffin called his stepbrother, Roosevelt “Baby Snake” Coleman, a 29th Street Crip gang member, who soon arrived in his mother's car. When Proctor explained what had happened, Coleman became angry at Griffin, for not assisting Proctor. A short time later, Christopher "Squabbler" McKinnie, a 29th Street Crip gang member, arrived. As the afternoon progressed, the group sat around drinking and discussing the Potts brothers. Proctor stated that he wanted to go to Oak Park to find one of the Potts brothers and hurt him "real bad." Proctor also stated that he knew someone in "the Heights" from whom he could obtain a gun. That evening, Coleman drove Proctor to Belinda Duff's house, where he purchased a stolen pistol. Coleman and Proctor then returned to Griffin's apartment, and continued to talk about retaliating against the Potts brothers. Eventually, Coleman informed Griffin that he and the others were going to his "homie’s" house. Griffin argued and begged to go along with them.

275 Del Paso Heights.
The group went to Brown's, a 24th Street gang member, house. At the home they met Brown and Daniel “Time” Kunnel and an unidentified male. Since the group was angry at Griffin, he sat in the living room while the others talked in the kitchen. Brown was armed with a pistol, and supplied bullets to Proctor, while Proctor talked about retaliating against the Potts brothers. Brown eventually turned the conversation to possible retaliation against some Bloods for the killing of two influential Crips named Marcus “Gangster Red” Robinson and Jerome “J-Dog” McCoy, who had been murdered in separate incidents in 1991 and 1992. Brown informed the group that brothers Kerry “K.K” Harris and Jamal Harris, both Meadowview Blood gang members, were responsible for the murder of Robinson, and possibly the murder of J-Dog. Brown stated that he wanted to "smoke" both of the brothers. Proctor continued to argue for going after the Potts brothers; however, Brown was able to convince the group to go after the Harris brothers.

Brown devised a plan to murder the Harris brothers, which was similar to a story outlined in his rap song Tha Murder from his rap album Psycho Active. It was determined that Brown and Proctor would do the shooting, while the unidentified male would serve as a lookout. The group would go to the Harris brothers.

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276 A Los Angeles Crip named Melvin "Cappy" Traylor (Xref 1910174, case #113859), was convicted of this murder, however it is not known if J-Dog's murder was ever solved.

277 On the cover of which shows Brown with a .38 caliber handgun to his head, which police believe to be murder weapon.
home where McKinnie would kick down the door, announcing that they were
the “police.” Once the door was opened, Brown and Proctor would enter and
shoot everyone they saw. According to Brown's plan, the shooting would be
continuous with one shooter reloading while the other shot and vice versa. The
group left the apartment, and headed towards the Harris home.

Coleman drove his mother's car with Griffin, Proctor, and a “guy named
Mike.” The unidentified male drove his Bronco with Brown, McKinnie, and
Kunnel. On the way to the Harris house, Coleman suggested dropping Griffin off,
but Griffin insisted on going along. When they arrived in the Harris
neighborhood, Coleman suggested doing a "drive-by" shooting, but this idea was
rejected. Brown and Proctor took out their guns, as the group approached the
Harris house. A porch light equipped with a motion detector went on, causing the
group to scatter. The group returned, and McKinnie began kicking the door in
order to force it open. When the door finally gave, the group burst into the home,
and heard a female voice asking, “Who’s there?” McKinnie answered, stating that
they were the “police.” Patricia Harris, the mother of both the Harris boys, came
out into the hallway, and Brown and Proctor each fired a shot. One shot missed,
but the other inflicted a fatal wound. The group ran out of the house, and drove
back to Griffin’s apartment. Brown was eventually convicted of murdering

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278 The targets of the attack, Jamal and Kerry were unharmed. Jamal was not
living there, and Kerry was asleep on the couch at the time. Kerry was awakened
Harris.

After his conviction, Brown continued to rap, and in his song *Cemetery Full of G's*, he raps about his take on revenge for his fellow gang members' deaths,

The Cemetery’s full of G's, died for the cause
Dead on arrival, at the hospital, he died in his draws
And a rider falls every day, more retaliating’
But best believe we go to war….
Unleash grief, on the enemies I put in the grave
To be continued, when I see you, on judgment day
It'll be a venue, when hot shit is all I desire
Even if I get sentenced to burn in eternal fire
So consumed by this rage, I'm predictin' revenge
Got me ridin' for my homies through committin' sins
When will you feel me? Not until we all dead and shit
My headstone read "Nefarious" that's all and that's it

by the sound of the front door being kicked. Kerry observed the group enter, heard someone say they were the police, and heard his mother respond. When Kerry saw and heard gunshots, he ran out of back and jumped over the fence.
An act of remembering the dead in a Hyphy influenced gang can be seen in the case of Denisho Collins. At a home in Oak Park, plans were formed, primarily by victim David Perkins an Oak Park Blood/Ridezilla gang member, to avenge the 2003 shooting death of a Valley Hi Piru gang member named Wesley Hunter. Perkins and several other gang members, including fellow Ridezilla gang member Denisho Collins, armed themselves. They left Oak Park in two Chevy Caprices, to the suspected location of a Crip gang member blamed for Hunter’s murder. When the Crip was not found at that location, Perkins changed plans and directed the group to 68th Ave and Della Circle, where there was a duplex assumed to be the resident of the Crip. Once at the location, all but one of the Ridezilla members exited the car.

According to trial transcripts, Perkins began firing at the right side of the home seconds before all of the other guns also fired. While no one who had been targeted or aimed at was hit by any of the shooters, there was also no return fire from the residence or surrounding areas. Therefore, when the gang members observed Perkins tumbling forward, the shooting stopped. One Ridezilla assisted Perkins into one of the Caprices, where Perkins informed them that he had been shot, and immediately passed out, never to again regain consciousness. According to court records, because there was an outstanding homicide warrant for Perkins, it
was decided not to take Perkins to the hospital, but to Renton Way where they left Perkins in front Collin’s aunts home on the sidewalk. Collins was later arrested, convicted, and sentenced.

The articles written about Perkins focused on his status as a victim, not an offender. Perkins, shot while attempting to kill a rival, was called a “grief-stricken leader,” who was “struck by an errant bullet fired by a member of his own Oak Park posse (instead of gang).” Furthermore, emphasis was placed on the fact that Perkins was “left on the sidewalk to die by his boys.”

The gang artifacts reflect that revenge, while not always achieved, is always sought. Clementine “Bad Mouth” Fields, an Oak Park rapper and producer of Ridezilla rappers, rapped in his song *Slippin*,

\[
\text{Nine-one-six, the highest murder rate on the map,}
\]
\[
\text{If you slippin niggas will get you,}
\]
\[
\text{If you trippin niggas may clip you,}
\]
\[
\text{So what you do is act like you don’t know,}
\]
\[
\text{Cause my niggas will get you for sho.}
\]

\footnote{Where he would be arrested and booked for the warrant.}

\footnote{*Slippin*. Bad Mouth. Album Bad Mouth’s World. Directed by Raw Deal and Bad Mouth.\textcolor{blue}{http://www.youtube.com/user/IMVECREE#p/a/u/2/BBZGTYNr94w>}}
Quintin “Big Snubbz” Carthen, a known Ridezilla gang member, raps on his Youtube video *UZ For Life*,\(^2\) Like the police,
Kicked in the door like the Task with the badge,
Then banged his head, blew his ass,
Yeah, Snubbz, UZ,
Blow your brains out,
Leave you on your hangout,
With your thoughts scattered.

In a final example of an act of remembering the dead can be seen in the aftermath of the prosecution of Ceron Hill. On March 15\(^{th}\), 2006, Jack “the Smack” Lawrence, a Bad Ass Youngster (BAY) gang member was at Eric’s Donuts, on Mack Road in South Sacramento, with Christopher Stone, another BAY gang member. Ceron “Doodie” Hill approached them and asked Christopher where his brother, Donald Stone, a BAY gang member, was.\(^3\) Hill began firing

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\(^2\) The video states that it was “Produced By Uncle Badmouth.” [http://www.youtube.com/user/IMVECREE#p/u/4/Bge8ID-1PGk](http://www.youtube.com/user/IMVECREE#p/u/4/Bge8ID-1PGk).

\(^3\) Hill was looking for Donald because he believed that Donald had attempted to shoot him at a Chevron on Hurley Way a few weeks earlier. Donald denies that he did so, and informed police that Hill had shot at him three weeks earlier at an after party at a Chevron on Stockton and Mack Rd in retaliation for Hurley Way.
at Lawrence and Christopher, both of whom ran away in an attempt to escape. Lawrence was hit in the upper torso, and pronounced dead in the parking lot by emergency services.\(^{283}\)

In the case of Lawrence, the media focused on his funeral, stating that the funeral home was “filled to capacity. Youth filled the hallway and the street outside the funeral home.” Furthermore, the article suggests that another killing, near the four-year anniversary of Lawrence’s death, may have been a “revenge” killing.

While Hill was in the custody of Sacramento County Sheriff Deputies at their North Main Jail Facility, pending trial, he was repeatedly attacked, and due to this, during the trial; there were two escort deputies in the courtroom, “for the protection of Mr. Hill,” when normally there is only one.

The need for revenge echoes the sentiments of the gang artifacts. In Jayda’s *We Gonna Get You*, featuring Lavish D,

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{I creep like a beast for revenge, it don’t end} \\
\text{I murder everything, pets and kin,} \\
\text{I bet you die when we come get you,}
\end{align*}
\]

\(^{283}\) While Lawrence, the victim, was the hybrid gang member in this case, the actions of his gang afterward have created a unique set of circumstances. Since Hill was caught so quickly after the crime, the gang was unable to gain revenge for the killing outside of a custody situation.
There’s no need to run and hide, we gone find you,
We gone get you, I guarantee you gonna die.

While it has been reported that Lawrence’s killing was avenged by another group of Starz gang members, what is even more interesting is the other ways that Lawrence’s fellow gang members have chosen to remember him. There have been rap songs written and produced, and a Youtube video posted that show multiple Starz members at the donut shop where Lawrence was killed, remembering him. In *Damn!!!* Lavish D, raps, “Aiming at Ceron Hill, putting thirty-two in ya hat for killing little Jack. Niggas out here stay getting whacked.” Lavish D also rapped on the Youtube video, *Killin for Jack*, “Click, clack, I know some niggas killin for Jack. They killin for Jack.” Starz members also refer to the area they claim, where Lawrence was killed, as the “Jack Block.”

In the *Ride For You Homie* Youtube video, Lavish D raps,

I ride for you homie,
I’d die for you homie,
I cry for you homie,
I would’ve died for Perk,

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284From BANK’D UP BOY mix tape
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3niTtXfAtc>
And I would’ve died for little Jack,
And I would give up everything to bring Mack-Noid back
I would’ve died for Mackin,
Cause Blood was a real goon,
Beefin with my hood,
But I still would’ve died for Noon

The media primarily portray the actions of gang members attempting to remember their fallen as demonstration of how much the death of the gang member affected the grieving. Additionally, the articles often reflect what could have been, by focusing on the victim. In the cases of the acts of relation for disrespect, all the sources portrayed all three types of gangs acting in a similar manner; they used violence to regain the respect they felt due them. Evidence presented in the sources all suggest that the gangs have changed the way they present themselves; however, the reactions to disrespect remain the same as they were in the 1990s when Anerae Brown killed Patricia Harris in an effort to regain the respect his gang lost with the death of two well known Crips, and the bullying by the Potts brothers.

In the cases of snitching, all the sources portrayed that all the gangs reacted in an expected manner; they sought to kill or frighten the person who could take away their freedom or a fellow gang member’s freedom. All of the
gangs used violence to gain their objectives, from threatening witnesses to carrying out “hits,” no one that the gang deemed a “snitch” was going to be allowed to live.

In the cases of remembering the dead, all of the sources noted that all the gangs reacted in a similar manner; they sought to gain revenge by attacking those who they assumed to be responsible. In the case of Lawrence, Hill was caught before he could be killed; therefore, the gang was forced to remember Lawrence in a different manner.

In effect, the media, law enforcement, and gangs dramatically chronicle the credo that no matter how a gang changes its structure, it will not change how it handles “business.”
Conclusion

According to the wide range of sources used in this thesis, poverty, hip-hop, civil rights, and gangs have been tied together for an extended period of time; creating a unique set of circumstances that have produced some of the greatest rap music in the United States, and some of the most distressing tragedies that the world has ever watched occur. From the death of civil rights leaders, to the wholesale slaughter of an entire generation in Los Angeles, these factors, taken individually, would not have created such rich culture, or heartbreak, for an entire race of people.

The sources portrayed that New York was where hip-hop was born out of the hearts and minds of immigrants and teenagers looking for a party, and way to fit in. Hip-hop, however, was far too infectious to be contained in just one city, and quickly moved to Los Angeles, where it evolved into Gangsta rap, and became a way for a generation to express the poverty, police occupation of their neighborhoods, and growing gang problems.

Gangsta rap soon found a charismatic leader in Tupac Shakur, who melded together poverty, civil rights, crack cocaine, and a hatred of the police that felt achingly familiar to those who were living what Shakur was rapping about. Thug Life became the rallying cry for millions, as Shakur rose to the top of the rap game, taking Death Row Records and Suge Knight with him. After Tupac’s
murder, it appeared to some that the violence in Gangsta rap had been taken too far; the world was ready for the Hyphy Movement.

Hyphy was born out of the premise that life is “too short,” and that you can’t be “hard 24/7.” By following these principles, and a drug culture that focused primarily on marijuana and ecstasy, the Hyphy Movement quickly caught the attention of those in the underground hip-hop scene in the Bay Area. Hyphy’s spokesman, Mac Dre, was as charismatic as Tupac was, and Dre’s ability to create raps that spoke to the issues listeners were dealing with brought validity to his work. Due to police pressure, Dre eventually moved out of the Bay Area, and into Sacramento.

With Dre’s move, Hyphy began to flourish in Sacramento. Other artists flocked to Dre, including some of Sacramento’s first hybrid gang members. These gang members and their extended families, would eventually spawn other hybrid gangs, and create a rap group based on the Hyphy movement, Sumthin Terrible. Once established in Sacramento, the Hyphy Movement, and hybrid gang structure, began to effect how the gangs in Sacramento represented themselves. This representation, while unique, did not affect the value systems of the gangs.

It is primarily portrayed by all the sources that the African American gangs in Sacramento are adaptable, and change when there is a substantial migration from another area. While it is unknown where the next wave of migration will come from, or what it will bring, if it follows the trend two
previous migrations\textsuperscript{285} it will change the gangs in Sacramento structure, but not their actions.

\textsuperscript{285} Los Angeles and Bay Area
This appendix summarizes all of the information found that pertains solely to the migration of gang culture, the factors that effected it, and basic gang traditions. Every effort was made to make these migrations as complete as possible; however, due to missing or incomplete testimony, or a lack of documented information, some parts may have been inadvertently left out.

**African American Gang Migration**

According to Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Laura Gracia, gangs “as we know it” began in the late 1970’s to early 1980’s. These early gangs claimed their neighborhoods as their territory; however, unlike the African American gangs of Los Angeles, Sacramento gangs were not yet Blood or Crip based. Those who claimed the area known as Oak Park called themselves the “Funk Lords.” Those who claimed the area known as Del Paso Heights called themselves the “Dogs,” while those in the area known as Meadowview called themselves the “Dog Catchers.”

According to Sacramento Sheriff’s Department (SSD) Detective Elaine Stoops the gangs known as the Crips and Bloods began in Los Angeles. Stoops stated that Crips call each other “Cuzz,” while Bloods call each other “Damu”\(^\text{287}\)

\(^{286}\text{Sacramento County vs. Quintin Barksdale et al.}\)
\(^{287}\text{Swahili for Blood.}\)
or “Blood” or “Piru.” Stoops articulated that an example of a direct challenge is a Crip calling a Blood “Cuzz” or a Blood calling a Crip “Blood.”

Stoops testified that the Crips and Bloods migrated to Sacramento via the “I-5 Corridor” to sell crack cocaine, bringing with them their gang traditions and structure. Not only did the African American gangs in Sacramento gangs become Crip and Blood based, they also followed the Los Angeles tradition of naming their gangs after the area, block, or neighborhood, which it claimed. The Funk Lords became the Oak Park Bloods. The Dogs became the Del Paso Heights Bloods, and the Dog Catchers became the Meadowview Bloods. There are also Crips in Sacramento, the largest of which are the Garden Block Crips (GBC). The GBC’s territories encompass the area around 29th Street, 24th Street, and 21st Street, and Florin, which used to be called Correla Gardens.

According to SPD Detective Scott MacLafferty, during the 1990’s, there was migration from the Bay Area to Sacramento. These Bay Area residents brought with them their gang structure, which did not claim Crip or Blood. Instead, these gangs claimed to be “Families,” “Mobbs” and “Camps.” Sacramento residents reacted to this new type of gang structure, and began creating their own gangs that reflected this new type of gang structure.

288 Sacramento County vs. Lovelle Chapman.
289 Which used to include the Strawberry Manors, until there was a conflict and the Strawberry Manors residents became the Strawberry Manors Gangsters.
290 This means that a 29th Street Crip would also claim to be a Garden Block Crip
African American Gang Traditions

Gracia stated that in any African American gang you must earn respect by enhancing your reputation, and in order to enhance your reputation you must be able to handle anything; essentially being able and willing to be violent at any sign of disrespect. Gracia defined disrespect as a multitude of things; however, doing anything that promotes a rival gang would be considered to be one of the more disrespectful things someone else could do.\textsuperscript{291}

According to Quinn,\textsuperscript{292} respect within the gang is important because,

If you’re disrespected either by an enemy or somebody else in your gang, if you do not respond to that disrespect then you are perceived as weak. So a challenge to you, either disrespect verbally or with a weapon or a crime, you shall meet that with some type of force or some time of response. Otherwise, you’re perceived as weak, and you will lose respect within your gang. So responses to that challenge with violence, will obviously—it improves your respect amongst other gang members… The word gets out on the street obviously between their own gang members as well as rival gang members that this gang is very violent, that they use handguns,

\textsuperscript{291} An example of this would be a Blood calling a Crip, “Blood,” or a Crip wearing all blue in a Blood run territory.
\textsuperscript{292} \textit{Sacramento County vs. Doshmen Johnson.}
that they commit crimes, and they’re not just push overs or career victims as we like to cal ‘em, people that get victimized a lot but do not respond.

Furthermore, according to Stoops,\textsuperscript{293}

The biggest thing about being a gang member is your reputation and respect. And the way you earn respect and the way you gain status in your gang set is by committing a violent crime, putting in work for the gang… When a violent act is committed against a rival gang set the word goes out to the community and the rival gangs, says the 29\textsuperscript{th} Street Crips stepped up. If you mess with them you’re going to end up dead. It enhances the gang structure in the community as well as in rival gang sets.

Gracia also stated that gang members have certain “codes and ethics” that they are supposed to follow. One of those is “having your homeboys back,” which essentially means making sure that you participate in whatever your “homeboys” need you to participate in, which would force anyone in the gang to participate in the assault. Another one of these codes is not to “snitch.”

\textsuperscript{293} Sacramento County vs. Romeo Brown.
Quinn defined “snitching” as,

Snitching is anything to do with talking to the police now. It used to be if you sold narcotic and you decided to give up somebody who sold you those narcotics and gave up a bigger dealer that was the concept of snitching. It’s been since now that anytime you talk to the police, whether as a victim of the crime, or a witness to a crime, or giving information on any other person committing a crime, you’re now labeled as a snitch amongst gang culture.

Quinn stated that witnesses are often in danger, and that someone who does snitch can expect to “get killed.”

*The Franklin Villa Housing Complex History*

The Franklin Villa Housing Complex was constructed in 1969 by developer George McKeon. The community was originally intended for low

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294 Quinn has worked, and was working at the time a case, which involved gang members and witness intimidation.
295 According to Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Officer Vincent François, the Franklin Villa Housing Community, which is typically referred to as G-Parkway, is enclosed by a metal fence. The area is bordered to the north by Doss Way, the south is Brookfield, the east is Franklin Boulevard, and the west is bordered by a Morrison Creek. In size, the area is approximately ¼ mile wide by approximately ½ mile long and is shaped like a piece of pie. This area has 939
income first time home owners. The initial sales price for a home was $11,945. The price was “so attractive” that many retirees and first time home buyers “flocked to the new community” with its “spacious lawns and open streets.” In time, the retirees “died off” and the first time home buyers “moved up in the housing market.” Private investors, lured by the still low prices, purchased the homes and turned them into rental units. “The community went from home owners to absentee landlords over a descending twenty year period.” As the area became full of rental units, and landlords became less and less involved in the community, eventually it “became a haven for drug dealers and gang members.” These gang members were mainly from either G-Mobb or the 29th Street Crips.

According to the injunction,

By the mid 1980’s, gangs and drug dealers had complete control over the alleyways and Franklin Villa became notorious as the number one place to obtain crack cocaine. There are other activities which follow the drug trade, namely robbery, shootings and murders. As the gangs fought for territory, the residents of this community became prisoners in their own homes. The streets and alleyways were no longer safe for children to play

units, of which approximately 175 buildings are four-plexes (700 units). The remaining buildings are town homes. See City of Sacramento vs. G-Mobb et al, a civil case.
in and the streets became battlefields as drug dealers and gangs fought for territory to sell drugs and conduct other illegal activities such as gambling.

In an effort to “restore a conducive living environment” the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) “commented an eminent domain action” against the absentee landlords, and became the sole owner of the Franklin Villa Housing Complex. Due to the high crime rate, all the streets that passed through Franklin Villa were closed, leaving only G-Parkway and Caselli Circle open to allow traffic in and out of the community. Armed guards were placed at the entrances and exits, and only allowed those who lived there or were visiting someone inside of the complex. Background checks were conducted on rental applicants, and the gang injunction was applied for and granted by the Court.

The homes were completely renovated, and the alleyways were turned into spacious yards. The complex’s name was changed to Phoenix Park, and G-Parkway became Shining Star Drive in an effort to give the complex a sense of change.

296 While this was been a “blessing” to those who live around the G-Parkway area, it has made it harder for law enforcement to arrest those committing crimes as it was now easier to spot law enforcement approaching.
South Sacramento African American Gang History

This appendix summarizes all of the information found that pertains solely to the individual gangs in South Sacramento, in order to give the reader a better idea of the history of each individual gang, by using the testimony of individual detectives, who were deemed to be experts by the courts. Every effort was made to make these histories as complete as possible, and drawings of
the gang hand signs were included whenever possible; however, due to missing
or incomplete testimony, some of the gangs histories were only partially
completed.
Garden Block Crips/GBC

21st Street Crips
Gang Name: Garden Block Crips and 29th/24th/21st Street Crips

Colors/Identifiers: Blue, GBC, 29th/21st/24th Street

Enemies: Oak Park Bloods, FAB, and Gunz Up

Allies: G-Parkway, all G-Parkway subsets, Valley High Crips

History

Sacramento County Sheriff’s Detective Elaine Stoops testified that the 29th Street Crips, with 200 to 300 active members, is a subset of the Garden Block Crips, and the largest Sacramento Crips gang. Despite these large numbers, the rival Bloods outnumber the Crips in the Sacramento area by two to one. Since 2000, sixty-eight Sacramento Crips have been convicted of crimes such as drug sales, aggravated assault, attempted murder, and murder.

The gang was founded by Cepeda “Crazy AC” Adams and George “G-Man” Mims. According to Sacramento County Probation Department DPO Kelly McGhee, the 29th Street Crips originated in the “Florin Meadows Apartments on 29th Street between Florin and Meadowview.” Furthermore, the 29th Street Crips are a part of a larger Crip set, the Garden Block Crips, which also includes the 21st and 24th Street Crips. The 29th Street Crips are the largest of the groups.

298 State of California vs. Anerae Brown et al.
within the Garden Block Crips. Stoops\textsuperscript{299} testified that Gigi Place, and the area around it is traditionally claimed by the 29\textsuperscript{th} Street Crips and Garden Block Crips.

During the 1990’s, due to Bay Area based migration, residents from Oakland began moving into the G-Parkway area. These residents formed their own gang, G-Mobb, and began fighting over “turf” and the narcotics trade with the 29\textsuperscript{th} Street Crips. Eventually, due to the injunction filed by the City of Sacramento, both G-Mobb and the 29\textsuperscript{th} Street Crips left the G-Parkway area.\textsuperscript{300}

After the injunction, G-Mobb moved out of G-Parkway, and the friction between the two gangs ended; however, G-Mobb was forced into other territories, and began having problems with other Sacramento gangs.

\textsuperscript{299} State of California vs. Jimmy Broadnax et al.
\textsuperscript{300} City of Sacramento vs. G-Mobb et al.
Gang Name: G-Parkway/Killa Hoe Camp/G-Mobb

Colors/Identifiers: Green Bay Packers/Dog Tags inscribed with “Killa Hoe Camp”

Enemies: Oak Park Bloods, Fourth Avenue Bloods (FAB), GUNZ UP

Allies: Garden Block Crips, 29th Street Crips, all G-Parkway subsets, and the Del Paso Heights Bloods

*History*

According to Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Scott MacLafferty, G-Mobb’s founders migrated from the Bay Area, and settled in the Franklin Villa housing complex. At that time, the complex was “pretty much run by” the Crips in the area, specifically the Garden Block Crips, and its subsets. Tensions arose, and “G-Mobb basically went to war with the Crips,” in the mid 1990’s, “over the narcotics trade which led to a significant increase in violent crime.”

According to the SPD Detective William Tall, while there were multiple gangs sets that were contacted within G-Parkway the two main sets were the 29th Street Crips and G-Mobb. According to SPD Victor Francios, the 29th Street

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301 Including the Oak Park Bloods, Garden Block Crips, Meadowview Bloods, North Highlands Gangster Crips, Rollin 50 Crips, Hoover Crips, Schoolyard Crips and “various gangs sets from other cities throughout California and the United States.”
Crips gang members claimed the area in the “Franklin Blvd/El Mango Way alley” while G-Mobb gang members claimed the area in the “Caselli Circle/La Sandia Way alley.”

According to SPD Officer Adlert Robinson, G-Mobb “came into existence during the mid 1990’s in the Franklin Villa Housing Complex.” G-Mobb’s founders migrated from Oakland, California, and based the gang on Oakland’s African American gang structure, which does not claim Crip or Blood. G-Mobb members will wear “Green Bay Packers” football clothing and often associate themselves with the Packers colors. Furthermore, G-Mobb members may wear dog tags inscribed with “Killa Ho Camp,” a G-Mobb subset. According to Robinson, G-Mobb’s founders originally created the gang to protect themselves from Garden Block Crip gang members, who were claiming G-Parkway as part of their territory. As G-Mobb became an established gang, a “turf war” between G-Mobb and the Garden Block Crips began over drug sales.

According to MacLafferty, due to the violence, the City of Sacramento,

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302 Also known as “Crip Alley.”
303 Also known as “Murder Alley,” due to several murders that occurred there in 2000 and 2001.
304 Oakland gangs often refer to themselves as “Family” or “Mobb.”
305 Due to the large “G” symbol.
306 According to SPD Detective Norman Leong, Killa Ho Camp was formed as a “feeder or pre-gang” that younger members joined to prove their loyalty and “toughness,” which was needed to join G-Mobb. City of Sacramento vs. G-Mobb et al.
Eventually obtained a gang injunction against G-Mobb, which forced the gang members to move out of the area, and into other areas. At about the same time, younger residents of Sacramento wanted to join G-Mobb, and they were accepted by the G-Mobb gang and they used the name of Bad Ass Young Stars, and from there it evolved to different forms of Young Starz being Stars, Stickup Stars that were commonly referred to. The Stars were accepted by G-Mobb, and they fall under the click of G-Mobb.

By 2006, according to Maclafferty, a group of younger Sacramento residents wanted to join G-Mobb, and another generation of the G-Mobb gang began to emerge. This new subset was called the Guttah Bois. By August of 2008, G-Mobb and its subsets, including the Guttah Bois, were at war with the Oak Park Bloods, and its subsets, including the Fourth Avenue Bloods (FAB) also known as Fuck A Bitch. Furthermore, the Guttah Bois claimed territory “in the Mack Road, Center Parkway, Valley Hi neighborhoods, going south and almost to Elk Grove,” which was also being claimed by rival gangs.
Gang Name: Bad Ass Youngsters/Starz Up/Stick Up Starz

Colors/Identifiers: Tan/2125

Enemies: Oak Park Bloods, FAB, Gunz Up

Allies: 29th Street Crips, Garden Block Crips, G-Parkway, All other G-Parkway subsets

History

According to MacLafferty, due to the violence in the Franklin Villa Housing Complex (G-Parkway) in the 1990s, the City of Sacramento obtained a gang injunction against G-Mobb, and its members. At approximately the same time, younger residents of Sacramento wanted to join G-Mobb, and they were accepted by the G-Mobb gang. In an effort to pay tribute to G-Parkway, the new gang, the Bad Ass Young Stars (BAY), named themselves after G-Parkway’s new name, Shining Star Drive. The Bad Ass Young Starz name was eventually shortened to Bad Ass Youngsters, Stickup Starz, and Starz up.

Starz is a hybrid gang that does not claim colors, although it often associates itself with tan. Starz members, like G-Mobb members, often wear their hair in dreadlocks, and will dye the tips different colors to indicate which types of illegal activities they participate in.\(^{307}\)

\(^{307}\) State of California vs. Marcellus Motley
Gang Name: Guttah Boiz/Guttah Bois

Colors/Identifiers: Guttah Bois

Enemies: Oak Park, FAB, Gunz Up

Allies: 29th Street Crips, Garden Block Crips, G-Mobb and G-Mobb subsets

History

By 2006, according to Sacramento Police Department Detective Scott Maclafferty, a group of younger Sacramento residents wanted to join G-Mobb, and another generation of the G-Mobb gang began to emerge. This new subset was called the Guttah Bois.308

In August of 2008, G-Mobb and its subsets, including the Guttah Bois, were at war with the Oak Park Bloods, and its subsets, including the Fourth Avenue Bloods (FAB) also known as Fuck A Bitch. Furthermore, the Guttah Bois claimed territory “in the Mack Road, Center Parkway, Valley Hi neighborhoods, going south and almost to Elk Grove,” which was also being claimed by rival gangs.

308 Sacramento County vs. Marvel Barksdale
Gang Name: Oak Park Bloods

Colors/Identifiers: Red

Enemies: Garden Block Crips, 29th Street Crips, G-Parkway, all G-Parkway subsets

Allies: Gunz Up, and OPB subsets

*History*

One of the oldest Blood sets in the Sacramento area. It was created in the 1980s, when Los Angeles based Blood sets came up the “I-5 Corridor” to sell crack cocaine. Its subsets include the Fourth Avenue Bloods (FAB), 33rd Street, and 12th Ave Bloods. FAB is the largest of its subsets.

Some Oak Park Bloods also claim Ridezilla; however Ridezilla is a “clique,” not a subset because more than the Oak Park Bloods are a part of Ridezilla.
Gang Name: Ridezilla

Colors/Identifiers: Underworld Zilla, Clap City, 21-26

 Enemies: Garden Block Crips, 29th Street Crips, G-Parkway, all G-Parkway subsets

 Allies: Oak Park Bloods, Meadowview Bloods, and Valley Hi Pirus

History

According to Sacramento Sheriff’s Department (SSD) Detective Elaine Stoops, a clique is a subset of a subset of a gang. Ridezilla, being a gang that comes from the subsets of other gangs, is a clique. Ridezilla is also referred to as Zilla clique, and Underworld Zilla. Ridezilla is comprised of the Oak Park Bloods, Meadowview Bloods, and Valley Hi Pirus. A member can claim their set (Oak Park), and also claim a clique (Ridezilla). Ridezilla began as a rap group.

According to SPD Detective Wendy Brown, Ridezilla is a "very, very, violent gang" and its primary activities are "homicides, attempted homicides, narcotics dealings, and assaults with deadly weapons." Furthermore, the “rivals

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309 Brown testified that Ridezilla is a neighborhood-based gang that is made up primarily of members of the Oak Park Bloods, along with members recruited from other neighboring gangs, including the Meadowview Bloods and Valley Hi Piru’s.

310 UZ, numerically shown as 21-26 for the letters numerical positions in the alphabet

311 State of California vs. Broadbent et al.
of Ridezilla are anyone who challenges Ridezilla," and Ridezilla members "are very, very, often armed, and they are not afraid to use them."
Gang Name: Gunz Up

Colors/Identifiers: Red

Allies: Oak Park Bloods, Meadowview Bloods, Valley Hi Pirus

Enemies: G-Parkway allies and subsets

History

According to SPD Detective Justin Saario, Gunz Up is a South Sacramento based African American gang that emerged in “late 2007, early 2008.” Originally Gunz Up was a part of the Stick Up Starz or Guttah Bois, however,

There was an internal fight with Stick Up Starz between Marceirious Wright and another individual within Stick Up Starz. Some people have said it was Antoine Torrens, and other people just gave vaguely that it was someone within Starz…. There was a split within Guttah—or Starz Up, and this new formed group that kind of went with… Marcerious Wright.

Marcerious Wright had a following of individuals that he was friends with that broke away and started to formulate Gunz-Up. And we kind of started seeing that momentum build into the Gunz-Up movement, and more people, more people, there was more crime starting, and it started to involve—evolve into-- morphed into this-- gang.
Furthermore, Saario stated that Gunz Up aligns with the Fourth Avenue Bloods (FAB) and Oak Park Bloods because they have a “common enemy being G-Mobb, Starz Up, and Guttah.” Gunz Up is also considered to be a Blood subset because they throw the “B” handsign for Bloods, and they “wear red in photographs.” Additionally, not only do they have Oak Park members that claim to be Gunz, “many of the individual within Gunz Up” also claim to be Valley Hi Pirus.

According to Saario, the problems between FAB and G-Mobb and its subsets began in “August of 2008 when Robert Haynes, who was an Oak Park Blood, was killed in a fight on Detroit Boulevard, or at a house part on Detroit Boulevard, by the Guttah Bois. “

Saario stated that he interviewed Antoine Jackson, a Guttah Bois gang member, “about the rivalry and conflict between” the two gangs,

I spoke to him about different scenarios that – I gave him the scenario if he’s driving around with four other guys in the car and – four other gang members from his clique, and there’s one or more guns in the car, and they happen to see a Gunz Up guy walking down the street, what is going to happen. And his response was we will start shooting at him. Conversely,

312 Starz and Guttah are subsets of G-Mobb
his expectation is that if he is caught walking down the street getting caught slipping by rival gang members, same scenario, four Gunz Up guys or two Gunz Up guys, whatever it may be, in a car and they see each other, he expects to be getting shot at. The scenario was if he’s walking down the street and he is by himself and he sees a rival Gunz Up guy by himself, the expectation is that there’s not going to be a conflict. They are going to throw their gang’s signs and be on their way. The – these things (shootings) happen in a group dynamic.

SPD Detective Scott MacLafferty stated that the rivalry between Gunz and Guttah has resulted in five homicides, including the crossfire shooting death of Lanajah Nachelle Dupree. Jaivonne Flenory-Davis has been charged with murdering her.
This appendix summarizes all of the information found that pertains solely to the individual gangs in North Sacramento, in order to give the reader a better idea of the history of each individual gang, by using the testimony of individual detectives, who were deemed to be experts by the courts. Every effort was made to make these histories as complete as possible, and drawings of the gang hand signs were included whenever possible; however, due to missing or incomplete
testimony, some of the gangs histories were only partially completed.
Gang Name: North Highlands Gangster Crips

Colors/Identifiers: Blue/NHGC

Enemies: Del Paso Heights Bloods, Trigga Mob, Beast Mob

Allies: Monk Mob, Tearin Niggas Apart, other Crip sets

History

The North Highlands Gangster Crips (NHGC) claims the North Highlands area in Sacramento County. The NHGC have been around since the 1980s.

NHGC’s subsets include Monk Mob and Tearin Niggas Apart (TNA).
Gang Name: Monk Mob/ Tearing Niggas Apart

Colors/Identifiers: Blue

Enemies: Del Paso Heights Bloods, Trigga Mob, Beast Mob

Allies: NHGC, other Crip sets

History

According to Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Robert Quinn, there are several major Crip gangs in Sacramento. There are the 29th Street Crips/Garden Bock Crips, the Valley High Gangster Crips, the Nogales Gangster Crips, the North Highlands Gangster Crips, and the West Gate Crips. Tearin Niggas Apart (TNA) is a subset of the North Highlands Gangster Crips. TNA’s enemies include the Del Paso Heights Bloods.

According Quinn, Monk Mob started out as a “black rag” gang, because they chose not to use Crip or Blood. That was the original focus of Monk Mob; the same as Beast Mob we have in Sacramento. They originally started as not trying to be Blood or Crip gang. But over time, through the years that I have been working these two gangs, Beast Mob has aligned with Del Paso Heights Bloods and become a Blood gang; and Monk Mob has aligned with North Highlands Gangster Crips and become a Crip gang.
Gang Name: Del Paso Heights Bloods

Colors/Identifiers: Red/DPH

Allies: Trigga Mob, True Heights Villains

Enemies: Monk Mob, NHGC, TNA, other Crip sets

History

Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department (SSD) Detective Elaine Stoops testified that the DPH Bloods are a gang with over 200 validated members in the northern area of Sacramento County. The letters DPH are a symbol commonly used to signify the gang and are often used by gang members as a verbal challenge.313 The gang has been present in the Del Paso Heights area since the late 1980s and gang members have been seen in the area of the Royal Gardens Apartments, which is within a couple of miles of Del Paso Heights.

Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Robert Quinn314 testified at trial that the Del Paso Heights (DPH) Bloods operate mainly in the Del Paso Heights neighborhood in north Sacramento. The DPH Bloods have numerous subsets, including Elm Street, the Dark Side, and the Flats. The subsets operate in smaller geographic areas within Del Paso Heights. While the DPH Bloods main

313 For example, “On DPH” would be seen as a gang challenge

314 Sacramento County vs. Deandre Deloney et al
rivals are "any and all Crip sets in Sacramento," they also feud with other Blood sets, including the Oak Park Bloods.

According to Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Robert Quinn, the Del Paso Heights Bloods have been around since the early 1990s. The Trigga Mob Gang (TMG) is a subset of the Del Paso Heights Bloods.
Gang Name: Strawberry Manor Gangster Bloods

Colors/Identifiers: Red/Green

Enemies: Del Paso Heights Bloods, Trigga Mob, Beast Mob, North Highlands

Gangster Crips

History

Sacramento Police Department Sergeant Laura Gracia\textsuperscript{315} testified that the Strawberry Manor Gangster (SMG) Bloods\textsuperscript{316} are a subset of the Del Paso Heights (DPH) Bloods. At some point, there was a fight between the DPH Bloods and the SMG, and a “subject by the name of Grant” had his “teeth broken out” which resulted in the SMG Bloods becoming their own gang.

According to Gracia, the SMG Bloods took their name from Strawberry Manor Park, which is located in the Del Paso Heights area. They are very turf-orientated, and if a member of another gang comes onto the SMG Blood’s turf, someone could be injured or die. You can become a member of the SMG Bloods by “putting in work”\textsuperscript{317} or being “jumped in.”\textsuperscript{318}

\textsuperscript{315} \textit{Sacramento County vs. Shannon Bell}

\textsuperscript{316} AKA Strawberry Manor Family, Strawberry Manor Mob, and Strawberry Manor Bloods

\textsuperscript{317} Putting in work means to commit a crime for the gang, whether by being an “enforcer” or by committing robberies or selling drugs.
There are different levels of membership within the gang. The first is called a “wannabe” and that is someone who wants to be in the gang but has not yet reached a certain level of acceptance within the gang, but they do hang out with gang members. The second level of membership is a gang member. The third level of membership is a “shot caller” or “OG”, and those are the leaders of the gang.

The SMG Bloods claim red as their color, but they also use green a lot. They have used the pentagram and the numbers 666 as well, however this is infrequent, and Garcia stated she was unsure why they associated themselves with devil worship.

318 Being jumped in comes from the “old days” when prospective members would have to endure a beating by members of the gang for a certain amount of time to prove how “tough” you were
319 Original Gangster
Gang Name: Beast Mob

Colors/Identifiers: Red/DPH

Allies: Trigga Mob, True Heights Villains

Enemies: Monk Mob, NHGC, TNA, other Crip sets

History

Stoops defined a “subset” as a gang that is under the “overall umbrella of Crip (or)… Blood.” An example of this would be the Del Paso Heights Bloods, as that they are under the overall umbrella of the Bloods. Stoops stated that Beast Mob, the gang Chapman claimed, is a subset of the Del Paso Heights Bloods.

According to Sacramento Police Department Detective Robert Quinn, Beast Mob originally chose not to use Crip or Blood… They originally started as not trying to be Blood or Crip gang. But over time, through the years that I been working these two gangs, Beast Mob has aligned with Del Paso Heights Bloods and become a Blood gang; and Monk Mob has aligned with North Highlands Gangster Crips and become a Crip gang.
Gang Name: Trigga Mob
Colors/Identifiers: Red
Allies: Beast Mob, True Heights Villains
Enemies: Monk Mob, NHGC, TNA, other Crip sets

History
According to Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Robert Quinn, the Del Paso Heights Bloods have been around since the early 1990’s. The Trigga Mob Gang (TMG) is a subset of the Del Paso Heights Bloods.

Quinn stated that Trigga Mob is often violent because,

Trigga Mob does not want anyone talking to the police. If they commit a crime, they don’t want the police to know who committed that crime, or for any of the members to be caught up and arrested, or a retaliation shooting like that. Everybody knows that if a Trigga Mob gang member goes to jail, and someone snitches, they will retaliate against you. They will try to kill you or they will try to intimidate you with that fear to establish or demand respect, so that when further crimes are committed people will not talk to the police.
This appendix summarizes the gang cases that were found by the author, in order to give the reader a better idea of the state of African American Gangs in Sacramento by using actual cases and the facts that surrounded them. While many of these cases were paraphrased from existing case summaries\textsuperscript{320} in some cases, these cases were summarized from testimony, police reports, and appeals. In some cases, there were only partial names\textsuperscript{321} used. In other cases, some names could not be found due to missing pages or incomplete testimony\textsuperscript{322}. Every effort was made to make these cases complete; however, that was not always possible therefore case numbers, police report numbers, and xreference numbers for the defendants, witnesses and victims were included whenever they could be found.

Additionally, it should be noted that while the testimony in the cases was correct at the time of the crime, gang activities, alliances, and structure is constantly changing. Coupled with the fact that most of these cases take years to adjudicate, the information included within this, while useful, should not be relied upon as the absolute and current gang reality.

\textsuperscript{320} In an attempt to clarify and simplify the document
\textsuperscript{321} Just first or just last names
\textsuperscript{322} For example some gang detectives are referred to only as “experts” and some gang members are only known by their monikers
Defendants’ Names: Emery Dione Allen (Xref) Allen Deshaun Oliver (Xref) Quentin Issac Washington (Xref), and Quincy Isiah Washington (Xref)

Gang: Gunz Up vs. BAY

Case Number: 10F000209

Victim’s Name: Todd Williams

Case Summary

On September 15th, near 84 Nedra Court, Emery “Jude” Allen, a Gunz Up gang member, and Jerrin Jones, a Guttah Bois gang member, got into a verbal argument. Quentin Washington, a Gunz Up gang member, was “backing up” Allen, while Jones was alone. Jones informed Allen that Jones had called his “boys” and that they would be helping him “take care” of the issues between the two. Jones retreated to wait for his fellow gang members, while Allen went back to his home.\(^{323}\)

A short time later, according to the statement Allen “Diddy” Oliver, a Gunz Up gang member gave SPD detectives,

I was standing in the front yard of Jude’s house. I was standing there when I saw three dudes come around the front… We ran to the back of Jude’s house, and I saw four more guys coming through the field coming toward

\(^{323}\)84 Nedra Court #4.
us. We ran back to the front where we had just come from, and I did not see the three guys… Ran toward the back again, but for some reason I didn’t go to the back, I ran into the garage.

Oliver alerted the rest of the Gunz Up members, and Emery and, according to Sacramento Police Department Detective Justin Saario,

The other members from Gunz Up ran to the front to try to locate the them (Guttah Bois), and then subsequently ran towards the back of the alley where the shooting subsequently happened.

During the “mutual shooting” both Gunz Up and Guttah Bois gang members exchanged shots with each other. Those involved in the shooting included Allen, Oliver, Quentin Washington and Quincy Washington, brothers who were both Gunz Up gang members and Todd “Stink” Williams and Junius Winters, who were both Guttah Bois gang members. Winters was shot, and transported to the hospital by Williams and Nehemiah Barksdale, a Guttah Bois gang member. Winters survived the shooting.
According to SPD Detective Justin Saario, Gunz Up is a South Sacramento based African American gang that emerged in “late 2007, early 2008.” Originally Gunz Up was a part of the Stick Up Starz or Guttah Bois, however,

There was an internal fight with Stick Up Starz between Marceirious Wright and another individual within Stick Up Starz. Some people have said it was Antoine Torrens, and other people just gave vaguely that it was someone within Starz…. There was a split within Guttah—or Starz Up, and this new formed group that kind of went with… Marcerious Wright. Marcerious Wright had a following of individuals that he was friends with that broke away and started to formulate Gunz-Up. And we kind of started seeing that momentum build into the Gunz-Up movement, and more people, more people, there was more crime starting, and it started to involved—evolve into-- morphed into this-- gang.

Furthermore, Saario stated that Gunz Up aligns with the Fourth Avenue Bloods (FAB) and Oak Park Bloods because they have a “common enemy being
Gunz Up is also considered to be a Blood subset because they throw the “B” handsign for Bloods, and they “wear red in photographs.” Additionally, not only do they have Oak Park members that claim to be Gunz, “many of the individual within Gunz Up” also claim to be Valley Hi Pirus.

According to Saario, the problems between FAB and G-Mobb and its subsets began in “August of 2008 when Robert Haynes, who was an Oak Park Blood, was killed in a fight on Detroit Boulevard, or at a house part on Detroit Boulevard, by the Guttah Bois. “

Saario stated that he interviewed Antoine Jackson, a Guttah Bois gang member, “about the rivalry and conflict between” the two gangs,

I spoke to him about different scenarios that – I gave him the scenario if he’s driving around with four other guys in the car and – four other gang members from his clique, and there’s one or more guns in the car, and they happen to see a Gunz Up guy walking down the street, what is going to happen. And his response was we will start shooting at him. Conversely, his expectation is that if he is caught walking down the street getting caught slipping by rival gang members, same scenario, four Gunz Up guys or two Gunz Up guys, whatever it may be, in a car and they see each

324 Starz and Guttah are subsets of G-Mobb
other, he expects to be getting shot at. The scenario was if he’s walking down the street and he is by himself and he sees a rival Gunz Up guy by himself, the expectation is that there’s not going to be a conflict. They are going to throw their gangs signs and be on their way. The – these things (shootings) happen in a group dynamic.

SPD Detective Scott MacLafferty stated that the rivalry between Gunz and Guttah has resulted in five homicides, including the crossfire shooting death of Lanajah Nachelle Dupree. Jaivonne Flenory-Davis has been charged with murdering her.
Defendants’ Names: Charles Barksdale (Xref 3061249) Joseph Corbray (Xref 3028637) Tony Williams (Xref 3028637) Jessie Fowler (Xref 2991749) Claude Sparks (Xref 3138952) Marquis Landers (3078255)

Gang: G-Mobb vs. 29th Street Crips

Case Number: 98F07650

Victim's Name: Jason Whitfield (Xref 2587758)

Case Summary

Following “weeks of shootings” between G-Mobb and the 29th Street Crips, Jason “Cheese” Whitfield\(^{325}\) was walking the route he always took to go to a friend’s home. As Whitfield was walking between two four-plexes, he passed a garage containing five males, all G-Mobb gang members. The males, who were waiting for him to pass, immediately started shooting at him, hitting him a few times. Whitfield began to run to his friend’s home, while the males brazenly chased him down the street, still firing their guns despite the presence of witnesses on the street. Whitefield managed to escape the gunmen by hiding in a home.

Charges against Barksdale were dropped.

Corbray, Landers and Sparks pled to assault (PC 245 (A) (2)) and were sentenced

\(^{325}\) Xref 2587758.
to six years in state prison.

Williams pled to being a felon in possession of a firearm (PC 12021(A)(1)) and was sentenced to three years in state prison.

**Gang Testimony**

Sacramento Police Department Detective Adlert Robinson testified that the Garden Block Crips name came from the Correla Gardens area, which is where they were formed. Furthermore, Killa Ho Camp is a subset of G-Mobb.

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326 Which includes the 21st, 24th, and 29th Street Crips.
Defendants Name: Mariah Barksdale (Xref 4222034)

Gang: Guttah Bois/Ding-A-Ling Team

Case Number: 09F06662

Victim's Name: Jasmine D Branner

Case Summary

On August 22\textsuperscript{nd} 2008, Robert Haynes was murdered at 7818 Detroit Blvd. Multiple witnesses, including Jasmine Branner, were interviewed, leading to the arrest of Guttah Bois gang member Marvel "Dick" Barksdale.

On August 23rd 2009, at approximately 1:00AM, Jasmine Branner was attending a party at 1621 Belinda Way with her sister, Jayunna Branner. Upon entering the party, a group of six girls, who called themselves the "Ding-A-Ling Team"\textsuperscript{327} and four boys, began verbally agitating Jasmine. One of the girls, later identified as Mariah Barksdale,\textsuperscript{328} referred to Jasmine when she stated "That's the girl who snitched on Dick." Mariah also stated to Jasmine, "We're gonna get you after the party. We killin' for Dick. Free Dick."

After the party, Jasmine was "jumped" by the six girls and four boys who had been harassing her earlier in the evening. Jasmine was hit with closed fist punches in her facial area, and on her head. Jasmine’s head and body were also

\textsuperscript{327} The female version of the Guttah Bois.  
\textsuperscript{328} Sister to Marvel Barksdale.
kicked. Jasmine was taken to the hospital where one of the two lacerations she received on her forehead was closed using "glue stitches."

Mariah was sentenced to five years formal searchable probation, and given 356 days in the Sacramento county jail. The other participants were dealt with as juveniles and their records remain sealed.
Defendants Name: Marvel Barksdale (Xref 4232431)

Gang: Guttah Bois vs. Oak Park Bloods/Fourth Avenue Bloods

Case Number: 08F07078

Victim's Name: Robert Haynes

Case Summary

On the evening of August 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2008 there was a party at 7818 Detroit Blvd. There were approximately forty-five to fifty people attending the party, most of who were male and female juveniles. Several of the attendees were Guttah Bois gang members, including Marvel “Dick” Barksdale, Larry “June” Henderson, Desmond Oates,\textsuperscript{329} and Earnest “Poonie” Barron. Most of the Guttah Bois were in the backyard smoking, while people inside the house danced. During the evening, multiple witnesses claimed they observed Barksdale sitting on a chair in the backyard with a gun in his lap, and heard him bragging he had a “banga.”\textsuperscript{330}

While Barksdale, Henderson, Oates and Barron were in the backyard, approximately six to eight males walked from the Meadowview light rail station to the party, including Fourth Avenue Blood (FAB) gang members Robert “Strong Arm Rob” Haynes, and his half brother, Daniel “Poppy Chulo” Bush,\textsuperscript{331} both of whom were armed. Most of the males were from the Oak Park area of

\textsuperscript{329} Xref 3691848.
\textsuperscript{330} Slang term for gun.
\textsuperscript{331} Xref 3667648.
Sacramento, and of those, many of them were validated FAB gang members, or were known as gang associates to law enforcement. When the FAB members arrived at the party, they were confronted by some Guttah Bois members who threw gang signs, and disrespected FAB by yelling, “Kill 6-1-2.” Several members of the FAB group, including Haynes, began throwing gang signs back and disrespected Guttah by yelling, “Fuck Guttah.”

At some point during the confrontation, an unidentified person informed Barksdale that FAB gang members had arrived. Barksdale immediately entered the home through the sliding glass door. According to the prosecution, Barksdale fired at Haynes without provocation; however, multiple witnesses, including rival gang members, contend that Haynes and Bush had their guns out when they entered the home, and that Haynes and Bush were in the home approximately a minute before the firing started. Furthermore, Haynes had gun shot residue on his hands, indicating that he had shot the gun, or at least held it.

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332 6-1-2 is the number code for FAB.
333 What happened next is unclear, as forensic evidence and witness testimony is unable to determine conclusively what happened. During the investigation, witnesses and law enforcement articulated that there was a “conspiracy” to lure the FAB members to the party, and that it was intended that a FAB gang member die.
334 The testimony of Angel Gonzales, a FAB gang member (Xref 4062936).
335 This claim is backed by the testimony of Bush and Sydney Johnson.
The prosecution contended that Barksdale was the shooter, however, two witnesses claim that Oates and Barron were also shooting.\textsuperscript{336}

Despite not knowing conclusively who fired the fatal or first shot, Haynes was struck in the head, and died instantly. FAB members began returning fire at Barksdale, and the other Guttah members, most of who fled out the back. Barksdale was convicted of Manslaughter, a gang enhancement, and a gun enhancement and sentenced to thirty-six years in prison.

\textit{Gang Testimony}

According to Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Scott Maclafferty, G-Mobb’s founders migrated from the Bay Area, and settled in the Franklin Villa housing complex. At that time, the complex was “pretty much run by” the Crips in the area, specifically the Garden Block Crips, and its subsets. Tensions arose, and “G-Mobb basically went to war with the Crips,” in the mid 1990s, “over the narcotics trade which led to a significant increase in violent crime.” According to Maclafferty, due to the violence, the City of Sacramento,

Eventually obtained a gang injunction against G-Mobb, which forced the gang members to move out of the area, and into other areas. At about the

\textsuperscript{336} The testimony of Catherina Wilson, John Smith, and the phone records of Tito Bean, indicate that there were two other shooters besides Barksdale, which were Oates and Barron.
same time, younger residents of Sacramento wanted to join G-Mobb, and they were accepted by the G-Mobb gang and they used the name of Bad Ass Young Stars, and from there it evolved to different forms of Young Starz being Stars, Stickup Stars that were commonly referred to. The Stars were accepted by G-Mobb, and they fall under the click of G-Mobb.

By 2006, according to Maclafferty, a group of younger Sacramento residents wanted to join G-Mobb, and another generation of the G-Mobb gang began to emerge. This new subset was called the Guttah Bois.

In August of 2008, G-Mobb and its subsets, including the Guttah Bois, were at war with the Oak Park Bloods, and its subsets, including the Fourth Avenue Bloods (FAB) also known as Fuck A Bitch. Furthermore, the Guttah Bois claimed territory “in the Mack Road, Center Parkway, Valley Hi neighborhoods, going south and almost to Elk Grove,” which was also being claimed by rival gangs.
Defendants Name: Quintin Barksdale (Xref 2445621) Terrel Cole (Xref 2933241)
Marcus Washington (Xref 3390841)
Gang: 29th Street Crips/ Garden Block Crips
Case Number: 02F08116
Victim's Name: Alonzo Vaughn

Case Summary
On Sept 19th, 2002, Quintin "Lil-E-Loc" Barksdale, along with Terrell "Filsa Sam" Cole, Marcus "Scooby" Washington, and an unidentified male, went to Barksdale's ex-girlfriend’s home, which she was sharing with her new boyfriend, Alonzo Vaughn. All of the males in Barksdale's group, including Barksdale, were wearing predominately blue clothing, and claimed to be 29th Street/Garden Block Crips. All of them were allowed inside the residence, where there was a confrontation between Vaughn and Barksdale. Vaughn made a reference to the Bloods, which caused Barksdale to make a reference to the 29th Street Crips and the Garden Block Crips. A fight began between Vaughn, Barksdale, and the other three males. Someone, during the altercation, pulled a gun and shot Vaughn in the back. Barksdale, Cole, and Washington pled to Voluntary Manslaughter, and were each sentenced to twelve years in state prison.
According to Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Laura Gracia, gangs “as we know it” began in the late 1970s to early 1980s. These early gangs claimed their neighborhoods as their territory; however, unlike the African American gangs of Los Angeles, Sacramento gangs were not yet Blood or Crip based. Those who claimed the area known as Oak Park called themselves the “Funk Lords.” Those who claimed the area known as Del Paso Heights called themselves the “Dogs,” while those in the area known as Meadowview called themselves the “Dog Catchers.”

According to Garcia, during the early to mid eighties, Crips and Bloods began coming up from Los Angeles, leading to changes as Sacramento gangs began to adopt the migrating gang member’s gang structure. Not only did the Sacramento gangs become Crip and Blood based, they also followed the Los Angeles tradition of naming their gangs after the area, block, or neighborhood, which it claimed. The Funk Lords became the Oak Park Bloods. The Dogs became the Del Paso Heights Bloods, and the Dog Catchers became the Meadowview Bloods. The Garden Block Crips, whose territories encompassed

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337 Which used to include the Strawberry Manors, until there was a conflict and the Strawberry Manors residents became the Strawberry Manors Gangsters.
the area around 29th Street, 24th Street, and 21st Street, and Florin, which used to be called Correla Gardens,\textsuperscript{338} were the largest Crip set in Sacramento.

Garcia stated that in any African American gang you must earn respect by enhancing your reputation, and in order to enhance your reputation you must be able to handle anything; essentially being able and willing to be violent at any sign of disrespect. Garcia defined disrespect as a multitude of things; however, doing anything that promotes a rival gang would be considered to be one of the more disrespectful things someone else could do.\textsuperscript{339}

Garcia also stated that gang members have certain “codes and ethics” that they are supposed to follow. One of those is “having your homeboys back,” which essentially means making sure that you participate in whatever your “homeboys” need you to participate in, which would force anyone in the gang to participate in the assault.

\textsuperscript{338} This means that a 29th Street Crip would also claim to be a Garden Block Crip
\textsuperscript{339} An example of this would be a Blood calling a Crip, “Blood,” or a Crip wearing all blue in a Blood run territory.
Defendants Name: Shannon Bell

Gang: Strawberry Manor Gangster Bloods/Strawberry Manor Mob

Case Number: 04F09443

Victim's Names: Jemauz Jones

Case Summary

On February 9th, 1999, Dundell Wright, a parolee and Strawberry Manor Gangster (SMG) Bloods gang member, was stopped by Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Officer William Bean. Wright, who had made it clear to others he was “not going back to the pen,” engaged in a shootout with Bean, killing him. Wright fled the scene, and an investigation was immediately begun.

During the investigation, police developed a witness, Jemauz Jones (Xref 2057521) a parolee and SMG Bloods gang member, who gave them information about Wright, leading to his eventual arrest and conviction. According to Deputy District Attorney Thomas Asker, from that “day forward, Jemauz Jones had what is known in the streets as a snitch jacket, or snitch papers on him” as word traveled from Wright to the outside world about Jones “betrayal.”

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340 Xref 611017
341 Snitch papers is the paperwork that law enforcement/district attorney’s create documenting the information that was given to them by a “snitch.” This paperwork is given to the defense during discovery, who often gives it to the defendant.
While Wright was incarcerated at the Sacramento County Jail pending his trial, Wright and fellow SMG Blood gang member Shanon Bell, were housed together. According to Asker, since Bell and Wright were housed together or near each other multiple times, Bell would have had knowledge about Jones “snitching,” from his conversations with Wright.

In June of 2004, Jones and Bell were paroled at approximately the same time, and they began spending time together. Witnesses placed them together often, and stated that at no point did Bell exhibit any hostility towards Jones. In fact, Bell informed Jones that Bell considered Jones to be his “boy.” According to Asker, the friendship, however, was just a pretext for Bell to get close to Jones, and find a way to murder Jones without getting caught.

Asker stated that on Friday September 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 2004, Bell decided he had found the perfect place to murder Jones without getting caught, and took him to the American Spirit Bar on 327 Northgate Blvd. The bar was busy, and by the time Bell and Jones arrived, there were around a hundred people in the parking lot. A few minutes after midnight, Jones was talking to his cousin Marlon Ayers, while leaning on Ayers car. Bell came around the car, called Jones a “snitch,” and fired five shots into Jones’ head, back, and upper torso.\textsuperscript{342}

Bell immediately jumped into his car, and fled the scene, as do the other people in the parking lot. Bell’s first known stop was at Strawberry Manor Park,

\textsuperscript{342} Jones died instantly from his wounds.
where he screamed, “Yeah I shot that nigger. He’s dead now. I shot that nigger.”

Bell then left, and burned the car he fled from the bar and the park in. Over the next few days, Bell intimidated some of the witnesses, and started to become paranoid about being caught. Bell was eventually arrested.

The night of his arrest, Bell discussed the Jones’ murder with Detective MacLafferty. Bell denied being the killer or having been present at the time of the shooting, and repeatedly and vigorously refused to say who did the killing, because,

It's snitching, and I ain't a snitch. I'm not going to tell you that because that's snitching, and either ratting--either ratting me or snitching. . . . I'm not going to do that, man.

Bell was booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail, and his phone conversations were recorded. During one of his phone calls, he admits to killing Jones, stating that Jones was a “snitch.” Furthermore, Bell states, “On the Manors, I’m a soldier. I’m all Hyphy.”

Bell was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

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343 Referring to Strawberry Manor Park.
SPD Sergeant Laura Gracia testified that the Strawberry Manor Gangster (SMG) Bloods[^344] are a subset of the Del Paso Heights (DPH) Bloods. At some point, there was a fight between the DPH Bloods and the SMG, and a “subject by the name of Grant” had his “teeth broken out” which resulted in the SMG Bloods becoming their own gang.

According to Gracia, the SMG Bloods took their name from Strawberry Manor Park, which is located in the Del Paso Heights area. They are very turf-orientated, and if a member of another gang comes onto the SMG Bloods turf, someone could be injured or die. You can become a member of the SMG Bloods by “putting in work”[^345] or being “jumped in.”[^346]

There are different levels of membership within the gang. The first is called a “wannabe” which is someone who wants to be in the gang but has not yet reached a certain level of acceptance within the gang, but they do hang out with gang members. The second level of membership is a gang member. The third

[^344]: According to Garcia, they are also known as Strawberry Manor Family, Strawberry Manor Mob, and Strawberry Manor Bloods.
[^345]: Putting in work means to commit a crime for the gang, whether by being an “enforcer” or by committing robberies or selling drugs.
[^346]: Being jumped in comes from the “old days” when prospective members would have to endure a beating by members of the gang for a certain amount of time to prove how “tough” you were.
level of membership is a “shot caller” or “OG”, and those are the leaders of the gang.

The SMG Bloods claim red as their color, but they also use green a lot. They have used the pentagram and the numbers 666 as well, however this is infrequent, and Garcia stated she was unsure why they associated themselves with devil worship.

Gracia testified

Snitching is against the code of ethics. It’s one of the major violations of the code of ethics of any gang member to provide information to the police in regards to what you know. They label it as snitching. You are not being a witness or giving information, you are snitching. And if you are caught snitching, and it comes to light, I have know numerous homicides to occur as a result of snitching… To be a witness is all referred to as snitching, and it has a very bad connotation. I’ve known of numerous homicides where people have been killed for snitching on members of the gang, of informing, or acting as a witness against another member of the gang. I’ve known families to be threatened, family members to be shot at, slapped, assaulted, beat up, because their family member snitched, informed or acted as a witness against another member of the gang.

347 Original Gangster.
Defendants Name: Jamual Broadbent (Xref 3684995) Humberto Diaz (Xref 3808739)

Gang: Oak Park Bloods

Case Number: 06F00542

Victim's Name: Anthony Watson and Dorral Hicks

Case Summary

On January 13th 2006, at approximately 8:30 PM, Dorrate Hicks and Michael Jordan were walking down 36th Street, having just left a nearby-by market, where they had met two teenage females. While walking to the house of one of the females, they approached the corner of 19th Avenue in the neighborhood of Oak Park, where they saw a group of young black males standing at the corner, including Humberto “Ab” Diaz and Jamal “Twin” Broadbent. One of the other males asked Jordan where he was "from." Jordan replied that he was from "L.A." An unidentified male became agitated and stated, "Fuck L.A, I bet you guys are from the Bay area. This is Oak Park Blood." In response to this, Broadbent threw a gang related hand sign, and referred to his gang "click."

Dorrata and Jordan walked to the nearby Christian Brothers High school, were Dorrata called his older brother Tykemo Harrison. Dorrata told Harrison that
they were about to get "jumped" by the males on the corner of 36th Street and 19th Avenue. Harrison immediately left his mother's residence on Martin Luther King Blvd., with his other brother, Dorral Hicks, and two friends, Javan Gaunt, and Anthony Watson. Once Harrison arrived, Dorrat climbed in the car’s backseat, while Jordan decided to walk home. It was then decided by Harrison’s group to confront Broadbent’s group, which had been harassing the boys. In order to confront Broadbent’s group, Harrison drove to the corner of 36th Street and 19th Avenue.

Once at the corner, the five occupants of the car encountered five to seven males still standing at the corner. Harrison began talking to Diaz, and at one point was seen shaking Harrison's hand, however; this quickly changed from a friendly exchange to much more when Diaz asked someone to "go get the gun." Two males immediately left the group after the directive was given, one of whom was Broadbent. Harrison, upon hearing this, directed everyone to get back into the car so they could leave. As Watson got partially into the front seat, Broadbent returned, now carrying a gun. Broadbent calmly walked up to the passenger side of the car, where Watson was still attempting to get in, and fired the gun five to six times. 

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348 Watson was hit three times in the head, and as of the time of the trial, remained in a coma having suffered extensive brain damage. Watson has never been able to provide a statement or communicate with law enforcement. Dorral's arm was struck by a bullet, which shattered the arm, entered his chest cavity and stopped at
At Court

On the day of opening statements, as the court and counsel were addressing a supplemental motion outside the presence of the jury, the prosecutor notified the court that Broadbent's father and brother, who were in the hall outside the courtroom, were wearing T-shirts that displayed some sort of message about freeing Broadbent. Broadbent's attorney left the courtroom and told them to leave and come back wearing something else. The judge noted there were jurors in the hallway that saw the shirts, and accordingly, before opening statements began, the judge reminded the jury not to be influenced by anything outside the courtroom, including "if you see anyone . . . wearing some clothing that might appear to be inappropriate."

The next morning, after Dorratre finished testifying, one of the jurors reported to the court that he had been in a stall in the bathroom when he heard two individuals discussing Dorratre's testimony. The juror identified one of the individuals as Broadbent's brother. The description of the other individual the juror provided matched Broadbent's father. Immediately thereafter, one of the other jurors and one of the alternate jurors reported to the court that a member of his neck. The vascular injury to his arm almost caused amputation (It is unknown whether or not his arm is able to function). Harrison's left shoulder was grazed. The other passengers escaped without physical harm.

349 It was his identical twin.
the audience had tried to make small talk with them in the hallway. Their description of that person matched Broadbent's father.

Diaz's attorney requested a separate trial based on the actions of Broadbent's father and brother. Broadbent's attorney asked that the juror who overheard the conversation in the bathroom be excused. The prosecutor opposed both requests but asserted that the judge had enough to “dismiss Broadbent's father and brother right now so they don't come back at 1:30.”

The judge denied the defense requests to sever the trials, but found that Broadbent's father and brother had "made attempts to influence this jury, and I'm going to have them excused from this courtroom." After excusing the jury for lunch, the court informed Broadbent's father and brother that they were "banned from this courtroom during this pending trial" based on the shirt incident and the two conversations. Broadbent was sentenced to twenty-five years to life in prison. Diaz was sentenced to twenty-five years to life in prison. It should be noted that both Broadbent and Diaz were involved with another case, see Collins, Denisho.350

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350 See case 06F07216.
Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Wendy Brown testified that Ridezilla\textsuperscript{351} is a neighborhood-based gang that is made up primarily of members of the Oak Park Bloods, along with members recruited from other neighboring gangs, including the Meadowview Bloods and Valley Hi Piru’s.

Ridezilla began as a rap group.

According to Brown, Ridezilla is a "very, very, violent gang" and its primary activities are "homicides, attempted homicides, narcotics dealings, and assaults with deadly weapons." Furthermore, the “rivals of Ridezilla are anyone who challenges Ridezilla,” and Ridezilla members "are very, very, often armed, and they are not afraid to use them."

Brown stated that Diaz and Broadbent were first validated as members of Ridezilla in 2005, based in part on their own admissions of gang membership. Brown also expressed her opinion that the shooting was committed for the benefit of Ridezilla because "the gang . . . benefits by a show of force in answering disrespect."

\textsuperscript{351} Also known as Zilla, Underworld Zilla (U.Z.), and Clap City.
Defendants’ Name: Jimmy Broadnax (1517337) Donald Norwood (1736702)

Gang: 29th Street Crips vs. Oak Park Bloods

Case Number: 04F03801

Victim's Name: Raymond Raya

Case Summary

On March 5, 2004, around 9:30 p.m., Mark “Lil Black” Johnson, Jimmy “Vamp” Broadnax, and Donald “Mad Ball” Norwood, all 29th Street Crip gang members, met at the Florin Meadows Apartments, a known 29th Street Crips hangout. There were other Garden Block/29th Street Crips there, including George “G-Man” Mims, a founder of the gang now confined to a wheelchair. The group discussed enemies' attempts to "run over" the "dwindling" 29th Street Crips and the shooting of gang member Brandon "Eclipse" Stevens with a bullet meant for Mims. Mims, who wanted to retaliate, stated that the person who had ordered the shooting drove a white van with large customized rims. Mims determined that Johnson would be the shooter. Johnson, on parole, did not want to take part, but Mims said Johnson had no choice.

The group decided to go on a "caravan" in different cars, and find

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352 Xref 32367.
353 Xref 57114.
354 Xref 3036371.
355 Later identified as Ernest “Dirty Ern” Rudolph (Xref 292096), an Oak Park Blood gang member.
someone to shoot at. Johnson got into the back of the red Grand Am, with
Norwood driving and Broadnax in the front passenger seat. Mtula “TC”
Payton,356 with Trindell “Buckle” Howard357 as a passenger, was to follow closely
in his Ford Explorer, in an effort to block the Grand Am's license plate number
from view. The caravan stopped at another gang hangout near Gigi Place and 68th
Avenue, where the group got out of their cars and discussed "who was gonna go,"
to find someone to shoot. The group got back in their cars, and the new caravan
included the Grand Am, Payton's Ford Explorer, a white car in which Mims rode,
and a car driven by Stevens. Johnson now sat in the front passenger seat of the
Grand Am, with Broadnax in the back.

Driving past clubs on Stockton Boulevard, the group spotted the white van
that belonged to Steven's shooter and followed it as it headed to a gas station at
Florin and 55th Street and parked. Around 30 people were at the gas station,
talking and dancing. Norwood handed Johnson a .357 revolver; Broadnax told
him to "get out of the car and shoot." Johnson got out and fired three or four shots
toward the white van, while Norwood got out and yelled, "This is 29th Street."
Raymond Raya, a Del Paso Heights Bloods gang member, was struck and died.

356 Xref 2555667.
357 Xref 3213517.
Sacramento County Sheriff's Detective Elaine Stoops testified that the 29th Street Crips, with 200 to 300 active members, is a subset of the Garden Block Crips, and the largest Sacramento Crips gang. Despite these large numbers, the rival Bloods outnumber the Crips in the Sacramento area by two to one. Since 2000, sixty-eight Sacramento Crips have been convicted of crimes such as drug sales, aggravated assault, attempted murder, and murder.

According to Stoops, Norwood, Broadnax, and Johnson are validated members of the 29th Street Crips. Norwood and Broadnax ranked as "big homies," or long-term members, just below the "OG's" or the "Original Gangsters" who founded the gang, Cepeda "Crazy AC" Adams and Mims. In the gang's hierarchy, senior members could give orders to junior members. Ernest Rudolph was an OG with the Oak Park Bloods, and Raymond Raya, the victim, was a member of the Del Paso Heights Bloods. The shooting of Raya, in Stoops' opinion, was done for the benefit of the 29th Street Crips, as part of the "virtual war" between Crips and Bloods and as retaliation for the attempted "hit" on Mims ordered by Rudolph.

Payton, testifying under a grant of use immunity, stated that he had joined the 29th Street Crips in 1992. Norwood and Broadnax were senior to him in the gang, ranking just below founders Mims and Adams.

358 Xref 672993.
Cases Referenced

Mark Caesar, a Blood associate, testified that on February 29, 2004, he attended a Bloods party in a warehouse on Power Inn Road, hosted by Rudolph, who drove a white van with customized rims. Mims, Broadnax, and other Crips came to the party. Caesar, who knew Mims and Broadnax, talked to them in the parking lot and concluded they had not come to fight.

As Caesar was about to go in with Mims and Broadnax, three shots came from inside. A woman who had been standing in the doorway fell to the ground, shot in the chest. Mims, who was out of his wheelchair, was picked up, put into a car, and driven away. Caesar intercepted Broadnax, about to run inside with his gun drawn, and advised him not to; Broadnax then got into another car and left. Caesar learned later that a male who had been with Mims and Broadnax was also shot.
Defendants’ Name: Anerae Brown (Xref 2339166) Roosevelt Coleman (Xref 2249018), Christopher McKinnie (Xref 1537057) Maurice Proctor (Xref 12398)

Gang: 24th Street Crips/ Garden Block Crips vs. Meadowview Bloods and Oak Park Bloods

Case Number: 118468

Victim's Name: Patricia Harris

Case Summary

On March 14th, 1992 Abdul “Scooby” Griffin359 and Maurice “Baby Bread” Proctor, a 29th Street Crip gang member, left Griffin's apartment and walked to a gas station to obtain cigarettes. Once at the gas station, they ran into Demond360 and Demtri Potts,361 brothers and Oak Park Bloods gang members. Insults were exchanged, and eventually a physical altercation began between Proctor and the Potts brothers, with Griffin just watching. The fight broke up when a security guard arrived, and Proctor ran back to Griffin's apartment.

Once at the apartment, Proctor yelled at Griffin for not helping him in the fight with the Potts brothers. Griffin called his stepbrother, Roosevelt “Baby Snake” Coleman, a 29th Street Crip gang member, who soon arrived in his mother's car. When Proctor explained what had happened, Coleman became

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359 Xref 2085729.
360 Xref 2094893.
361 Xref 1718187.
angry at Griffin, for not assisting Proctor. A short time later, Christopher "Squabbler" McKinnie, a 29th Street Crip gang member, arrived. As the afternoon progressed, the group sat around drinking and discussing the Potts brothers. Proctor stated that he wanted to go to Oak Park to find one of the Potts brothers and hurt him "real bad." Proctor also stated that he knew someone in "the Heights" from whom he could obtain a gun. That evening, Coleman drove Proctor to Belinda Duff's house, where he purchased a stolen pistol. Coleman and Proctor then returned to Griffin's apartment, and continued to talk about retaliating against the Potts brothers. Eventually, Coleman informed Griffin that he and the other were going to his "homies" house. Griffin argued and begged to go along with them.

The group went to Anerae “X-Raided” Brown's, a 24th Street gang member, house. At the home they met Brown and Daniel “Time” Kunnel and an unidentified male. Since the group was angry at Griffin, he sat in the living room while the others talked in the kitchen. Brown was armed with a pistol, and supplied bullets to Proctor, while Proctor talked about retaliating against the Potts brothers. Brown eventually turned the conversation to possible retaliation against some Bloods for the killing of two influential Crips named Marcus “Gangster Red” Robinson and Jerome “J-Dog” McCoy, who had been murdered in

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362 Del Paso Heights.
363 Xref 122812.
separate incidents in 1991 and 1992. Brown informed the group that brothers Kerry “K.K.” Harris and Jamal Harris, both Meadowview Blood gang members, were responsible for the murder of Robinson, and possibly the murder of J-Dog. Brown stated that he wanted to "smoke" both of the brothers.

Proctor continued to argue for going after the Potts brothers; however, Brown was able to convince the group to go after the Harris brothers.

Brown devised a plan to murder the Harris brothers, which was similar to a story outlined in his rap song Tha Murder from his rap album Psycho Active. It was determined that Brown and Proctor would do the shooting, while the unidentified male would serve as a lookout. The group would go to the Harris home where McKinnie would kick down the door, announcing that they were the “police.” Once the door was opened, Brown and Proctor would enter and shoot everyone they saw. According to Brown's plan, the shooting would be continuous with one shooter reloading while the other shot and vice versa. The group left the apartment, and headed towards the Harris home.

Coleman drove his mother's car with Griffin, Proctor, and a “guy named

364 Xref 290462.
365 Xref 1659476.
366 Xref 1659476.
367 A Los Angeles Crip named Melvin "Cappy" Traylor (Xref 1910174, case #113859), was convicted of this murder, however it is not known if J-Dog's murder was ever solved.
368 On the cover of which shows Brown with a .38 caliber handgun to his head, which police believe to be murder weapon.
Mike.” The unidentified male drove his Bronco with Brown, McKinnie, and Kunnel. On the way to the Harris house, Coleman suggested dropping Griffin off, but Griffin insisted on going along. When they arrived in the Harris neighborhood, Coleman suggested doing a "drive-by" shooting, but this idea was rejected. Brown and Proctor took out their guns, as the group approached the Harris house. A porch light equipped with a motion detector went on, causing the group to scatter. The group returned, and McKinnie began kicking the door in order to force it open. When the door finally gave, the group burst into the home, and heard a female voice asking who was there. McKinnie answered, stating that they were the “police.” Patricia Harris, the mother of both the Harris boys, came out into the hallway, and Brown and Proctor each fired a shot. One shot missed, but the other inflicted a fatal wound. The group ran out of the house, and drove back to Griffin’s apartment.\textsuperscript{369}

Before and during the trial, there was a massive amount of media coverage, due to the sensationalism of the crime, and the fact that Brown’s album was being sold in local stores. Griffin testified at trial, naming Brown and McKinnie as the shooters. According to Brown, in a recent news article, there were several more males at the scene, who participated in the murder that were

\textsuperscript{369} The targets of the attack, Jamal and Kerry were unharmed. Jamal was not living there, and Kerry was asleep on the couch at the time. Kerry was awakened by the sound of the front door being kicked. Kerry observed the group enter, heard someone say they were the police, and heard his mother respond. When Kerry saw and heard gunshots, he ran out of back and jumped over the fence.
never caught, because Griffin did not know who they were. Brown, Coleman and McKinnie were sentenced to twenty-five years to life in prison. Proctor was acquitted of all charges. For his testimony, Griffin was given a deal and was placed at the California Youth Authority.

Gang Testimony

Sacramento County Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) Kelly McGhee testified that African American gangs in Sacramento are primarily organized by “geographical area.” Oak Park, Del Paso Heights, and Meadowview are primarily Blood territories.

According to McGhee, the 29th Street Crips originated in the “Florin Meadows Apartments on 29th Street between Florin and Meadowview.” Furthermore, the 29th Street Crips are a part of a larger Crip set, the Garden Block Crips, which also includes the 21st and 24th Street Crips. The 29th Street Crips are the largest of the groups within the Garden Block Crips.

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370 Before the start of the trial, Rochelle Augustus, who was a CYA Ward (# 66054), confessed to Bill Wells, a Gang Information Coordinator, that he and McKinnie were the ones who killed Patricia Harris. Augustus claimed that Brown and Proctor were not at the scene. It was later determined that Augustus was in the Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility at the time the crime was committed on a vehicle theft case.
There are other Crip sets in Sacramento, including the Flat Dog Crips, which originated in the Max Baer Park area in East Sacramento. These other sets will often align with the 29th Street Crips, since Bloods outnumber the Crips. In order to prove loyalty, Crips are required to do

…anything possible to support the gang. If an individual’s involved in a fight… selling rock cocaine, they will support him in that, make sure that nobody is going to ride up on him or try to steal his dope.

McKinnie was validated as a gang member based on the information gathered while he was incarcerated at the California Youth Authority. Furthermore, McKinnie sent a letter to Cepeda Adams, the leader of the 29th Street Crips.

Proctor was validated as a gang member because he was contacted in a gang area, wearing all blue clothing, and gave the officer a false name to make sure he was not identified as a gang member. DPO Michael Bush validated Coleman as a gang member.

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371 Whose name comes from the fact that all the homes in the area roofs are flat.
372 Crips primarily obtain money through the sale of rock cocaine, and home invasion robberies.
373 CYA, now known as the Department of Juvenile Justice.
374 The apartments off of East Parkway and Florin Road.
Cases Referenced

In January of 1991, Cedric Turner and Kenny Martin, both 29th Street gang members, committed a drive-by shooting at an inhabited dwelling.\textsuperscript{375} The dwelling reportedly had Blood gang members inside of it.

In January of 1992, Mike “Bamma” Dickerson, Keen “Cue Ball” Miller, and Jerome “J-Dog” McCoy were arrested while attempting to sell rock cocaine.

\textsuperscript{375} On Oeda Drive.
Defendants Name: Romeo Lamont Brown (Xref 3621913)

Gang: 29th Street Crips vs. G-Mobb/ Valley Hi Pirus

Case Number: 04F05030

Victim's Names: Curtis Allison

Case Summary

On January 8th, 2004 Curtis Allen, a Valley Hi Piru and G-Mobb associate, was riding his gas powered motorized scooter with three friends, Charles Smith, Deandre Watson, and Joshua Butler, on Gigi Place. Romeo “Baby Mad Ball” Brown, a 29th Street Crip gang member, observed Allison, and went into a nearby home to speak with Donald “Big Mad Ball” Norwood\(^{376}\) and informed him of the situation. Brown then exited the home, and shot Allison as he rode the motorized scooter, “in full view of all of his homeboys.” Allison eventually crashed the scooter on a nearby lawn, and as Allison lay bleeding, Brown walked over to Allison and shot him. After the shooting, Brown and Norwood got into a car and “drove away from the area.”

At approximately 11:00PM, the Sacramento Sheriff’s Department (SSD) Deputies responded to the call of a shooting at the front yard of 7346 Gigi Place. SSD found Allison lying face up in front yard, with a gas powered motorized scooter near his feet.

\(^{376}\) Xref 1736702.
Brown was sentenced to twenty-one years.

Gang Testimony

According to Sacramento Sheriff’s Department (SSD) Detective Elaine Stoops, at the time of Allison’s death, there were “no less” than fifty 29th Street Crip gang members, and there were over 400 that have been validated. Their “hand sign is usually either a -- the thumb and middle finger or thumb and the ring finger together and the other fingers up.” This hand sign was used to indicate “a number two with the two fingers up and the number nine with the fingers that are touching and the one that is extended.”

Brown was validated as a gang member by SPD Officer Muller\textsuperscript{377} based on Brown’s admission of being a gang member,\textsuperscript{378} wearing gang related clothing, being involved in a gang related crime, and being found to be repeatedly in the company of other gang members. Brown was also named as a gang member by three other validated 29th Street Crips, Trindell “Buckle” Howard,\textsuperscript{379} William Washington, and Michael Johnson.

Furthermore, Sacramento County Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) Silva confiscated gang related graffiti from Brown’s room, during a probation search.

\textsuperscript{377} SPD report # 01-46633.
\textsuperscript{378} See SPD report 02-9369, in which Brown was shot in the stomach while in G-Parkway.
\textsuperscript{379} Xref 3213517.
The graffiti shows Brown and other subjects wearing shirts that had “29” written on them. Silva also found a hand-drawn gang sign and the words “29th Street” written on a piece of paper. There was another piece of paper that had “B-K Avenue” and “G-B-C” written on it.

Stoops testified about the victim’s gang ties, stating that on December 7th, 2002, DPO Lozano reported that Allison was stopped in a car “driven by Ricky Ware who was a validated Valley Hi Piru gang member.” It was also reported that Allison had been “hanging around with Sherman Gay, who is a G-Mobb gang member.” Furthermore, during Allison’s funeral, vehicle stops were conducted “on several vehicles” which contained G-Mobb gang members. Furthermore, according to Stoops, while incarcerated at the Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility (YDF), DPO Rowland observed Brown “flashing gang hand signs” in 2001. In 2002, DPO Duckett observed Brown engaged in a gang related fight with another resident, who was identified as an Oak Park Blood.

Stoops also testified that Gigi Place, and the area around it is traditionally claimed by the 29th Street Crips and Garden Block Crips. The fact that someone

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380 Which stands for “Blood Killer.”
381 Which stands for “Garden Block Crips.
382 Gay was eventually convicted of shooting Brown see 02F04579.
383 Last name of Daniels.
who was associated with a rival gang entered that territory was seen as
disrespectful. According to Stoops,

The biggest thing about being a gang member is your reputation and
respect. And the way you earn respect and the way you gain status in your
gang set is by committing a violent crime, putting in work for the gang…
When a violent act is committed against a rival gang set the word goes out
to the community and the rival gangs, says the 29th Street Crips stepped
up. If you mess with them you’re going to end up dead. It enhances the
gang structure in the community as well as in rival gang sets.

Cases Referenced

On February 24th, 2002, Marquez Payton, a 29th Street Crip gang
member, had a “conflict” with Nolan Rapier, a G-Mobb gang member. The
“conflict” was a “beef over turf and Payton shot Rapier approximately five times
with a handgun.”

384 Xref 2293663.
385 Xref 1988647.
386 Case number 02F02110.
Defendants Names: Sergio Calhoun (Xref 3019202) Jarvell Smart (Xref 3817762)

Gang: Garden Block Crips vs. Meadowview Bloods

Case Number: 04F03478

Victim's Name: Sabrina Norman and Roy Rayford

Case Summary

About 8:00 p.m. on March 29, 2004, Sabrina Norman and her brother, Roy Rayford, were in the parking lot of the Franklin Villa complex. Shortly after getting into her Ford Explorer, Norman, sitting in the driver's seat, heard a gunshot. Norman saw two young men - the taller of the two holding in his right hand a black handgun, pointed downward - standing approximately seven feet from the rolled-down front passenger window of the vehicle. The shorter man did not have a gun.

Norman and Rayford ducked as gunfire erupted on both sides of the vehicle. Norman was struck on her right cheek, and the driver's side window shattered while Rayford suffered a bullet wound behind his left ear. The firing continued, and Norman was hit a second time, this time by a shotgun in the upper

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387 Often referred to as “G-Parkway.”
388 Norman claimed it came from the passenger’s side. Rayford initially said he could not tell the shot's origin, but later stated he thought it came from the left side, and that it sounded like a nine-millimeter handgun.
left arm. Norman estimated that at least 10 shots were fired over a period of 30 to 40 seconds. Norman stated that she believed she was in a crossfire.

During the barrage of bullets, Norman observed the same two young men walk in front of her car. The taller one asked the other, "Did you get 'em?"

Frightened and “scrunched” down, Norman put the Explorer in reverse. With Rayford's help, Norman backed out, as more firing ensued. Norman drove the car to the complex's security booth and Rayford had the security guard call 911.

When Sacramento Police Department officer arrived, Norman explained to them that she had just moved into a new apartment at the complex next to a friend of hers. The friend's husband, Mtula “Big T.C. Deuce” Payton\textsuperscript{389} was a member of the Garden Block Crips gang. Payton and another Crip called Capone drove vehicles similar to Norman's Explorer.

The day after the shooting, the SPD conducted an investigation at the complex, in an effort to find the gunmen. The SPD arrested Melvin “Red” Reno,\textsuperscript{390} who claimed to be a 29th Street/Garden Block Crip gang member along with Jarvell Smart and Sergio Calhoun. Reno was on probation for robbery and attempted burglary and wanted to know what he “could get" for talking to the police about the shooting.

\textsuperscript{389} Xref 2555667.
\textsuperscript{390} Xref 3066028.
According to Reno, on the Saturday before the shooting, Payton had punched out a Meadowview Blood at a party in G-Parkway. At trial in exchange for his relocation, Reno testified that, on the night of the shooting, he was simply walking through G-Parkway when he saw Calhoun, Smart, and a Blood named Jacoby "Sir" James.\textsuperscript{391} James fired first at a white Explorer or at Calhoun and Smart, and Calhoun returned fire with a handgun while Smart accompanied Calhoun. Reno speculated that James fired at the vehicle or at Calhoun and Smart in retaliation for the assault on the Blood the previous Saturday,\textsuperscript{392} or that Calhoun fired at the vehicle because Norman had a son who was a Blood gang member.

During a police interview, Smart denied being present at the shooting; however, he admitted being a Garden Block Crip gang member.\textsuperscript{393} In a later interview, Smart conceded he was on the scene, but claimed that once he heard the shooting he just ran away. He thought the shooting was against the Crips because they had "stomped a nigger out." At the time of the shooting, Smart claimed he was extremely drunk; as a result, he could not remember if Gibson was also there but Gibson "probably was."

\textsuperscript{391} Xref 3318589.
\textsuperscript{392} Some Crips had similar vehicles.
\textsuperscript{393} Smart claimed to be a 24\textsuperscript{th} Street Crip gang member. The Garden Block Crips consist of the 29th, 24th, and 21st Street subsets.
Calhoun, too, initially denied being present at the shooting. In response to continued questioning, though, he later conceded he had been walking through the G-Parkway area with Smart when he heard an exchange of gunfire and ran away, and neither he nor Smart had a gun. Calhoun informed the officers during the interview and again at its conclusion that he was just telling them what they wanted to hear.

**Gang Testimony**

Sacramento Police Department Detective Adlert Robinson stated that Calhoun and Smart were members of the 29th Street set of the Garden Block Crips. Robinson also stated that the shooting was between two rival gangs, was likely related to the assault by Payton on the Blood at the prior Saturday party, and benefited the Garden Block Crip gang.

**Cases Referenced**

Payton, a validated member of the Garden Block Crips\(^{394}\) gang was convicted of battery with serious bodily injury for punching out William Smith on March 28, 2004, simply because Smith was attending a Crips party and said he was from Meadowview.\(^{395}\)

\(^{394}\) Payton was a 29\(^{th}\) Street Crip gang member.
\(^{395}\) However, he denied being a gang member.
Marques Payton, another 29th Street Crip/Garden Block Crips gang member, was convicted of assault with a firearm for shooting Nolan Rapier, a rival G-Mob gang member, on February 24, 2002, in retaliation for Rapier's confrontation with some "little homies" of the Garden Block Crips.

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396 Xref 2733500.
Defendants Name: Lovelle Marquis Chapman (Xref 2804039) Jadrian Reyes (Xref 3982742)

Gang: Beast Mob vs. Crips

Case Number: 03F08560

Victim's Name: Pavil Voskoboinik

Case Summary

On the evening of September 27, 2003, Janessa L. threw a party at her house while her mother was away. Various groups of people attended, however, there were two groups that did not get along. The first group included Lovelle Chapman, and five of his fellow high school football players. Chapman went into a bedroom with his girlfriend, Linea, while Jadrian played dominoes at a table and the others sat in the living room. The second group included Dawn H., her sister Debbie, as well as Lerone J., Molly W. and Pavil "Pasha" Voskoboinik.

Lerone, who was drunk, asked Jadrian if he wanted to play dominoes. An argument soon erupted between the two. Dawn told Lerone that the party host, Janessa, wanted Lerone to tell Chapman’s group to leave. Lerone went to Reyes, who was standing in the doorway, and informed Reyes that his group needed to go. Reyes responded, "Hey Blood, I thought we were going to play

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397 Jadrian Reyes, Eddie T., Anthony E., Gabriel H. and Gary B. Chapman was in the bedroom during this time.
dominoes." Lerone was offended by this remark because he "claimed Crips." A few threats and gang insults were tossed back and forth, and Lerone challenged Reyes to fight outside.

Eddie, Anthony, Gabriel and Gary\(^\text{399}\) went to the doorway to check on the commotion outside. They saw members of Lerone's group apparently surrounding Reyes, while Lerone was holding a bottle menacingly. Debbie interceded when it appeared that Lerone was trying to hit Reyes with the bottle, and pushed Lerone back. The two groups began exchanging gang related insults, and used profanity.

Chapman's group went back inside to get their sweaters, retrieve Chapman from the bedroom, and leave. As Chapman’s group prepared to leave, Chapman displayed a handgun that he had in his pocket to Reyes. As Chapman’s group left, they traded gang related insults with Lerone's group outside, while Lerone was still acting menacingly with his bottle. Someone in Chapman's group yelled that they would "come back" and "deal with the situation." The yelling between the groups simmered down when Chapman’s group got approximately 20 feet away.

Chapman's group left in a caravan. Eddie, driving his white pickup with Gary as his passenger, was the first to leave, driving past the party without incident. Next came Gabriel, driving his black sedan with Anthony as his passenger, and as they drove past the partygoers outside, they yelled "Beast Mob." The final car belonged to Reyes, who drove his Bronco with Chapman in

\(^{399}\) Of Chapman’s group.
the passenger seat.

The Bronco drove slowly by the partygoers outside, with Chapman leaning out passenger side of the window. While the witnesses agree that they all heard someone yelling, they could not agree on exactly what was said. According to the police report, the witnesses heard something like, "next nigga I hear say Cuzz is getting popped--Beast Mob," or "the next motherfucker to say something is gonna get popped." Lerone ran toward the Bronco, threw a bottle or can of beer at it, and then dove for cover as Chapman began firing rapidly from the passenger side, while leaning outside the vehicle's window.

Molly, who was part of the Lerone group that was standing outside Janessa's house at the time of the shooting, saw the gunman pointing the gun in her direction. Molly dropped to the ground once the first shot was fired, and Voskoboinik was left standing behind her. Voskoboinik was struck and killed by a bullet to the chest that traveled through his body "essentially horizontally." In a statement to police, Chapman stated that Reyes was the shooter, having fired out the window over Chapman's lowered head.

Chapman was eventually found guilty. Sentenced to prison for 40 years to life, he appealed. According to the appeals court:

We must reverse defendant's second-degree murder conviction (all firearm findings consequently fall as well). The trial court instructed the jury on
three theories of second-degree murder: malice aforethought; felony murder; and natural and probable consequences. The latter two theories were legally erroneous, and "there simply is no legitimate basis in the record for us to conclude the verdict necessarily was based on the valid legal ground of" malice aforethought.

Chapman pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter, and assault with a deadly weapon, taking a deal for forty-two years and eight months. Reyes was acquitted of all charges.

Gang Testimony

Sacramento Sheriff’s Department (SSD) Detective Elaine Stoops testified that the gangs known as the Crips and Bloods began in Los Angeles. Stoops stated that Crips call each other “Cuzz,” while Bloods call each other “Damu” or “Blood” or “Piru.” Stoops articulated that an example of a direct challenge is a Crip calling a Blood “Cuzz” or a Blood calling a Crip “Blood.”

According to Stoops, Crips and Bloods migrated to Sacramento via the “I-5 Corridor” to sell crack cocaine, bringing with them their gang traditions and structure. The first major Crip set in Sacramento was the Garden Block Crips. The

\[400\] Swahili for Blood.
first major Blood sets were the Del Paso Heights, Oak Park, and Meadowview Bloods.

    Stoops defined a “subset” as a gang that is under the “overall umbrella of Crip (or)… Blood.” An example of this would be the Del Paso Heights Bloods, as that they are under the overall umbrella of the Bloods. Stoops stated that Beast Mob, the gang Chapman claimed, is a subset of the Del Paso Heights Bloods.

    Stoops stated that respect and fear are very important in gang life and that if a gang member is directly challenged, they must respond. If a gang member is disrespected, and does not do something about it, the gang member’s life can be at risk, as gang members often prey on their own, especially the weaker ones.
Defendants Name: Michael Cherry (Xref 2351470)

Gang: G-Mobb vs. Oak Park

Case Number: 04F05535

Victim's Name: John P.

Case Summary

On June 16, 2004, at approximately 1:30 p.m., John P., while driving his City of Sacramento garbage truck in the Oak Park area, heard four to five gunshots. Shortly thereafter, John was backing up his truck for a load when he saw Michael “MC” Cherry running down the opposite side of the street. Cherry fell directly across from John's truck, dropping a semiautomatic handgun in the process. As Cherry jumped up, he retrieved the gun and ran straight for John's driver's side door. Looking “terrified” and holding the gun, but not pointing it at John, Cherry stated, "Get me the fuck out of Oak Park." Fearful of the consequences of refusing, John responded, "Let's go," and Cherry got in the passenger side of the truck.

Once in the truck, Cherry told John that somebody was trying to kill him, and John observed that Cherry had been shot. Cherry directed John to drive him to a house in the G-Parkway area. On the way there, Cherry pulled out a cell phone and made a call. At the house, Cherry got out of the truck and John drove on to his corporation yard, where he reported the incident to his supervisors.
On June 23, 2004, when Cherry was arrested, he had a loaded .357 caliber revolver on the floorboard of his car, along with two ammunition speed loaders. Cherry claimed he had these items because of the shooting incident a week earlier. Cherry also had a Thompson .45 caliber automatic carbine in the trunk of his Lincoln Continental in his garage.

At Court

Cherry testified that he drove the blue Cadillac to a friend's house in Oak Park around 1:15 p.m. on June 16, 2004. As he was leaving from the house about 45 minutes later, he was confronted by three males in the front yard. The males wanted to know why Cherry was in the area since Cherry was "from G-Parkway." One of the males stated, "This is Oak Park Blood." Cherry denied being a gang member, and stated that he was only visiting a “friend,” who attempted to talk with the males. As the friend attempted to reason with the males, the males began shooting. Cherry ran toward the house, then through it, and jumped out the back window.

Cherry continued running, and then fell with his “cell phone” spilling in front of him. Injured, bleeding and petrified, he looked up and saw a garbage truck. The truck driver asked if he needed help and Cherry pleaded, "Can you get

401 Cherry claimed that he did not have a gun, and that John mistook his cell phone for one.
me the fuck out of Oak Park?" The driver, who was John P., obliged and off they went.

As Cherry and John P. were departing the Oak Park area for G-Parkway, Cherry was startled upon seeing the males who had confronted him, now driving in a burgundy Malibu. John directed Cherry to remain calm, and reminded Cherry that he would not be recognized in a garbage truck.

Additional testimony by emergency medical technician at Methodist Hospital articulated that on June 16, 2004, between 2:00 and 2:20 p.m., he assisted a Black male in his late teens or early 20's from the back seat of a burgundy Chevrolet Impala, who had a gunshot wound to his knee and another to his hip. Another young Black male drove the car off after the victim got out; the victim was not forthcoming during questioning by hospital staff and law enforcement.

**Gang Testimony**

A Sacramento Police Department Detective gang expert testified that Cherry is a G-Mobb gang member and that the G-Mobb and the Oak Park Bloods were rival gangs with an "ongoing war" in June of 2004. The gang expert opined that Cherry would have been foolish to go into Oak Park unarmed during that time, and that Cherry "most definitely" would be carrying a gun at that point if he did not have an associate with him.
Defendants Name: Denisho Collins (Xref 2902745)

Gang: Ridezilla/Valley Hi Piru/Oak Park Bloods

Case Number: 06F07216

Victim's Name: David Perkins (Xref 3422668)

Case Summary

At the Preliminary Hearing, Valley Hi Piru (VHP)/Ridezilla gang member Kenneth "K-9" Carter\textsuperscript{402} testified under a grant of immunity to the events leading up to fellow Oak Park Blood/Ridezilla gang member David “Perk” Perkins’s death.

According to Carter, on July 28, 2005, Carter arrived in Oak Park with fellow VHP/ Ridezilla gang member Rodney “Sav” Hines,\textsuperscript{403} after Hines had received a phone call from another gang member. Plans were formed, primarily by Perkins, to meet at home in Oak Park, in order to prepare to avenge the 2003 shooting death of a VHP gang member named Wesley Hunter.\textsuperscript{404}

Once at a home in Oak Park, Carter and Hines met with Jamual “Twin” Broadbent,\textsuperscript{405} Humberto “Ab” Diaz,\textsuperscript{406} Denisho “De-Do” Collins, Isaiah “Drastic

\textsuperscript{402} Xref 3711218.
\textsuperscript{403} Xref 2985135.
\textsuperscript{404} Xref 2788448.
\textsuperscript{405} Xref 3808739.
\textsuperscript{406} Xref 3684995.
Stacks” Thompson and Tyree “3rd Degree” Hudson. According to Carter, he only knew three of the people present in the home, but "understood" everyone in the home to be Blood gang members, most affiliated with the Ridezilla clique of the Oak Park Bloods. Carter observed various individuals arm themselves with numerous loaded firearms including a .45 caliber automatic handgun, a .380 caliber handgun, a Tek-9mm semi-automatic handgun, and a silver handgun. Carter claimed that he did not observe Collins or Hudson holding guns like the others.

Carter and the others then left the Oak Park residence in two Chevy Caprices, to the suspected location of a Crip gang member blamed for the death of Hunter. When the Crip was not found at that location, Perkins changed plans and directed the group to 68th Ave and Della Circle. Once at the location, seven of the eight occupants exited the two vehicles, rounded a corner on foot, and fired at a duplex or a fleeing person from the target duplex.

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407 Xref 2872459.  
408 Xref 876398.  
409 Hines, Diaz, and Collins.  
410 Held by Perkins.  
411 Held by Hines.  
412 Held by Broadbent.  
413 Held by Diaz.  
414 One white, one burgundy.  
415 Which contained a residence Carter assumed was the location of the Crip.  
416 Six of whom donned red bandannas, while Hudson stayed in the car.
According to Carter, Perkins began firing at the right side of the duplex seconds before all of the other guns fired simultaneously from Collins, Hines, Diaz, Thompson, Boradbent, and himself.\textsuperscript{417} While no one who had been targeted or aimed at was hit by any of the shooters, there was also no return fire from the residence or surrounding areas, therefore, when Carter observed Perkins tumbling forward, the shooting stopped. Carter then assisted Perkins into the burgundy Caprice, while Perkins informed Carter that he had been shot. Perkins immediately passed out, never to again regain consciousness. According to Carter, because there was an outstanding homicide warrant for Perkins,\textsuperscript{418} it was decided not to take Perkins to the hospital,\textsuperscript{419} but to Renton Way where they left Perkins in front of Carter's aunt's home on the sidewalk. By the time they had fled the scene, Carter's uncle had called 9-1-1, and emergency services were on their way.

It was later determined through witness accounts, ballistics testing, and the Sacramento County Coroners report, that the bullet that killed Perkins struck his hip, and was fired from a Tech 9, which Collins was seen discarding after the shooting.

\textsuperscript{417} Carter recalled that approximately forty rounds were discharged from all the guns. In the diagram prepared by Carter, it appears that Perkins was standing in front of (Perkins was to the northwest of the rest of the group) his six fellow Blood gang members while they all fired at the residence, which supposedly contained the Crip.

\textsuperscript{418} See case number 04F11451.

\textsuperscript{419} Where he would be arrested and booked for the warrant.
Collins was eventually convicted, and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison. Collins was the only person held criminally responsible for Perkins death. Broadbent and Diaz were sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for another gang related case. Hines was sentenced to fifteen to life in prison for another crime. Thompson was sentenced to eight years in prison for another crime.

Gang Testimony

According to Sacramento Sheriff’s Department (SSD) Detective Elaine Stoops, a clique is a subset of a subset of a gang. Ridezilla, being a gang that comes from the subsets of other gangs, is a clique. Ridezilla is also referred to as Zilla clique, and Underworld Zilla. Ridezilla is comprised of the Oak Park Bloods, Meadowview Bloods, and Valley Hi Pirus. A member can claim their set (Oak Park), and also claim a clique (Ridezilla). Most people try not to deal with Ridezilla due to their extreme level of violence.

Cases Referenced

Darnell “Snake” Hatcher, an Elder Creek Mob member, attempted to

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420 See case number 06F00542.
421 See case number 08F02808.
422 See case number 08F00207.
423 UZ, numerically shown as 21-26 for the letters numerical positions in the alphabet.
424 Xref 2319006.
run some people over with his car. When the victims fled into a home, he took an axe out of his car and began smashing the windows of the home. Ridezilla and Oak Park Blood gang members are in the home, as is Voreece “K-Killer” Patton, a Fourth Avenue Blood. Patton, at the direction of the other gang members in the residence, exited the home and shot Hatcher.\textsuperscript{425,426}

\textsuperscript{425} Xref 212262.
\textsuperscript{426} Case # 05F04435.
Defendants Names: Jessie Davis (Xref 3027282), Herman Hill (Xref 2974063), Henry Hill (Xref 3294580)

Gang: Nogales Gangster Crips

Case Number: 01F03679

Victim's Name: Dang Lor and Gurmail Singh

Case Summary

On June 1, 2001, at approximately 2:40 p.m., the New American-Asian Market was robbed. At approximately 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. on the same day, the Express Market was robbed.

Dang Lor, the owner of the Asian Market, testified that 14-year-old Jesse Davis, entered the store, purchased some candy, and "browsed" for nearly an hour. Henry and Herman Hill came in the store but did not speak to Lor or attempt to buy anything. Davis looked toward the Hills, then pulled out a gun, pointed it at Lor and told Lor to give him "the money." Davis put the money in a plastic bag provided by Lor and, as Davis ran out of the store, Lor heard a gunshot. The Hills, who had entered the store just before the robbery said nothing to Lor and, about one minute later, walked out.

Gurmail Singh, part owner of the Express Market, reported he was robbed at gunpoint by Davis. According to Singh, Davis went in and out of the store three times.

427 To be referred to as the “Asian Market” from this point on.
times, and used the phone outside the store, before approaching Singh at the cash register, taking out a gun and asking for money. Davis shot Singh during the robbery.\textsuperscript{428}

Davis was arrested on June 6, 2001, after relatives confirmed his identity in a surveillance photograph. Davis acknowledged he was the individual in the surveillance photograph and indicated that two other people--"Edward and Kenny"--were also involved in the robbery. Eventually, Davis admitted that the Hills, not "Edward and Kenny," were with him when he committed the robberies, explaining that he had lied about their identities because he was afraid "they would beat me up and stuff."

\textit{At Court}

Davis testified he was at Hills house at around noon on June 1, 2001, when Henry asked him if he wanted to make some money. Later, Henry told Davis they were "going to rob a store." Henry gave Davis a gun and instructed Davis to point the gun and ask for money. Henry said that Herman and he would wait in the car while Davis went into the store. They left the house in Herman's white-topped, blue Cadillac, with Herman driving, and went to the Asian Market.

\textsuperscript{428} The Express Market was equipped with video cameras, and a videotape of the robbery was played for the jury.
They parked across the street from the market, and Henry instructed Davis to point the gun at the ground and "pull one shot" during the robbery.

Davis testified that when he entered the market, he walked around "buying stuff" because he was nervous. According to Davis, after about 30 minutes, the Hills entered the market and Davis committed the robbery. Davis fired the gun in the doorway of the store, then ran back to the car and waited for the Hills, who arrived after about a minute. Davis and the Hills got in the car and returned to the Hills’ house, where they split up the money.

At the Hills’ house, Henry asked Davis whether he wanted "to go do another one," and Davis agreed. After an "hour or two," they drove to the Express Market in Herman's car with Herman driving. Henry instructed Davis to "do the same thing as you did in the first store and then pull off some shots." Henry also told Davis to "shoot one of the people." The Hills let Davis out about a block away from the store and drove away. Davis entered and exited the store several times because he was nervous. Eventually, he pulled out the gun and told the clerk "to give" him "the money." Davis fired the gun twice, his hand jerking up when he fired the second time such that he shot Singh. Davis ran out of the store and around the corner, where he was picked up by defendants, who came from behind in the car. They returned to defendants’ house, where they split up the money, and Davis returned the gun to Henry.
Davis testified that Henry and he were members of a gang called the Nogales Gangster Crips, but that he did not believe Herman was a member of the gang. According to Davis, Henry was senior to him in the gang, and he was afraid of Henry and felt pressure from him to commit the robberies. Davis admitted he had beat up another individual when told to do so by Henry, explaining he had to beat him up "to earn respect in the gang." According to Davis, after the robbery charges were filed, Henry "socked" him in his “face" and threatened him for talking to the police. Davis was afraid of the Nogales Gangster Crips because snitches "get killed."

_Gang Testimony_

Sacramento Police Department Detective Laura Gracia testified that gang members gained status by being violent and "ruthless," thereby enhancing the reputation of the member and the gang. According to Gracia, one of the goals of the Nogales Gangster Crips was "to enhance the fear of them in the community." When asked whether the robberies furthered the interests of the Nogales Gangster Crips, Gracia testified that the robberies would enhance the gang's reputation for violence, which would prevent witnesses and other gang members from reporting the gang's criminal activity.

_Cases Referenced_
Gracia testified about a mayhem offense that occurred in 1996, in which the Hill’s brother Kenny Hill, a member of the Nogales Gangster Crips, "took a bite out of" a suspected rival gang member's face, tearing off his eyebrow.

Gracia had also investigated a homicide committed in 2000 by three members of the Nogales Gangster Crips against an individual associated with a rival gang. In addition to these offenses, Garcia had investigated "probably" 15 offenses enumerated in the gang statute that were committed by members of the Nogales Gangster Crips.

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429 Xref 2519717.
Defendants Name: Deandre Deloney (Xref 3888137) Jimmy Jones (Xref 3771621)

Gang: Del Paso Heights Bloods vs. Oak Park Blood/Zilla

Case Number: 07F01802

Victim's Names: Andrelia

Case Summary

On February 17, 2007, 15-year-old Andrelia and her friends Raukiya and Keeburee went to the home of Keeburee's boyfriend "Baby J" to smoke marijuana. Baby J lived in an area of Del Paso Heights known as "the Flats." While they were there, Keeburee got upset and left. The others followed her down the street and around the corner near Deloney's house. As they walked past Deloney's house, Keeburee called Baby J a "bitch." Jimmy Jones, Deandre Deloney, O'Neil Deloney, all Del Paso Heights Bloods gang members, and two other men were in Deloney's front yard, and told Baby J he should "slap" Keeburee. Baby J responded that he was going to get his sister to fight Keeburee. Keeburee began yelling at the men, and they told her, "Bitch, you ain't nobody special."

This area is called the Flats because all of the roofs of the homes in the area are flat.
Keeburee telephoned her brother Anthony Ivy and announced that her brothers were coming over. Deloney said he was going to call some girls, and Keeburee, Andrelia, and Raukiya went to Raukiya's house to wait for Keeburee's brothers and to prepare to fight the girls Deloney said he would call.

A short time later, Keeburee's brothers--Anthony, Muhammad, and Malcolm Ivy arrived, along with Muhammad's "baby mama" Latoya Taylor, Rayshawn Smith, and an unidentified man and woman. Everyone except Raukiya drove to Deloney's house, except Raukiya who arrived later. Raukiya's little brother Famous overheard Keeburee talking about fighting some girls and rode his bike to a corner near Deloney's house to watch.

When the two cars pulled up near Deloney's house, everyone but an unidentified man got out. Keeburee picked up a golf club and used it to knock on the door to Deandre’s house. An elderly woman answered, and Keeburee demanded to speak to Deandre. Deandre and O'Neil appeared in the driveway, and everyone began yelling. Muhammad challenged O'Neil to a fight, and Deandre said he would get someone to fight Keeburee. Anthony then stepped in and told O'Neil, "I'm fittin' to beat your ass." Anthony and O'Neil squared off and

\[\text{Xref 3969213.} \]
\[\text{Xref 2936279.} \]
\[\text{Xref 2936281.} \]
\[\text{Who was 14-years-old at the time.} \]
engaged in a fistfight, and Anthony quickly overpowered O'Neil. While Anthony
had O'Neil on the ground, Anthony said, "Nigga, this is Oak Park. This is Zilla."

Anthony directed O'Neil to say that "Zilla whipped your ass" and that
Keeburee was "the best." O'Neil said Keeburee was “the best” but refused to say
anything about Oak Park or Zilla. After he was through with O'Neil, Anthony
began calling out his gang, yelling, "This is Oak Park. This is Zilla. Whoop de
whoop. Fuck the Flats. All y'all can get it." Jones responded, "Nah, nigga. Fuck
Oak Park. This is the Flats." Malcolm then got “in” Jones's face and stated, "This
is Oak Park." Jones responded, "I don't give a fuck. You feel me? It's still the
Flats. You feel me, nigga. You feel me?" Malcolm stated, "Nigga, I'll beat all y'all
asses."

At that point, Andrelia and Raukiya began walking toward Raukiya's
house, while Keeburee and the rest of the Oak Park group began walking toward
the two cars. As Smith walked toward the cars, he lifted his shirt to reveal a gun
in his waistband or pocket and said, "All y'all some bitches. All y'all can get it. I'll
kill all y'all niggas, whoop de whoop. Don't none y'all niggas want it, woo woo." Meanwhile, the members of the Oak Park group, except Keeburee and Smith, got
into the two cars.

By that time, five or six members of Jones’ group were walking up the
street and began arguing with Smith and Keeburee. As members of the crew
arrived on the scene, Deandre went inside. When he returned, he had a gun and
handed it to Jones. Jones then walked into the middle of the street and announced, "You think you're the only one with blaps things." At that point, Andrelia and Raukiya ducked behind a truck. Andrelia could still see Jones and Smith. Smith walked backwards toward one of the cars with his gun pointed straight out, while Jones stood in the middle of the street holding his gun at a 45-degree angle.

Several shots were fired. Neither Andrelia nor Famous knew who fired the first shot; however, Andrelia testified that the first shot was fired "before I even seen him" lift his arm up." Jones and Smith each fired at least one shot. Famous saw Jones shoot his gun "towards . . . where the truck was, where my sister and Andrelia was . . . ." Andrelia was struck in the side and left paralyzed from the waist down. Just before she blacked out, Andrelia saw Anthony hanging out of the window of one of the cars with a gun in his hand. She did not know whether he fired the gun.

After the shooting, Jones and Deandre got into a van and left, while members of the Oak Park group drove out of the neighborhood, leaving Raukiya and Andrelia. Jones was wearing a red shirt at the time of the shooting.

435 Blaps is a slang term used by Bloods to refer to guns.
436 Jones.
**Gang Testimony**

Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Robert Quinn testified at trial that the Del Paso Heights (DPH) Bloods operate mainly in the Del Paso Heights neighborhood in north Sacramento. The DPH Bloods have numerous subsets, including Elm Street, the Dark Side, and the Flats. The subsets operate in smaller geographic areas within Del Paso Heights. While the DPH Bloods main rivals are "any and all Crip sets in Sacramento," they also feud with other Blood sets, including the Oak Park Bloods. The primary activities of the DPH Bloods street gang are murder, attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, narcotic sales, robbery, burglary, and auto theft. Quinn testified at trial regarding past felony convictions of members of the DPH Bloods, and how they present themselves to the world.

Gang members like to broadcast their gang affiliation to other gang members. They do this through words, hand signs, tattoos, and wearing particular colors. Bloods are associated with the color red. In the gang culture, respect is almost more powerful than money . . . . Respect is obtained through fear, intimidation, and the commission of crimes. In gang culture, you lose respect if you are "disrespected" and fail to respond. If a gang member is challenged by a rival gang member and backs down,
the gang member loses respect. To retain the respect of other gang members, a gang member must respond to a challenge by meeting the challenge and then taking it to the "next level." For example, when another gang member . . . yells out in your turf and yells out their gang to you and you don't meet that, then your gang as a whole loses respect as well as you amongst that gang. If that rival gang . . . comes into your territory, and starts showing off a weapon, you would lose respect if you didn't at least meet it or take it to the next level.

Quinn stated that Deandre was an active member of the DPH Bloods gang at the time of the shooting based on his membership in the Flats,⁴³⁷ his six prior arrests for selling marijuana,⁴³⁸ his association with validated members of the DPH Bloods, and his wearing of the color red.⁴³⁹ Deandre was observed in the company of validated DPH Blood gang members before and after the shooting. In March 2005, Deandre was seen in the company of Ronny Jones, a validated member of the DPH Bloods and the Flats. In October 2006, Deandre was seen in the company of Christopher Blundt, a validated member of the DPHB and the Flats. When Deloney was arrested on a warrant stemming from this case in March 2007, he was with Ronny Jones and was wearing a red sweatshirt. In addition, just

⁴³⁷ A subset of the DPH Bloods.
⁴³⁸ The primary activity of the Flats and the DPH Bloods.
⁴³⁹ Color used to indicate gang membership by the DPH Bloods.
before the shooting, Deloney used the term "blap," a slang term used by Bloods to refer to a gun.

Finally, Quinn stated that the shooting was gang-related and committed in association with and for the benefit of the DPH Bloods street gang. In support of his statement, Quinn cited defendants' membership in the Flats, which is "known as a Blood gang subset of the Del Paso Heights Bloods," Jones's statement, "Fuck Oak Park, this is the Flats," and Jones's wearing of the color red.
Defendants Name: David Allen Falls (Xref 3110467)

Gang: Fourth Avenue Blood/ Oak Park Bloods vs. Acorns

Case Number: 07F04723

Victim's Names: Kbret Tekle

Case Summary

On May 1st, 2007, Kbret Tekle and her friend, Veneka Glasgow went to the Library Club located at 7042 Folsom Blvd. Pictures from the club that night show Jeremy Wade, an Oak Park gang member “throwing up Oak Park Bloods hand signs,” along with Sidney Wallace and Deon Hampton, both of whom are Fourth Avenue Blood (FAB) gang members, and were pictured “throwing up FAB hand signs.” Another photo from the club shows Darryl Young, an Acorns gang member, “throwing up an Acorns sign.”

According to Young, he was dancing when a “dude” walked up and started yelling gang “sets” at him. Someone stepped in between the two, and they ended up shaking hands. Approximately forty-five minutes later, Young was struck in his facial area from behind, and fell to the ground. Security removed “several people from both sides of the fight, taking them out separate doors.”

440 Xref 3502891.
441 Xref 3859344.
442 Xref 3688179.
After the fight was broken up, and the fighters removed, Tekle and Glasgow decided to leave the club. As they were getting into their cars, David Falls, a FAB gang member began shooting at Young. Falls struck Tekle, who was transported to the emergency room where she died.

_Gang Testimony_

According to Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Scott Maclafferty, the Fourth Avenue Bloods are a subset of the Oak Park Bloods. The Oak Park Bloods and FAB are currently at war with Bay Area based gangs. Maclafferty testified that the Acorns street gang is from Oakland, California. In order to find out more information, Maclafferty spoke with an Oakland gang Detective named Larry Robinson, who explained Oakland African American gang structure to Maclafferty. The gangs do not claim colors like Bloods and Crips, instead they claim “neighborhoods” or “housing projects.” The Acorns are named after a “low income housing area in west Oakland.” The Acorns have over one hundred members, and “were responsible for thirty plus homicides.” Furthermore, most Acorns gang members wear white T-shirts and baggy jeans, and “Oakland A’s attire.” Maclafferty stated that respect and fear are important within the gang as that, “fear and intimidation allows them to keep committing these crimes.”
Cases Referenced

On January 24th, 2004, Solomon Temple, a Meadowview Blood, “shot a revolver into the air in front of 7500 Callingwood Street, which is in the Meadowview area, in a threatening manner, witnessed by several people.”

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443 Xref 3562785.
444 See Report # SPD 04-7562.
Defendants Name: Lerome Franklin (Xref 3227225) Floyd Martin (Xref 3542553)

Gang: Del Paso Heights Bloods/Trigga Mob

Case Number: 07F10729

Victims Names: Timothy Hurst (Xref 3020444) Taurus Baker (Xref 2548422)

Case Summary

On March 15th 2007, at approximately 4:00PM, Timothy “T-Money” Hurst and Taurus “Stretch” Baker were sitting in a van next to Nielsen Park/Mack School waiting to conduct a drug deal. While they waited for the buyer, Lerome “Rome” Franklin and Anthony “Ant” Colbert,\textsuperscript{445} approached the van as another car pulled up along side. Colbert stated, "This ain't about you T-Money," as Franklin pulled on the passenger side door, telling Baker to open the door. When Baker refused, Franklin pulled out a chrome revolver from his waistband and pointed it at Baker. Colbert then spotted a marked Sacramento Police Department (SPD) unit, who were observing what was going on. Colbert yelled "Police" and jumped into the car that had pulled up along side the van. Franklin dropped the gun, and fled on foot.

Officers gave chase, eventually detained Franklin, and brought him back to the scene. Baker and Hurst were questioned and Franklin was arrested for

\textsuperscript{445} Xref 4013679.
robbery, being a felon in possession of a firearm, and possession of counterfeit currency.\textsuperscript{446} Franklin was transported to the Sacramento County Main Jail, where he was booked and placed in a holding tank.

Once in the holding tank, Franklin used the telephone to place several phone calls. During the first few calls to his wife, Franklin attempts to get in touch with "YG",\textsuperscript{447} by having his wife dial his number on a "three-way call." While attempting to contact Martin, Franklin has several conversations with various individuals about how people are "snitching" on him, and how they are attempting to "pin" a gun and robbery on him. Eventually, Franklin is able to get in touch with Martin, and informs him that Hurst is "snitching." Franklin is then able to get in contact with his older brother "Big Ro" who, after speaking with Martin, informs Franklin that Martin is about to "go pop-pop-pop- on young boy." During all of the conversations, Franklin can be heard using the words "Blood" "TMG" and "Mob" repeatedly.

A few hours after Franklin finishes ordering the "hit" on Hurst, Hurst is approached by several men while walking in the area of El Camino and Del Paso, near the Economy Inn. Included in this group was Martin, "Tay," "Country" and "Steve-O." Hurst is approached by Tay, who accuses him of snitching, and

\textsuperscript{446} Found in a search subsequent to his arrest.
\textsuperscript{447} Later identified as Floyd Martin.
challenges him to a fight. Hurst agrees, and Tay responds "Before YG\textsuperscript{448} brings the heat on you?!" Martin then pulls a gun and fires five to six shots at Hurst, who is struck multiple times and ran bleeding from the scene.

Hurst was taken to UCD Medical Center where he was treated for multiple gunshot wounds to the hand, back, and groin areas.\textsuperscript{449} Hurst spoke with police, and claimed that he did not know who shot him, in fear of retaliation. Hurst also later claimed that it was Baker, not Franklin who pulled a gun on him earlier in the day while they were in the van. Franklin was not charged, but his parole was violated and he remained incarcerated until the investigation resurfaced.

In October of 2007, Gang Detective Robert Quinn was conducting a gang suppression intelligence investigation, and was contacting individuals who might have information regarding and ongoing dispute between Keep It Lit (KIL) and Trigga Mob Gang (TMG), a subset of the Del Paso Heights Bloods. Quinn contacted Hurst, and showed him several photos of suspected gang members from both KIL and TMG. Hurst was cooperative, and identified individuals he knew to associate with the two groups. As Hurst was looking at the photos, he stopped and indicated that one of them had been the person that shot him in March. Hurst stated he had been afraid to talk, and while he would not talk about it on the record, he did give Quinn the names of those who were there and eventually

\textsuperscript{448} Floyd Martin.
\textsuperscript{449} Hurst sustained multiple fractures including C7 spinal fracture, a left scapula fracture, and rib fractures.
named Martin as the person who shot him.

Quinn was able to locate and identify "Steve-O" as Steve Hendricks, who later admitted to staying at the Economy Inn at the night of the shooting, but was not charged in the incident. Franklin and Martin were eventually convicted and sentenced to twenty-five years to life in prison.

**Gang Testimony**

According to Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Robert Quinn, the Del Paso Heights Bloods have been around since the early 1990's. The Trigga Mob Gang (TMG) is a subset of the Del Paso Heights Bloods.

Respect is demanded by gang members, and earned through fear and intimidation. Committing crimes often force people to “understand” that power and respect are “demanded” by a gang member.

Trigga Mob does not want anyone talking to the police. If they commit a crime, they don’t want the police to know who committed that crime, or for any of the members to be caught up and arrested, or a retaliation shooting like that. Everybody knows that if a Trigga Mob gang member goes to jail, and someone snitches, they will retaliate against you. They will try to kill you or they will try to intimidate you with that fear to
establish or demand respect, so that when further crimes are committed people will not talk to the police.

Quinn testified he used several criteria to validate Franklin and Martin. Quinn stated that when he went to Soledad State Prison to book Franklin on the charges stemming from this case, Quinn located a picture of Franklin and Martin “throwing the hand sign of TMG.” Furthermore, when Quinn looked at Franklin’s mug shots, Quinn found that on May 10th, 2000, when booked into the Sacramento County Youth Detention Facility, Franklin photographed was “throwing the hand sign” for “Bloods” and the “Heights.”

Franklin was also contacted in the company of known TMG and Del Paso Heights Bloods gang members Richard White and Julius Dudley.

Quinn stated that he had a “conversation” with Martin’s California Youth Authority Parole Agent, who stated that inside of Martin’s file was information indicating that Martin was an Oak Park Bloods gang member and that at some point Martin had “OPB” and “Trigga Mob” tattooed onto him. Furthermore, there were photographs of Martin throwing the hand sign for Trigga Mob, and the “Blood hand sign.”

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450 Del Paso Heights.
451 SPD Report # 06-400886.
Cases Referenced

On January 1st 2006, Troy Williams, a West Oakland gang member, and Tyrone Hopkins, a Del Paso Heights gang member, got into an argument in the drive thru at Jack-In-The-Box. Hopkins shot Williams in the chest after statements were made related to the 3800 Block of Elm Street.

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452 4128 Norwood Avenue.
453 A DPH subset. SPD Report # 06-380.
Defendants Name: Sherman Gay (Xref 3168297)

Gang: G-Mobb vs. 29th Street Crips

Case Number: 02F04579

Victim's Name: Romeo Brown (Xref 3621913)

Case Summary

In this case, Sherman "Sherm" Gay was charged with multiple offenses that occurred on separate days. The first incident occurred on May 25, 2002, when Sacramento Police Department (SPD) officers patrolling the Franklin Villa/G-Parkway area attempted to stop a Chevy that matched the description of a vehicle involved in a shooting a few days earlier. The Chevy did not pull over but slowed and three passengers, including Gay, bailed out of the moving car. Gay dropped a gun magazine as he ran, however after a chase he was apprehended. Gay admitted to the police he ran because he had a loaded gun in the car, which he stated was for protection due to the problems between G-Mobb and the 29th Street Crips/Garden Block Crips.

The second incident occurred on November 17, 2002. According to statements by Romeo "Baby Mad Ball" Brown, a 29th Street Crips gang member, and Michael "Dah-Dah" W, a 29th Street Crip, the two were with friends

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454 Xref 3621913. Brown was on Juvenile Probation at the time of this incident.
in a "cut" talking. Michael, who was looking for fight to get "revenge" after being "jumped" by a G-Mobb member the day before, saw Gay’s group from the cut. Michael began screaming at Gay's group, which screamed back. Gay yelled, "Who got the clapper?" Gay then crossed the street, and stood behind a car with something in his hand.

Gay fired several shots, causing Michael to duck, however Brown was hit. Brown initially would not name who shot him, but two days after the shooting informed police that Gay had shot him. At the trial, Brown testified that he did not know who shot him, but police threatened and pressured him so he named Gay as the shooter. Gay was eventually convicted and sentenced to twenty-five years to life in prison. Brown was later convicted of murdering Curtis Allison, a close friend of Gay’s.

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455 Passageway between buildings separating the alley from the street.
456 Slang term for a gun.
457 See case number 04F0530.
Plaintiff: City of Sacramento, a Municipal Corporation

Defendants: G-Mobb (aka Killa Ho Camp), Charles “Chucky” Barksdale (Xref 3061249), Charles “Noonie” Barksdale (Xref 1471557), Bobby “Stretch” Barksdale (Xref 789049), Timothy “Double-O” Barksdale (Xref 3166500), Develle Barksdale (Xref 3166498), and Calvin “Killa” Johnson.

Attorneys for the City of Sacramento: Samuel L. Jackson (SBN 79081), Khadijah R Hargett (SBN 149845)

Case Number: 04AS02821

The Franklin Villa Housing Complex History

The Franklin Villa Housing Complex was constructed in 1969 by developer George McKeon. The community was originally intended for low income first time home owners. The initial sales price for a home was $11,945. The price was “so attractive” that many retirees and first time home buyers “flocked to the new community” with its “spacious lawns and open streets.”

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458 This information is derived from the City of Sacramento vs. G-Mobb et al civil suit and gang injunction
459 According to Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Officer Vincent François, the Franklin Villa Housing Community, which is typically referred to as G-Parkway, is enclosed by a metal fence. The area is bordered to the north by Doss Way, the south is Brookfield, the east is Franklin Boulevard, and the west is bordered by a Morrison Creek. In size, the area is approximately ¼ mile wide by approximately ½ mile long and is shaped like a piece of pie. This area has 939 units, of which approximately 175 buildings are four-plexes (700 units). The remaining buildings are town homes.
time, the retirees “died off” and the first time home buyers “moved up in the housing market.” Private investors, lured by the still low prices, purchased the homes and turned them into rental units. “The community went from home owners to absentee landlords over a descending twenty year period.” As the area became full of rental units, and landlords became less and less involved in the community, eventually it “became a haven for drug dealers and gang members.”

According to the injunction,

By the mid 1980’s, gangs and drug dealers had complete control over the alleyways and Franklin Villa became notorious as the number one place to obtain crack cocaine. There are other activities which follow the drug trade, namely robbery, shootings and murders. As the gangs fought for territory, the residents of this community became prisoners in their own homes. The streets and alleyways were no longer safe for children to play in and the streets became battlefields as drug dealers and gangs fought for territory to sell drugs and conduct other illegal activities such as gambling.

In an effort to “restore a conducive living environment” the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) “commented an eminent domain action” against the absentee landlords, and became the sole owner of the Franklin Villa Housing Complex. Due to the high crime rate, all the streets that passed
through Franklin Villa were closed, leaving only G-Parkway and Caselli Circle open to allow traffic in and out of the community.\(^{460}\) Armed guards were placed at the entrances and exits, and only allowed those who lived there or were visiting someone inside of the complex. Background checks were conducted on rental applicants, and the gang injunction was applied for and granted by the Court.

The homes were completely renovated, and the alleyways were turned into spacious yards. The complex’s name was changed to Phoenix Park, and G-Parkway became Shining Star Drive in an effort to give the complex a sense of change.

\textit{Gang Testimony}

According to the SPD Detective William Tall, while there were multiple gangs sets that were contacted within G-Parkway\(^{461}\) the two main sets were the 29\textsuperscript{th} Street Crips and G-Mobb. According to Francios, the 29\textsuperscript{th} Street Crips gang members claimed the area in the “Franklin Blvd/El Mango Way alley”\(^{462}\) while

\(^{460}\) While this has been a “blessing” to those who live around the G-Parkway area, it has made it harder for law enforcement to arrest those committing crimes as it is now easier to spot law enforcement approaching.

\(^{461}\) Including the Oak Park Bloods, Garden Block Crips, Meadowview Bloods, North Highlands Gangster Crips, Rollin 50 Crips, Hoover Crips, Schoolyard Crips and “various gangs sets from other cities throughout California and the United States.”

\(^{462}\) Also known as “Crip Alley.”
G-Mobb gang members claimed the area in the “Caselli Circle/La Sandia Way alley.”

According to SPD Officer Adlert Robinson, G-Mobb “came into existence during the mid 1990’s in the Franklin Villa Housing Complex.” G-Mobb’s founders migrated from Oakland, California, and based the gang on Oakland’s African American gang structure, which does not claim Crip or Blood. G-Mobb members will often wear “Green Bay Packers” football clothing and use the Packers colors, yellow and green. Furthermore, G-Mobb members may wear dog tags inscribed with “Killa Ho Camp,” a G-Mobb subset.

G-Mobb’s founders originally created the gang to protect themselves from Garden Block Crip gang members, who were claiming G-Parkway as part of their territory. As G-Mobb became an established gang, a “turf war” between G-Mobb and the Garden Block Crips erupted over the narcotics trade. Due to the turf war, residents of the G-Parkway area not involved in gang activity, became fearful of retribution from gang members, and therefore did not report crimes.

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463 Also known as “Murder Alley,” due to several murders that occurred there in 2000 and 2001.
464 Oakland gangs often refer to themselves as “Family” or “Mobb.”
465 Due to the large “G” symbol.
466 According to SPD Detective Norman Leong, Killa Ho Camp was formed as a “feeder or pre-gang” that younger members joined to prove their loyalty and “toughness,” which was needed to join G-Mobb. City of Sacramento vs. G-Mobb et al.
467 Specifically crack cocaine.
As the drug dealing became more lucrative in G-Parkway, gang members and drug dealers began to employ “lookouts” who were “employed to warn” of any approaching law enforcement. While the early means of alerting that law enforcement was in the area were shouts and whistles; however, eventually they used “two-way radios” to better communicate.

**Cases Referenced**

On 5/18/20, Tall arrested Timothy Barksdale and Calvin Johnson for loitering for the purpose of drug activity. When he arrested the two, Tall recovered a “two-way radio” on which he could hear individuals informing others that the “police” were in the area, and they had arrested “Tim and Calvin.”

On 7/28/00 Bobby Barksdale, Timothy Barksdale, and Marvin Barksdale Jr. were contacted at Sherman Gay’s residence after a gang related shooting on Savannah Lane. In this case, G-Mobb gang members shot at a 29th Street gang member, James Smith, who had recently moved into the area. Several rounds were fired; however, no one was hit.

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468 Timothy was selling, Calvin was acting as the lookout.
469 DOB 11/14/84.
470 SPD Case # 00-599065.
On 6/25/03, Timothy Barksdale and Develle Barksdale were in a car that was stopped by patrol officers. Develle ran from the car, and Timothy was contacted in the backseat. Two loaded guns were found near the car.\footnote{SPD Case # 03-54328.}
Defendants Name: Johnny Graves (Xref 2867320)

Gang: Nogales Gangster Crips

Case Number: 01F09520

Victims Name: Richard Conner

Case Summary

On November 10, 2001, sometime after 11:30 p.m., Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Officer Christian Prince responded to a call at the Quick Stop Market.\textsuperscript{472} Prince observed a man standing in front of the store dressed primarily in red and "in a daze." The man had some fresh cuts on his face and "a lot" of blood splattered on him. The man identified himself as Richard Connor.\textsuperscript{473}

Connor informed Prince that four "Crips" came up to him inside the store, asked him where he was from, and began to beat him. Connor indicated he did not know any of his attackers and would not be able to identify them. Connor informed Prince that he was transient, and was adamant he did not want a police report taken on the incident. Connor did, however, request medical assistance, which Prince arranged.

\textsuperscript{472} Located at 3296 Marysville Boulevard.
\textsuperscript{473} Conner had suffered a large cut and other lacerations on his face. Connor was not bleeding profusely, but because of the amount of blood on Connor's face, Prince found it difficult to differentiate between Connor's actual cuts and blood from the largest cut. Prince entered the store, and found a display rack knocked over, and blood splattered on the floor.
The store surveillance tape was reviewed, and Johnny “Jack Move” Graves was identified as a suspect.

Graves was convicted and sentenced to 19 years in state prison.

_Gang Testimony_

Sacramento City Police Department Detective Laura Gracia testified that the Quick Stop Market where the assault occurred was located within the "turf" claimed by a gang known as the Nogales Gangster Crips. According to Gracia, Crips generally claimed the color blue as an identifying mark. Crips will wear blue clothes, blue shoes or shoelaces, and a blue "rag" to establish a visible tie to a gang. Garcia also testified gang members often wore clothing that was two or three sizes too large so the pants would hang down sometimes to the tops of their thighs.

Furthermore, Gracia testified, tattoos are often found on gang members. These tattoos generally indicated which “set” the gang member belonged to, fellow gang members who had been killed, or if the member had killed a rival

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474 Similar to a bandanna or handkerchief.
475 This style, referred to as "sagging," allowed gang members to wear boxer shorts displaying the gang's colors.
gang member. Gracia testified she was familiar with Graves, and that Graves had tattoos on his arms that indicated membership in a Crips gang. On one occasion in 1998, Graves admitted to Gracia he had been a Pimp Player Hustler Gangster Crip gang member. Gracia had viewed the security videotape prior to the trial and enlarged photos made from the videotape, and recognized Graves as one of Connor's assailants. In Garcia’s opinion, the assault was committed for the benefit of the Crips. Connor was dressed head-to-toe in red, including a red rag, indicating membership in the Crips' rival gang, the Bloods. It would be disrespectful to a Crip member if they saw a person dressed all in red on their “turf.” Also, Connor recognized his assailants as Crips, one of whom asked Connor where he was from, a form of challenge in the gang world.

Garcia identified the other two assailants shown in the video as Lamont “Baby No-No” West, Graves' brother, and Kenyatta “Old Man” Hudson. Both had been validated as Crips gang members.

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476 Nicknames are also part of the gang lifestyle. Members often refer to others by their street names, not their given names.
477 A gang set from San Bernardino.
478 Xref 2965428.
479 Xref 2599784.
480 The two were involved in another case, see case # 07F00398.
Defendants Name: Anthony Hairston (Xref 3543808)

Gang: Oak Park Bloods

Case Number: 07F01729

Victim's Name: Braulio Meraz

Case Summary

Braulio Meraz lived in an Oak Park apartment complex with his wife and four children. On February 20, 2007, Meraz was outside in the complex's parking lot talking with a friend who was working on a car.

A maroon, four-door sedan pulled into the parking lot, with rap music “blaring” from inside of it. Three people exited the car, one of whom was Anthony Hairston. Hairston, the car's driver and Oak Park Blood/Ridezilla gang member, was rapping and singing. Meraz told his friend that Hairston's singing sounded like a song “Elmo” from “Sesame Street” had rapped.

Hairston heard Meraz's remark, and asked Meraz if he was trying to be “funny.” Surprised by the remark, Meraz replied angrily and called Hairston "boy." Hairston told Meraz to watch his "M.F." mouth, and then words went back and forth, until Hairston and his companions walked up a flight of stairs and into an apartment.

Eventually, Hairston and his two companions came out from the apartment. Hairston stood at the railing, telling Meraz he did not know whom he
was messing with, and that Hairston ran "Oak Park". As Hairston walked down the stairs, he told Meraz, "I've got something for you." Hairston and Meraz renewed their verbal confrontation, and Meraz informed Hairston he was not "scared." At the bottom of the stairs, Hairston told Watson to tell Meraz he had better "respect" him.

Hairston and his companions got back into their car, while Meraz walked up to the car in an aggressive manner. When Meraz put his hands on the passenger door and looked in, he saw Hairston seated in the driver's seat holding a handgun up to his chest. The gun was pointed away from Meraz. Hairston repeatedly asked Meraz, "Is there a problem, bitch? Is there a problem, bitch? Is there a fucking problem, bitch?" Hairston put his left hand down to the side, pulled out another gun, and handed it to his front seat passenger. The passenger in the backseat leaned forward and also displayed a gun.

Meraz, who suddenly felt that his life was in danger, threw up his hands, backed away from the car, and told Hairston he did not want any trouble "like that." As Hairston backed the car up to leave, he and his passengers continued calling Meraz a "bitch" and asking if there was "a fucking problem." Meraz believed they were doing anything they could to get him to respond. Afraid of being shot, Meraz said nothing, and "sort of blacked out to what they were saying" at that time. However, as the car drove away, Meraz heard someone from inside the car say, "You better not be here when we get back."
Meraz was able to remember the car's license plate, and ran to his apartment and called 9-1-1. Meraz informed the dispatcher that he feared for his life and that of his family, because he believed the three men would return to harm them. Meraz stated that he wanted law enforcement to get to the complex quickly in case the men returned.

Approximately 15 minutes after receiving the dispatch based on Meraz's call, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department (SSD) Deputy Donny Vettel observed that he was driving behind Hairston’s car. Hairston pulled into an apartment complex and parked the car. Vettel activated his lights, and Hairston and the rear seat passenger got out of the car and ran. Vettel yelled at the men to stop, but they ran around a building and out of sight. Vettel did not pursue them, and no one remained in Hairston’s car.

As SSD Deputy Robert Patton drove past the apartment complex, he saw Hairston and another person running through the complex and jumping over a wall surrounding a garbage dumpster. Patton exited his car, identified himself, and ordered the two men to put their hands over their heads. Hairston and his companion looked at the deputy, jumped back over the wall, and ran through the complex. Patton ran after them, but when the two men ran in separate directions, the deputy stopped his pursuit.

SSD Deputy Robert White arrived at the complex to assist Vettel. As White was driving around the complex, Hairston ran towards White's car.
Hairston’s right hand was in his pants. White slammed on his brakes, got out of his car, pointed his gun at Hairston, and commanded Hairston to stop. Hairston turned, ran away through a parking lot, and ran behind a concrete retaining wall and out of the deputy’s sight.

Seconds later, Hairston ran around the retaining wall and jumped over a fence into a park. Both of Hairston’s hands were now visible. White jumped onto the fence, pointed his gun at Hairston, forcing Hairston to lie down and surrender. White searched the area. Behind the retaining wall, he found a black wool jacket and a sock containing a .38-caliber handgun. There were five expended shell casings in the gun but no live ammunition. Hairston was sentenced to thirteen years in state prison.

Gang Testimony

SSD Detective John Sydow testified that Hairston was a validated member of the Oak Park Bloods criminal street gang. A tattoo on the back of Hairston’s hand indicated he was affiliated with the 33rd Street subset of the Oak Park Bloods. Sydow stated the apartment complex where Meraz and Watson lived was typically controlled by the Oak Park Bloods and Ridezilla, for the sale of narcotics. Ridezilla and Oak Park Bloods gang members intimidated the residents and neighbors to prevent them from reporting the gang's drug sales to the police.

481 A subset comprised mainly by members of the Oak Park Bloods.
The police received many calls from residents, but when officers responded, the complaining residents could not be found or denied placing the call.

Sydow testified that it was very common for members of different gang subsets to intermingle and hang out together due to their common gang membership. For instance, a member of the 33rd Street Bloods would hang out with members of Ridezilla because they were friends and had a common gang affiliation with the Oak Park Bloods.

Sydow stated that in a hypothetical situation based on the facts of this case, the criminal threats were done for the benefit of the Oak Park Bloods. If a citizen of the apartment complex were to stand up to an Oak Park Bloods/Ridezilla gang member, others may do the same if the gang member does not respond with violence. In the Sydow's opinion, the gang member could not let the confrontation pass without responding. This means that in order to earn “respect” for himself and his gang, the member would do whatever was necessary to intimidate the citizen. Without earning this type of respect, the gang would be unable to hide its crimes from law enforcement.

*Cases Referenced*

A gang member exchanged words with a man from a rival gang in 2005. The other man stated he was from Oak Park and asked the Oak Park Bloods member why he had not seen him around Oak Park. Believing he had been
"disrespected," the Oak Park Bloods gang member responded by shooting the man five times. The man survived.

In April 2004, an Oak Park Bloods gang member attempted to steal a car and yelled at the Russian driver to get out of the car. When the Russian man refused to get out, the Bloods member shot him in the chest. The man ultimately died from the shooting.
Defendants Name: Lionel Hanson (Xref 2922449)

Gang: Nogales Gangster Crips

Case Number: 00F01901

Victim's Names: Jasmine and Coffee

Case Summary

On July 20, 1999, after purchasing items at a convenience store, 13-year-old Jasmine and some of her friends were returning to their neighborhood when they walked by two men. One of the men was Lionel Hanson, a Nogales Gangster Crip, who was wearing blue. Hanson called out to Jasmine's group, asking if they had any "weed." Someone said no and the group continued to walk, but Jasmine and her cousin, Coffee, lagged behind.

Jasmine overheard Hanson ask who she was and told Coffee not to tell him. Hanson said, "Fuck you, bitch," but Jasmine did not respond. Jasmine walked a little further and Hanson said, "Cuz, cuz, your mama a bitch." Jasmine responded with something like, "My mama ain't no bitch. Your mama is a bitch.”

Jasmine and Coffee ran and Hanson gave chase, catching up with Jasmine as she neared an alley. Jasmine turned around and Hanson struck her on the nose with a gun, while yelling “Crip.” Hanson shot Jasmine in the face, neck and shoulder. Jasmine managed to run away and was taken to a hospital.

482 Wearing a red scarf, which would be seen as disrespectful in Crip territory.
Gang Testimony

Sacramento Police Department Detective Adlert Robinson testified that Hanson was a member of the Nogales Gangster Crips, a street gang located in North Sacramento. Robinson stated that the shooting of Jasmine was gang-related because Hanson yelled "Crip, Crip, Crip" during the shooting. Furthermore, Hanson had been disrespected by Jasmine in front of his companion, an action that, pursuant to gang culture, required retaliation.

Cases Referenced

Kenny Hill, a Nogales Gangster Crip gang member, had a child by a woman with whom he had broken up. One day in August 1996, while visiting the woman, Hill heard his child call the mother's new boyfriend, Orlandis Murray, "daddy." This upset Hill and he proceeded to get into an argument with Murray. Hill left, but returned later with a friend and assaulted Murray, biting off his eyebrow. As Hill and his friend for the last time left, they threw gang hand signs and announced that they were Nogales Gangster Crips.

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483 Xref 2519717.
484 Case number 96F06861.
In 1999 Matthew Castillo, Shaunte Murphy, and Lamont West, all Nogales Gangster Crips, shot Merten Larsen in the head while he stood in his home. The shooting was because Larsen's called the police on the gang because they were dealing drugs outside his home.
Defendant's Name: Myron Hardy (Xref 3622891), Larry Zachary (Xref 3031002)
Gang: Del Paso Heights Bloods
Case Number: 07F01364
Victim's Name: Danny Hickman

Case Summary

On January 1st, 2007 Del Paso Heights Bloods gang members Myron “Scarface” Hardy and Larry Zachary got into an argument with Danny Hickman over a parking space. According to Zachary’s girlfriend, who did not want to get involved, she convinced Zachary to leave, and as they were doing so, Hardy hit Hickman from behind. Hickman attempted to defend himself, but was quickly overwhelmed and fell to the ground as his girlfriend watched from the driver’s seat inside the car. After Hickman fell to the ground, Hardy pulled out a gun and shot Hickman, killing him. After the shooting, Zachary went to Hickman’s car, pulled out Hickman’s girlfriend, and took possession of Hickman’s car, and drove away in it. Hardy immediately left the scene in a car driven by Brandon Jay Boyer,489 a Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) informant. According to Boyer, Hardy threw away evidence linking him to the crime.

489 Xref 3425074.
The Sacramento Police Department (SPD) investigated, and found many people who attended the party, but very few willing to talk about what they witnessed, including Boyer.\textsuperscript{490} Eventually, Hardy was arrested and charged with murder; however, according to the trial transcripts, and the Sacramento Bee, witness intimidation was rampant, and some witnesses recant their police statements out of fear.

Boyer became the “star witness” against Hardy, however, the day after the Boyer testified and the Sacramento Bee ran a story about “Boyer's testimony and his history as an informant,” his home is “shot up.” According to Sergeant Norman Leong, "Although we can't tie the shooting directly to that,\textsuperscript{491} we certainly believe it did not help that his name was exposed."

Once on the stand, Boyer stated that "my family's in danger -- by people on the street," and once he is finished testifying, Boyer is escorted out of the courtroom by a District Attorney Investigator and relocated.

Zachary also testifies at the trial, however according to the Sacramento Bee,

Zachary, who is now in prison for carjacking Hickman's girlfriend right after the shooting, said he was drunk and "running my mouth" when he

\textsuperscript{490} Who did not want to be charged as an accessory and initially lied to the police.  
\textsuperscript{491} The new article.
spoke to police. He added that he also was a paranoid schizophrenic and a habitual liar. Moreover, Zachary said, he was under the influence of LSD at the time of Hickman's death.

Despite the witness intimidation, and the witnesses retracting their statements, Hardy is convicted and sentenced to life in prison.
Defendant's Name: Ceron Hill (Xref 2997960)

Gang: Oak Park Bloods vs. Bad Ass Youngsters

Case Number: 06F02697

Victim's Name: Jack Lawrence

Case Summary

On March 15th, 2006, Jack “the Smack” Lawrence, a Bad Ass Youngster (BAY) gang member was at Eric’s Donuts with Christopher Stone, a BAY gang member. Ceron “Doodie” Hill, an Oak Park Bloods gang member, approached them and asked Christopher where his brother, Donald Stone, a BAY gang member, was. Without warning, Hill began firing at Lawrence and Christopher. Both of them started running in an attempt to get away. Lawrence was hit in the upper torso, and was pronounced dead in the parking lot by emergency services.

Gang Testimony

Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Scott Maclafferty testified that Hill was an Oak Park Bloods gang member who had an on-going

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492 At 5669 Mack Rd in Sacramento.
493 Hill was looking for Donald because he believed that Donald had attempted to shoot him at a Chevron on Hurley Way a few weeks earlier. Donald denies that he did so, and informed police that Hill had shot at him three weeks earlier at an after party at a Chevron on Stockton and Mack Rd in retaliation for Hurley Way.
issue with Donald, a BAY gang member because Hill believed that Donald had shot at him. Furthermore, the Oak Park Bloods and BAY are rival gangs.
Defendant's Name: Ronald Jenkins (Xref 3638227)

Gang: Del Paso Heights Bloods

Case Number: 04F07641

Victim's Names: Seeva Cherms and Steven Cherms

Case Summary

In August 2004, Seeva and Steven Cherms were looking for their 15-year-old daughter, Hailey, who had run away from home. On August 13th, Steven received a telephone call advising him that his daughter may be at a certain apartment complex off of Edison and Howe Avenue in Sacramento County. Joshua, a friend of the Chermses, drove the couple to the apartment complex in his SUV. Joshua parked across the street from an apartment complex on Edison Avenue and he and Steven walked up to the iron gate. Just as the manager opened the gate for them, Steven thought he saw his daughter walking down the street and shouted to Seeva, "Hey, that looks like Hailey right there."

Seeva exited the SUV and followed Steven, but then looked back and saw two people in the SUV, Ronald “Flip” Jenkins, a Del Paso Heights Bloods gang member, and a 12- to 14-year-old juvenile. Seeva could see Jenkins trying to start the vehicle and shouted for Steven because many of their valuable personal

494 The complex was in the same area the Chermses had lived 25 years earlier.
belongings, contained in several bags, were in the SUV. Jenkins and the juvenile took the bags and ran between the apartments.

As Seeva walked towards Howe Avenue looking for Jenkins and the juvenile, she asked a man and woman who were standing near the corner if they had seen where the two males had gone with her bags. The couple was cordial but told Seeva her belongings were gone and advised her to "write it off." Seeva called 911 from her cellular phone to report the theft. After she made the call, the woman told her the "kid" had gone in the direction of Howe and Edison and pointed out an apartment complex where the stolen property would be unloaded.

Meanwhile, Joshua picked Seeva up in the SUV and drove down Howe Avenue looking for Jenkins and the juvenile. Unable to find them, he drove back to the apartment complex and parked the SUV in front of the Royal Gardens Apartments on Howe Avenue. Seeva exited the vehicle and saw Steven walking towards her. A group of about ten individuals had gathered nearby, all wearing white T-shirts and jeans. As the group started to approach the Chermses, Seeva recognized Jenkins as the person who tried to take the SUV. When he stepped toward her in a threatening manner, she realized she was in danger, took a step back, and told him she had no problem with him, she was just trying to retrieve her belongings.

At that time, Steven approached, and Seeva told him they should wait for the police; however Jenkins pushed her to get to Steven, who was bewildered and
backing away. At the same time, Jenkins also began giving orders to the other males in the group, directing some to take the SUV and telling others to make sure Steven did not go anywhere. When Steven was surrounded, a male known as “J-Mack” hit him in the head, followed by Jenkins, who hit him using what appeared to be homemade brass knuckles. Jenkins struck Steven in the temple and eye, and then hit him in the right cheek, causing Steven to stumble and fall to the ground. Seeva began yelling, "Stop, he's disabled ... he doesn't want to fight you. He wants nothing to do with this. Stop. Please stop." Hoping to scare them, she also told the group "the police are on their way." After she stated this, Jenkins walked towards her, smiled, showing gold teeth, and then hit her in the face with his fist. The blow knocked her off her feet, causing her to fall to the ground and lose consciousness. Jenkins ran away, but 15-year-old Terrance C., a Del Paso Height gang member, began kicking her in the head and stomping on her stomach and the left side of her body. In an effort to protect his wife, Steven ran over to Seeva and lay on her, suffering a few additional kicks before the police arrived.

495 Terrance carved the letters "DPH" in his arm because it was a "gang thing" and showed he was from Del Paso Heights.
496 Once he was in custody, Terrance informed law enforcement officers that after the Chermses confronted Jenkins and another friend about taking their property, Jenkins punched the man in the face a couple of times and when the woman yelled at Jenkins, he turned and punched her in the face, causing her to fall. Terrance refused to give the deputy any further information about his two friends because he was scared they would “kill” him if he did.
On September 1, 2004, Sacramento County Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) Ken Silva, Jenkins's Probation Officer, went with his partner and a detective to Jenkins’s address. When they arrived, Silva saw Jenkins standing outside. When Silva made eye contact with Jenkins, he ran away. Later that day, Silva was asked to identify a patient at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center who was giving a false name and was believed to be Jenkins. Silva identified Jenkins who was sitting in the emergency room with a heavily bandaged arm, awaiting surgery. Jenkins told Silva he cut his arm on a fence he jumped over while running from Silva earlier that day.

**Gang Testimony**

Sacramento County Sheriff's Department (SSD) Detective Elaine Stoops testified that the DPH Bloods are a gang with over 200 validated members in the northern area of Sacramento County. The letters DPH are a symbol commonly used to signify the gang and are often used by gang members as a verbal challenge.\(^{497}\) The gang has been present in the Del Paso Heights area since the late 1980s and gang members have been seen in the area of the Royal Gardens Apartments, which is within a couple of miles of Del Paso Heights.

According to Stoops, Jenkins had been a validated member of the DPH Bloods since February 2003. The validation was based upon a field contact by

\(^{497}\) For example, “On DPH” would be seen as a gang challenge.
SSD Deputy Jaymon Martinez, to whom Jenkins admitted he was a member of the DPH Bloods while he was in the company of two other validated gang members and was wearing red clothing.498

According to Stoops, a gang member's culture is based on demanding “respect” and retaliating when they are disrespected. Gang members want and expect others to "respect" them.499 Gang members do not like to be labeled as “snitches,”500 and a snitch can expect severe retribution from other members in the form of a "beat down" or shooting.501

Furthermore, Stoops stated that committing a theft and participating in a beat down as in the present case benefits a gang member by bolstering his status in his gang and other gang sets and reinforces the fear and intimidation of the community. Other members of the community are often reluctant to speak to law enforcement authorities because they fear reprisal from gang members.

According to Stoops, males as young as seven are brought into the gang because they are “naïve” and “impressionable” and are willing to do what they are told without asking a lot of questions. Older gang members test young males by

498 The color associated with the DPH Bloods.
499 Meaning to fear them.
500 Anyone who makes statements to law enforcement that could lead to someone being incarcerated for a crime.
501 A "beat down" occurs when the gang surrounds a person and beats the person up until he or she goes down and is no longer moving or causing the gang a problem. Some of these beat downs result in death.
ordering them to do various acts in the commission of a criminal offense to prove their trustworthiness and loyalty to the gang.

_Cases Referenced_

In October of 2002, Charles Yerger, a validated member of the DPH Bloods, made a threat to commit a crime resulting in great bodily injury or death for which he was charged and convicted with a gang enhancement.

In December 2002 or 2003, William Fields was a DPH Blood gang member who was convicted of an assault with a firearm.

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502 Xref 1971205.
503 See case number 02F04536.
504 Xref 2309857.
Defendant's Name: Arthur Johnson (Xref 1854142)

Gang: 29th Street Crips and North Highlands Gangster Crips vs. Bad Ass Youngsters (BAY)

Case Number: 04F04374

Victim's Name: Clifton Whitehorn

Case Summary

On May 16th, 2004, in the alley between the La Fresa and Franklin, 505 Clifton "St. Louis" Whitehorn observed a fist fight between teenage rival gang members, one of whom was Sean "Tiny T.C." Moore, a validated 29th Street Crip, and the nephew of Whitehorn's friend, Martel Franks. Moore’s opponent in the fight was William "Poppa" Kellum 506 who is a validated member of the Bad Ass Youngsters (BAY). Whitehorn got in the middle of the fight, and it was broken up. Whitehorn then left, bought some marijuana, and went to his apartment 507 to look for a dollar to buy some ice cream.

A short time later, Whitehorn again came in contact with Moore, who was now seated in his mother's car, with his mother and her boyfriend Tyrone Hopkins. Whitehorn informed Moore's mother about his behavior, and attempted to explain to Moore that he was not siding with the other gang, but was trying to

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505 In the G-Parkway area.
506 Xref 3788899.
507 9 La Fresa #3.
help Moore stay out of trouble. During this conversation, some of the gang members present at the initial fight gathered and began "talking trash," and "throwing out gang challenges." Whitehorn advised Moore to ignore these challenges, and Moore and his mother and her boyfriend left.

After a while, Whitehorn went up the alley to look for a basketball to play with. A few houses from his, he noticed a group gathering, and a few girls gathered on a staircase shouted "They're going to shoot you St. Louis!" As Whitehorn got closer to the group he saw Arthur "Playboy" Johnson, a validated member of the North Highlands Gangster Crips. Johnson paced around in front of Whitehorn, with what appeared to be a revolver in his waistband. Johnson came towards Whitehorn, and stated something about Whitehorn being on the "Bad Ass Youngster" side, while another male in a pea coat and skull cap began raising an assault rifle and stated, "Yeah, we don't play that cuzz." Johnson then pulled out a handgun and pointed it at Whitehorn, who ran "for his life." The unknown individual with the assault rifle began firing first, then Johnson began firing. A bullet from the assault rifle struck Whitehorn in the shoulder, while a bullet from the handgun struck Whitehorn in the foot. Whitehorn was able to make it back to his apartment, where his wife called 9-1-1. Whitehorn was taken to hospital where emergency surgery saved his life. Johnson was eventually convicted and sentenced to 25 to life in prison.
Gang Testimony

SPD Detective Adlert Robinson testified that Crips in the Sacramento area often band together due to the fact that they are outnumbered. Robinson used information to articulate why Johnson, a North Highlands Gangster Crip, would take offense to a 29th Street Crip being "disrespected."

Furthermore, it was related that BAY is a subset of G-Mobb, and that there was "funk" between the 29th Street Crips/Garden Block Crips and G-Mobb/BAY due to a dispute over the Franklin Villa area. Additionally, it should be noted that the trial transcripts relate that Robinson had a previous contact with Johnson in an alley in Franklin Villa with approximately twenty other Crip gang members in spring of 2002, during which time a "shooting war" was going on between the Garden Block Crips and G-Mobb.

Cases Referenced

On March 28th 2004, William Smith was in the G-Parkway area attending a party, when he was approached and asked if he was a Blood gang member. Smith stated he was not, however, Mtula “TC” Payton did not believe him, and preceded to assault him, knocking him unconscious, while other Crip gang members attacked and kicked Smith while he was on the ground.

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508 Approximately 3 to 1 by Bloods.
509 Also know as “G-Parkway.”
510 Xref 2555667.
Assault with a firearm that occurred on February 26th of 2002 in the G-Parkway area, in which Nolan Rapier was the victim.
Defendant’s Name: Doshmen Johnson (Xref 4142729)

Gang: Tearing Niggas Apart (TNA) vs. Del Paso Heights Bloods

Case Number: 08F03777

Victim’s Name: Perry Steele

*Case Summary*

On April 14\textsuperscript{th}, 2008, Perry Steele, a Del Paso Heights Blood, left his apartment to go to a nearby liquor store, in his maroon Mercury, which had “DPH” scrawled in the dust on the car’s hood. While stopped at a red light, Steele was “waved” at by someone in a black car stopped next to his, and asked if he had any “weed.” Steele stated that he did not, and when the light turned green, he proceeded to the liquor store, with the black car following him. Once parked in the liquor store parking lot, Doshmen Johnson, a Tearing Niggas Apart (TNA) gang member, exited the black car and asked Steele, “Where are you from?” Before Steele could answer, Johnson shot him three times in the torso. Due to his wounds, Steele was rushed to the hospital, where his legs and arms were eventually amputated in an effort to save his life. Despite the drastic measures to save his life, Steele died an “excruciating death.”
Gang Testimony

According to Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Robert Quinn, there are several major Crip gangs in Sacramento. There are the 29th Street Crips/Garden Block Crips, the Valley High Gangster Crips, the Nogales Gangster Crips, the North Highlands Gangster Crips, and the West Gate Crips.

Tearin Niggas Apart (TNA) is a subset of the North Highlands Gangster Crips. TNA’s enemies include the Del Paso Heights Bloods. The Del Paso Heights Bloods,

Control the majority of North Sacramento within the city limits, north of the river, the American River up to Rio Linda, and from Business 80 on the east side over to I believe the canal right by Northgate, Norwood area.

According to Quinn, respect within the gang is important because,

If you’re disrespected either by an enemy or somebody else in your gang, if you do not respond to that disrespect then you are perceived as weak. So a challenge to you, either disrespect verbally or with a weapon or a crime, you shall meet that with some type of force or some type of response. Otherwise, you’re perceived as weak, and you will lose respect within your gang. So responses to that challenge with violence, will obviously—
it improves your respect amongst other gang members… The word gets out on the street obviously between their own gang members as well as rival gang members that this gang is very violent, that they use handguns, that they commit crimes, and they’re not just push overs or career victims as we like to call ‘em, people that get victimized a lot but do not respond.

Quinn also explained what “snitching” is,

Snitching is anything to do with talking to the police now. It used to be if you sold narcotics and you decided to give up somebody who sold you those narcotics and gave up a bigger dealer that was the concept of snitching. It’s been since now that anytime you talk to the police, whether as a victim of the crime, or a witness to a crime, or giving information on any other person committing a crime, you’re now labeled as a snitch amongst gang culture.

Quinn stated that witnesses are often in danger, and that someone who does snitch can expect to “get killed.” Quinn has worked and was working at the time a case which involved gang members and witness intimidation.
Cases Referenced

On January 11th 2007, there was at party at 1125 Los Robles that included some North Highlands Gangster Crips. Someone went on a “beer run” during which there was an argument on the phone between people on the “beer run” and the people still at the party. The argument resulted in Lamont West and Mauryce Liggins driving by the home and “firing handguns at the house.”
Defendant's Name: Matthew Jones (Xref 4089707), Cassell Meadors (Xref 3033212) Joshua Nickerson (Xref 3703738)
Gang: Monk Mob/Tearin Niggas Apart (TNA)/ 29th Street Crips
Case Number: 08F06292
Victim's Name: Mauryea Allen

Case Summary

On July 25th 2008, Mauryea Allen was inside his apartment,\(^5\) with his girlfriend Alisha Shavers, and two of her friends, Felisha Thomas and Melissa Brown. Just before 10PM, a friend of Shaver's, Joshua "BK" Nickerson, a 29th Street Crip, knocked on the door. Nickerson was accompanied by two men, Matthew “Matt Loc” Jones, a Tearin' Niggas Apart (TNA) gang member and Cassell "Celly-Mac" Meadors, a Monk Mob gang member.

According to Shavers, once Nickerson and the other two had entered the apartment, Nickerson went to the freezer and grabbed a Popsicle while Meadors and Jones went to the living room, where Thomas and Allen were. Allen began joking with Jones about his "set." Jones took the comment seriously, and informed Allen, "You don't know me like that," and began arguing with Allen. According to Allen, Jones and Meadors began discussing guns and

\(^5\) At 846 Rancho Roble Way, in North Del Paso Heights.
\(^5\) Blood Killer.
\(^5\) The gang subset he was a part of.
"disrespecting" the apartment, so Allen asked both men to step outside. Both men reacted poorly to this, and began yelling. According to Shavers, who was in the kitchen, Allen stated something to the effect of, "Blood, can you get out of the house she\textsuperscript{514} don't like you and she gets an attitude every time you guys come around here. Then she takes her attitude out on everybody else." Shavers stated that Jones became upset and said "Don't come at me cuzz.\textsuperscript{515}

According to Shavers, Brown, and Thomas, Allen began attempting to quell the argument with Jones, by asking him to go outside. Meadors became increasingly agitated and informed Allen "Don't come at my mother fucking brother like that... you got him fucked up cuzz." Shavers yelled at the men to take it outside once Meadors erupted. All three men walked outside where the argument continued.

Once Allen, Meadors and Jones were outside, they were met by Nickerson and a man Allen stated that he did not know. According to Allen, the men were standing in a half circle around Allen, saying "Crip Mob" and "stuff," stressing the "Crip thing" and representing their gang. Furthermore, Allen stated that the men kept reaching towards their waistbands as if they had guns; the men also used their body posture to indicate that they had guns. Meadors then drew his gun, to which Allen replied, "I live in Oakland. I'm not a gang member. I see guns all the

\textsuperscript{514} Shavers, his girlfriend.
\textsuperscript{515} In response to hearing Allen use the word "Blood."
time. You aren't scaring me right now." Meadors replied, "I'll bust you right now. I'll shoot this whole house up." The situation continued to escalate as Jones blindsided Allen with a punch to the right side of his head, just above his eye. Allen then felt the "back part of a gun" hit him, and then Allen could no longer see out of his right eye. Allen then grabbed Jones, placing him in a "head-lock" and began to wrestle and fight Jones. Allen was then "jumped" by everyone else there, and was unable to determine who was hitting him, as that he was being struck from all directions.

Allen saw Meadors shoot him with a medium sized chrome revolver. As Allen heard a "pop" he realized he had been shot, at which time the beating stopped. Meadors then handed the gun to Nickerson, who stated, "I tried to tell you, you know what I mean." All of the men then walked off together. Allen, bleeding badly and with a "piece of meat" covering his eye, went back to his apartment and asked Shavers to call an ambulance.

After the incident, according to Shavers, a friend known as "AB" called her to ask, "if her kids were alright." When Shavers indicated that her three children were not harmed, "AB" told Shavers that they would kidnap her children and torture them if Shavers said anything to the police. Shavers would eventually recant her statements, and indicate that Nickerson was never at her apartment, nor did he ever call and threaten her.

All three defendants were eventually convicted and sentenced to 25 years to life
Gang Testimony

According to Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Robert Quinn, Monk Mob started out as a “black rag” gang, because they,

chose not to use Crip or Blood. That was the original focus of Monk Mob; the same as Beast Mob we have in Sacramento. They originally started as not trying to be Blood or Crip gang. But over time, through the years that I been working these two gangs, Beast Mob has aligned with Del Paso Heights Bloods and become a Blood gang; and Monk Mob has aligned with North highlands Gangster Crips and become a Crip gang.
Defendant's Names: Michael Kons (Xref 3041423)

Gang: 29th Street Crips

Case Number: 01F02970

Victim's Name: Mark Johnson

Case Summary

On February 18, 2001, Trena Limb was at home, in G-Parkway. Limb went outside on her balcony overlooking an alley, and heard a noise to her left, and when she looked over, she saw two men in the alley about 50 feet away, one of which was on a bicycle. Limb saw one man put his hand on the shoulder of the man on the bicycle, put a gun to his chest, and pull the trigger. The shooter then got into a car and drove away. Limb turned to her mom and told her to call 911.

Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Officer Casey Dionne responded to the report of a shooting, and when Dionne arrived at the apartment on La Sandia Way, he followed a blood trail upstairs where he located the victim, Mark Johnson. Johnson was crying and screaming in pain. Johnson had a gunshot wound to his right arm and two bullet holes in his right shoulder. According to Dionne, Johnson repeatedly and loudly stated, "I've been shot, man. I've been shot." Johnson also stated, "Mad Ball shot me in the alley, man." Johnson identified "Mad Ball" Crips gang member.

In his police report, Dionne articulated that Johnson was uncooperative
with the police and paramedics while they attempted to treat him. Johnson refused to answer any more questions of police officers that night. Johnson was brought to the trauma unit at UC Davis Medical Center with multiple gunshot wounds. Johnson was shot once in the shoulder-chest area and once in the arm. Johnson may have been shot a third time, but the doctor was uncertain.

SPD Detective Laura Gracia visited Johnson in the hospital a day or two after he had been shot. The victim was in good condition and able to talk. Johnson informed Gracia that the shooting happened while he was walking down an alley towards the "candy lady's house." Johnson encountered "Mad Ball" standing in a group of six or seven other men in the alley.

Gracia asked Johnson, "Why'd you stop? Why'd you have this encounter with dude?" Johnson responded with the following: While he was riding on his bike down the alley, the shooter called to him and said, "Where that pack at?" Johnson responded, "What? What pack?" The shooter asked Johnson, "Where you from?" When Johnson responded, "Man, I don't gang bang," the man "just stood up, pulled the gun out and shot." Johnson turned around as quickly as he could and tried to get away. Johnson claimed he was shot three to four times from a range of about three or four feet away.

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516 People in this neighborhood buy candy at local stores to resell to kids to supplement their income.
517 Johnson had met Kons once before.
At Court

Norwood testified at trial, and admitted to being a member of the Crips gang and that his nickname was "Mad Ball." Norwood did not know Johnson, and denied any knowledge of the shooting.

Gang Testimony

Gracia testified that she validated Kons as a member of the 29th Street Crips gang. Her validation was based upon Kons’ admission he was a gang member, his tattoos, his dark blue clothing, and the fact he was in the company of other gang members. Kons also had a tattoo of the name "Little Mad Ball" on his left forearm. Gracia also testified that she knew of two other men who use the nickname "Mad Ball." The first one was Donald Norwood and the second was Romeo Brown.

Kons was eventually sentenced to 32 years eight months to life in state prison.

518 Xref 1736702.
519 Xref 3621913. Norwood is in his mid- to late 20's and between five feet eight inches and five feet nine inches tall and approximately 225 pounds. Brown is 13 or 14 years old and about five feet tall and about 125 pounds.
Defendant's Name: Mauryce Liggins (Xref 3695663), Lamont West (Xref 2965428)

Gang: Nogales Gangster Crips

Case Number: 07F00398

Victim's Name: Paul Bell

Case Summary

In the days leading up to January 11th, 2007, Lamont "Baby No-No" West, a validated Nogales Gangster Crip, was involved in an altercation with two other Nogales Crips, Kenyatta "Old Man" Hudson and Paul "P-Loc" Bell. Hudson had physically assaulted Bell, and since West considered himself to be a mentor to Bell, he was forced to confront Hudson to maintain a level of respect within the gang. During the confrontation with Hudson, Hudson was able to convince Bell to state in front of West that Hudson was Bell's "Big Homie." This was a direct insult to West, and constituted a statement of disrespect within the gang.

Upset by the turn of events, on January 11th 2007, West sought to regain

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520 When the shooting took place.
521 Xref 2599784.
522 Xref 4039612.
523 Within the gang.
524 Gang mentor.
the respect he felt he had lost. West and his girlfriend, Donita Brooks\footnote{Xref 3041330.} got into her van with her three children\footnote{Ages six, four and two).} and two other adults and an infant, and began driving. West stopped at a house on Belden Street, where he met with Mauryce Liggins, another Crip. West and Liggins spoke for about twenty to thirty minutes, and then left the house along with the others in the van.

West drove by Bell's house on Los Robles Avenue, and stopped in front of Bell's house. As they stopped, Liggins and West fired several shots at Bell's house. While firing, West had his arm held straight out, pointing at the house, while Liggins hand was out the other side of the van, pointing up in the air. The two fired a combined total of approximately six shots, and then West drove off.

As the two were firing the shots, there were some Sacramento Police officers around the corner in their patrol vehicles. The officers heard the shots, and saw the van drive around the corner from where the sound of the shots had come from. The officers pulled in behind the van, and followed it for several minutes until they activated their lights and pulled the van over.

When the van came to a stop, several officers pulled in behind it, and had their guns drawn and pointed at the van, which was illuminated by squad car spotlights. The officers ordered the people out of the van, and when the officers got no response they threatened to send in the police dogs. At this point, the
mother of the infant\textsuperscript{527} told the police her baby was inside. The police then saw three toddlers come out of the van. The officers then went to check to see if the woman was being truthful about having an infant in the car. The police officer approached the van, gun drawn, and observed the infant. The officers allowed Townsend to retrieve her child.

After all of the people were removed from the vehicle, the police conducted a search of the glove compartment, where a 9mm gun was found. A .40-caliber gun was found under one of the seats, and three shell casings.\textsuperscript{528} Liggins and West were identified by Townsend and six year old D'rhajeon Taylor as the shooters. West denied shooting anyone, and Brooks claimed she had been sleeping the entire time. Taylor informed the police that West had said he was shooting at "P-Loc" and that as the van came to a stop, West informed Brooks that he would kill her children\textsuperscript{529} if any of them said anything to the police. In the weeks leading up to the trial, Taylor\textsuperscript{530} stated that Liggins is not the shooter.\textsuperscript{531}

\textit{At Court}

Liggins initially blamed the shooting on West and the other adult male in the van.

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{527}Laqresha Townsend.
  \item \textsuperscript{528}Two on the floor, one outside the van where it had fallen from the driver's side door.
  \item \textsuperscript{529}Including Taylor.
  \item \textsuperscript{530}Who has been in foster care since the incident.
  \item \textsuperscript{531}Taylor and the other children in the car have also been diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder by a CPS therapist.
\end{itemize}
Eventually, Liggins changed his story and admitted to firing the gun. West was sentenced to fifteen years to life in prison. Liggins was sentenced to twenty-five years to life in prison. Brooks was sentenced to five years formal searchable probation, and 360 days of Sacramento County Sheriff work furlough.

**Gang Testimony**

Sacramento Sheriff’s Department (SSD) Detective Justin Johnson testified that problem can arise between members of the same gang over money, women, or “whatever.” Furthermore, if an issue does arise, often some feel they have been “disrespected,” which can lead to violence, as that gang culture demands that respect be given at all times. If someone does not receive respect and does nothing about it, they can be perceived as “soft” and would be seen as “weak or losing some kind of status within their own gang.”
Case Summary

In June 2006, Brenisha Torbert was dating Dwayne “Scooby” Zachary, a validated member of the Beast Mob street gang. Torbert and Marcellus “Celly Bo” Motley, a validated member of Bad Ass Young Stars (BAYS) had dated previously for about two months. Torbert and Dwayne’s sister, Allean Zachary, were close friends, and Shaira Gordon who was a close friend of Allean's.

On June 28, 2006, Torbert, Allean, and Gordon drove in Torbert's blue Neon to the house of Allean Zachary's cousin on High Street in Del Paso Heights. Dwayne was at the house on High Street, as were two other unidentified males. While Torbert, Allean, and Gordon were at the High Street house some other women who were also at the house left in Torbert's blue Neon, and were gone for about 10 or 15 minutes.534

532 Xref 3191879.
533 It should be noted that Bad Ass Young Stars was later shortened to Bad Ass Youngsters (BAY), and is therefore the same subset of G-Mobb as BAY.
534 Gordon testified she thought three of the women left in the car, but she also said she did not see Dwayne or one of the other males at the house during the time the car was gone.
About 10 minutes after the group returned in Torbert's car, Gordon, Torbert, and Allean left the house and were walking toward Torbert's car when a white van pulled up in front of the driveway, the sliding door on the side of the van opened, and someone inside the van started shooting. Allean testified the shooter looked like a "boy" named Cellybo, whose picture she had seen on Torbert's Myspace page. Allean described the shooter as wearing a white T-shirt and jeans, who, before he shot the gun, stated, "Stars up."

After the van drove off, the girls ran back into the house. Gordon was bleeding from her lower arm, where she had been shot. They went out the back door of the house, through the alley, and into the house on the corner, where the residents called an ambulance. The police dispatch log indicated the call was received at 5:14 p.m. Torbert told Gordon that she thought Motley was the shooter.

Officers who responded to the crime scene had information that a blue Neon had been involved in an exchange of gunfire with a white van in the vicinity of High Street just prior to the shooting on High Street. At 4:55 p.m. security cameras at the Rainbow Market caught the image of two males who appeared to be associated with each other. One of them was shooting at a white mini-van. Witnesses indicated a woman was driving a blue Dodge Neon, and the men got into the Neon after the shooting. The man shooting at the white mini-van near the Rainbow Market fit Dwayne’s description.
Officers responding to the shooting ran Motley’s name in their police database, and discovered a report indicating he had been involved in an incident two weeks prior. The incident report mentioned a white van and a shotgun. The report listed an address for Motley, at 561 South Avenue, approximately five minutes from the scene of the shooting. Officers found Motley in the garage of the house on South Avenue, hiding behind a big screen television.

At Court

Torbert testified that Motley told her he was a member of G-Mobb, and Dwayne was a member of Beast Mob. Torbert stated she was afraid to testify both because she could be put in jail if she lied and because Motley was a member of a gang. When asked why Motley's gang membership would make her afraid to testify she said, "people being in gangs, things can happen." When asked if she thought it was a possibility someone in defendant's gang would try to harm her, she said she did not know.

Torbert's mother testified that Torbert had been afraid that someone would "jump on her" or fight her. When Torbert's mother asked her why she was afraid of this, she replied, "people will have people jump on you." The mother said she thought Torbert's fears had "kind of settled."

Gang Testimony
Sacramento County Probation Department Officer (DPO) Matt Mitchell, testified that Dwayne was his probationer and a Beast Mob gang member. Beast Mob’s turf is located in North Highlands and Del Paso Heights. Mitchell testified about Dwayne’s tattoos, and identified pictures of Dwayne throwing gang related hand signs. Mitchell testified about the difference between Blood and Crip gangs. Mitchell stated that Bloods could get into disagreements with other Blood gangs over such things as illegal business or females, and that gangs typically make their money from illegal business. Furthermore, a gang member might react differently than a normal man if he found out his girlfriend was dating someone else. The key difference would be that a gang member would be under a kind of code of respect, and would have to get his respect back amongst his peers. A gang member would want to confront the other person, and it could get violent with the girlfriend as well.

Mitchell testified that gang members ensure other people in the community do not call the police by intimidating and terrorizing them. Additionally, Mitchell testified that there have been instances of gangs retaliating against someone for testifying or talking to law enforcement. Officer Eric Fong also testified that gangs are a group of more than two people who usually involve themselves in criminal activity to promote their gang and to promote themselves financially. Fong stated that a person may become a gang member by getting
jumped in, i.e., attacked by other gang members, or by doing some deed for the gang like simple assault, or shooting someone.

Fong testified that BAYS gang members’ use the sayings "Stick up Starz" or "Starz up" is a phrase used by members to identify themselves. Fong was not aware that any other gangs used the phrase "Starz up." Fong also stated that gang members could get into disagreements over money, territory, women, or disrespect. Fong also testified that dreadlocks had originally been a characteristic hairstyle worn by G-Mobb members, with the tips dyed different colors to signify the type of illegal activity in which they participated. Like Mitchell, Fong testified that gang members use intimidation to ensure people in the community will not call the police or testify against them. The intimidation can be verbal intimidation all the way up to homicide.
Defendant's Name: Mariquest Murphy (Xref 1792739)

Gang: Oak Park Bloods vs. Crips

Case Number: 04F02603

Victim's Name: Dianne Butler

Case Summary

On Saturday night, February 28, 2004, Dianne Butler and three other women were “club hopping” until shortly before the 2:00 a.m. bar closing time on February 29. They learned an "after party" was being held by Ernest “Dirty Ern” Rudolph, an Oak Park Blood, at a commercial industrial building used for offices on Power Inn Road. They decided to attend.

Butler had been to parties at the site twice on earlier occasions, and parked in the lot in back of the building and entered through the wide-open back door. The back parking lot became packed with as many as 100 cars. Cars were parked "all over," not many were in the marked stalls. People were standing around talking and playing music from their cars, loudly.

A large contingent in the back parking lot was affiliated with the Crips street gang. Dennis Blackwell, a Crip for 13 years, arrived in the car of Brandon Stevens, his "home boy.” They were the fourth car in a caravan of approximately 30 cars, carrying almost 50 Crips, who had learned of the party. The Crips were standing around in front of the back door talking with each other and women who
had come to the party. The Crips were not going inside of the building, where
the party was underway. They were aware the party was "a Blood function." Crips
in the back parking lot had been conversing and calling out to each other in their
gang's banter. This is offensive if done in the presence of a person known to be a
Bloods affiliate.

Mark Caesar had learned of the after party from a group of Crips at a
nearby gas station. Caesar stopped at a liquor store and then parked on the
street near the warehouse. He made his way toward the back door, stopping to talk
with people he knew. As he stood near the door he saw Butler come out to smoke
a cigarette. As she smoked, she stood right in front of the back door.

As Butler stood smoking her cigarette, facing the door, Marquiest Murphy
walked past her. Murphy appeared to be very upset and talking to himself.
According to Butler, Murphy was walking "a little hard" and his expression
reminded her of her son when he was upset, "kind of a strange stare." After Butler
saw his face she turned back toward the street, "and started, you know, minding
my own business."  

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535 He was affiliated with a Bloods subset, but gets along with both Crips and Bloods
536 The next thing she recalled is waking up in the hospital on March 18th, 2004--
nearly a month later. She had been shot in the chest under her right breast. The
bullet exited her back below the shoulder blade. She has no memory of hearing
gunshots.
Blackwell also saw Murphy walking toward the back door. Blackwell recognized Murphy as a Bloods gang member with whom Blackwell had had "gang-related problems" before. According to Blackwell, Murphy was fiddling with his waistband, looking around. Blackwell called out a warning to his “home-boys” that Murphy had a gun.

Within a few seconds after Murphy entered the back doorway Blackwell heard gunfire. Blackwell saw muzzle flashes inside the doorway, and heard more than seven shots. They were in quick succession with no interval between the shots. Afterward people were screaming and calling for someone to telephone 911.

Caesar thought there were "about three shots." The shots were coming from within the threshold of the doorway. As soon as Caesar heard the shots he ducked down to get out of the way of the door. When he was about to get up he saw Butler on the ground. He went to her, found she was wounded, and telephoned 911 to summon assistance.

About 20 or 30 seconds after the shots were fired a lot of people stampeded out of the doorway and were "hopping in their cars getting up out of there." About 20 or 25 seconds after that Caesar heard a couple of additional shots from an unknown location that he inferred was to the west down the street on Ramona Avenue.
Defendant's Names: Nathaniel Poplar (Xref 4115484), Tyrone Funches (Xref 3893428)

Gang: G-Mobb

Case Number: 08F03343

Victim's Names: Keyshawn Hutchinson and Glenda Fletcher

Case Summary

On April 12th, 2008, at approximately 5:50 PM, Keyshawn Hutchinson and Glenda Fletcher were parked in front of the Oak Pointe Apartments. While parked in the car, Hutchinson noticed a 1980s tan box Chevy on the opposite side of the street with two male subjects inside, Nathaniel Poplar and Tyrone Funches, both G-Mobb gang members. When Hutchinson and Fletcher exited the car, Poplar and Funches also exited their car. As Hutchinson and Fletcher approached the gated apartment complex, Poplar and Funches called to them, asking them if they have any "Tree's." Hutchinson and Fletcher stated that they did not have any "Tree's."

Poplar pulled a chrome semi-automatic handgun, and cocked the slide back causing a bullet to eject, pointed the gun at Hutchinson's face, and stated, "I've got kids to feed. Give me all you got." Funches picked up the bullet from the

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537 Located at 1551 Waterwheel Drive.
538 A slang term for marijuana.
gras, and stood within a few feet of Polar as Hutchinson threw his wallet, cell phone and keys onto the grass in front of him. Poplar stated, "I mean everything," and Hutchinson began to remove his clothing as Poplar stated, "G-Parkway Mobb. My kids gotta eat" three to four times. As Hutchinson removed his shirt, he was pistol-whipped. Hutchinson then removed his pants, shirt, and shoes, and was left standing only in his socks and boxer shorts. Funches took Hutchinson's clothes and shoes while Poplar retrieved Hutchinson's cell phone, wallet, and keys. Poplar threw Hutchinson's keys back to Hutchinson, and then pointed the gun at Fletcher, who was holding her purse and a bag belonging to Hutchinson. Poplar directed Fletcher to strip, and she refused. Poplar directed Fletcher to give him the purse and bag, which she did. As Poplar and Funches left, "G-Parkway" was yelled.

Approximately forty minutes later, Anthony Broomfield and Antwon Broomfield were walking down Truxel Road when they saw a four door box Chevy. The driver was an unknown Asian male, and the passengers were Poplar and Funches. Words were exchanged, and Funches pulled out a silver semi-automatic handgun, and told both of them to empty their pockets. Funches put the gun to Anthony's chest, as Poplar took twenty dollars. During the robbery, Funches stated "I'm T.Y from G-Parkway." Poplar stated “I'm from the South” and "I'm from G-Parkway."

539 Indicating South Sacramento.
Both Funches and Poplar received a term of 30 years and 8 months in state prison.

_Gang Testimony_

This case’s gang testimony focused on how G-Mobb is a "hybrid" gang, which means that G-Mobb does not claim Blood or Crip, they only claim an area. Furthermore, G-Mobb has a Bay Area influence. G-Mobb has several subsets, which include the Bad Ass Youngsters (BAY) and from that came the Stick Up Starz or Starz Up. From the Starz came Gunz Up. There is also another subset called the Guttah Bois.

G-Mobb identifies itself by using "4300" which refers to the block numbering in G-Parkway. The G in G-Mobb stands for G-Parkway, while Mobb stands for Money Over Broke Bitches. The colors they commonly use are red or tan.

_Cases Referenced_

On February 26th of 2007, SPD officers conducted a probation search of Donald Oliver’s home. Among those present in the home were Floyd Calhoun, William Kellum, and Oliver, all of whom where Starz/G-Mobb gang members. A search of the room where Oliver was found located a semi-automatic handgun,

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540 SPD report# 07-67618.
and a Tech 9 style assault weapon. Oliver was wearing a tan Dickey’s style shirt that had "Lavish D" embroidered on it. Oliver is a validated BAY member, and "Lavish D" is the name he raps under. Oliver refers to this incident in one of his raps, *Project Nigga*, which can be seen on YouTube.
Defendant's Name: Marcus Powell (Xref 3322793)

Gang: 24th Street Crips vs. Bloods

Case Number: 00F00207

Victim's Name: Kenneth Hann

Case Summary

Vernon “Inferno” Youngblood\textsuperscript{541} testified that on May 1, 1999, he and Kenneth Hann hung out at Hann's home in the G Parkway neighborhood of Sacramento. While going out to buy whiskey, they met Alysa, a friend of Youngblood, who invited them to come to her house later. After rolling a “marijuana joint” for later use, they went to Alysa's house. Along with Alysa and others, Youngblood and Hann started drinking, smoking, and passing around the joint. They smoked half of the joint, and then put it aside to save it. Later, more people arrived, including Marcus “Baby Insane” Powell.\textsuperscript{542}

The people there, including Powell and Youngblood, jointly partook of the remaining marijuana. Youngblood asked Powell about getting more. Powell asked how much; Youngblood said $10 worth. Powell, Youngblood, and Hann left together.

\textsuperscript{541} Xref 2542902.

\textsuperscript{542} Youngblood heard people refer to Powell as "Baby Insane"; he also heard Powell address people as "cuzz" and "locc," which Youngblood took to be Crip gang references.
After walking a few blocks, Powell asked the others to give him their money so he could go get the marijuana. Youngblood refused, and Powell then offered to bring the supplier back to where they were. Powell returned five minutes later with another African-American male, who said they could not complete the transaction there because there were too many police around; therefore, they all walked toward an alley.

At the head of the alley, Powell demanded the money from Youngblood. Youngblood asked to see the marijuana first. Powell stated, "Break yourself; give me all your money. We ain't playing." Powell pulled a silver gun from behind his back. Youngblood looked at Hann, then Powell. Youngblood heard a boom and saw Hann fall. Youngblood then saw Powell pointing the gun at him, and he saw a "spark" and heard a "boom."  

Youngblood made his way to his godmother's house, where Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Officers Matthew Young and Art Smith found him around 1:37 a.m. on May 2. According to Officer Young, Youngblood was upset and excited, but coherent, stating that "Baby Insane" shot him. Youngblood described "Baby Insane" as an African-American male, about 18 years old, shorter than his own height of five feet, 10 inches, wearing blue and black clothing, and proceeding on foot. He also said "Baby Insane" went to "Luther"

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543 Hann later died of his wound.
544 Powell shot him in the chest, damaging his liver and diaphragm. Powell and his companion fled.
High School and "claimed" 24th Street Crips.

SPD Sergeant William Tanton and Sacramento County Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) Brian Casteel, who had gone to the crime scene, arrived at Powell’s home\(^{545}\) just after Powell had left with Michael Edwards. Casteel knew Powell was on juvenile searchable probation, and that Powell and Edwards belonged to the 24th Street Garden Block Crips, Edwards being known as "Insane" and Powell as "Baby Insane." In a search of Powell's room, Tanton and Casteel found an envelope bearing Powell's name and graffiti saying Powell was "Baby Insane."

When interviewed by SPD Detective Jeffrey Gardner, Edwards admitted he was known in the 29\(^{\text{th}}\) Street Crips gang as "Insane." He identified Powell as a fellow gang member. He told Gardner he had gotten a call from Powell in the early morning of May 2, 1999, asking him for a ride. Edwards met Powell and his companion, who had recently rejoined the gang. Powell said he was "doing his business" when he shot two "fools" or "slob\(^{546}\)s who had flashed gang signs.

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\(^{545}\) Powell’s family had been aware that Powell was involved in gangs. His mother, his aunt, and his brother knew he had recently gotten the numbers "2" and "4," representing the 24th Street Crips, tattooed on his arms. His aunt and his brother knew of his gang moniker "Baby Insane." His aunt knew he socialized with gang members who identified themselves by the color blue.

\(^{546}\) Slob is a disrespectful term for a Blood gang member.
SPD Detective Adlert Robinson testified that the 24th Street Crips is a subset of the Garden Block Crips, a south Sacramento gang. In May 1999, the Garden Block Crips' main criminal activities were selling narcotics, committing assaults with deadly weapons, murder, kidnapping, drive-by shootings, and car theft. Powell was validated as a member of the gang, based on his tattoos, his habit of associating with validated Garden Block Crips, his admission of gang membership to relatives, and his gang nickname.

Robinson testified that gang members demand "respect" and will retaliate for any perceived disrespect, such as flashing rival gang signs, by means up to and including “gunplay.” Crips refer to Bloods, members of the main rival gang, as "slobs." The phrase "break yourself" means to turn over your money, to make yourself broke.

Robinson also testified as to certain writings found in Powell's room during the probation search. Robinson stated that they were "personal notes" or rap lyrics, in either case showing Powell's identification with his gang and his determination to commit crimes on its behalf.

Finally, Robinson was presented with hypothetical derived from

547 Two Garden Block Crips had recently been convicted of such crimes, one of assault with a firearm, the other of attempted murder.
Youngblood's and Edwards' differing stories about the crimes. He was asked whether under those scenarios the crimes were committed for the benefit of Powell's gang and with the specific intent to promote its criminal activity. Robinson stated that either scenario would show that intent.
Defendant's Name: Larry Wade Roach

Gang: Valley Hi Pirus vs. Crips

Case Number: 03F05410

Victim's Name: Christine Cheatham

Case Summary

On June 7th, 2003 Wesley Hunter, who was a Valley Hi Pirus (VHP) gang member, was the victim of shooting near the California Place Apartments, where Hunter's mother lived. The remaining VHPs believed that the Crips were responsible for Hunter's murder, and there was talk of retaliation. On June 17, 2003, a funeral was held for Hunter.

LeJare Jacko who associated with the VHP’s, lived at the California Place Apartments, and knew Hunter. Jacko had attended Valley Hi High School, where he routinely got into confrontations with Timothy Butler, a member of the rival Valley Hi Crips gang. The two often threw gang related signs and taunted each other.\(^{548}\)

Sometime between 10PM and 10:30PM on the same day as the funeral, Jacko was driving alone when he saw Butler riding as a passenger in a small brown Toyota driven by a Christine Cheatham. When the Toyota stopped at a

\(^{548}\) Shortly before this incident, one of Butler's Crip friends had pointed a handgun at Jacko in front of a local liquor store.
traffic light, Jacko and Butler stared at each other, and Jacko raised his hands, implying that he was challenging Butler to fight. The Toyota then pulled into the Liquor Tree parking lot, across from the California Place Apartments.

Jacko returned to the California Place Apartments, where a large group had gathered after the funeral. Jacko yelled to his friends, who included Albaggee Gourdine and Javar Ketchum, that there were some "crabs"\textsuperscript{549} in front of the complex. One person in the group said he needed his gun, but Jacko responded that they were not “going up there for no gun play," just to fight. The group then jogged across the street toward the Liquor Tree parking lot.

When they arrived, Cheatham was pulling out of the parking lot. Jacko yelled, "there go one of them crab ass niggers, right there." Jacko approached Cheatham's car with his hands in the air, shouting "What's up, Ru?"\textsuperscript{550} Butler stuck his head out of the window and replied, "Oh, now you're a Ru?"

Cheatham drove into a left turning lane and began to make a U-turn. Just then, Jacko turned and saw Larry Roach fire a gun, as he stood in front of the apartment complex near the corner store. According to Jacko's testimony, "as the car was coming," Roach “was shooting and backing up, walking backwards." Gourdine testified that he saw Roach cock his gun, aim it at Cheatham's car and fire three times.

\textsuperscript{549} Disrespectful term used to indicate Crips.
\textsuperscript{550} Ru is short for Piru.
Cheatham suffered three gunshot wounds from two bullets, one of which grazed her left knee and imbedded itself in her right knee joint. A second bullet struck her in the chest, killing her instantly.

Gang Testimony

Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Laura Garcia informed the jurors that on the day of shooting, a funeral had been held for Hunter. According to rumors among the Pirus, the Crips were responsible for Hunter's murder. Gracia then described the details of the killing: "Wesley was approached by a subject who had a hood up. It was nighttime. He asked, 'Aren't you Wes?' And Wesley said, "Yes." He was thinking he's going to make a drug transaction. And the guy pulled out a gun and shot and killed him. That was maybe 10 days prior to this homicide and in the same location."

Gracia testified that Crips and Pirus/Bloods are rival African-American gangs in the Sacramento area, and often fight each other. At the time of the shooting, there were 36 validated gang members of the Pirus, four or five of whom lived at the California Place Apartments. According to Garcia, gang members, or persons who associate with them, are expected to assist if a conflict arises. Gangs are inherently violent and members frequently possess weapons.

Gracia stated that Roach was a validated member of the Valley Hi Pirus, based on numerous criteria, including exhibiting gang signs, wearing red clothing,
and having been seen in the company of other gang members. In June 2003, Hunter was an "O.G.," a position of high status in the hierarchy of the Pirus.

Hunter was murdered at California Place Apartments, and the killing was rumored to have been committed by a Crip. In light of the high tensions and talk of retaliation after Hunter's funeral, Gracia stated it was her opinion that the shooting of Cheatham was gang-related. She also stated that the crime benefited the Pirus by establishing themselves as a strong and violent set.

Gracia testified about methodology used by police to persuade gang members to inform on their fellow members, thus helping to solve gang-related crimes. Her testimony reads in part:

The gang members have to believe that there's going to be some consequence to them not being truthful with you. It can take hours. It can take hours of lies, and a little more…You have to be able to convince the person that the consequences of not talking to you are worse in terms of the criminal justice system than the consequences of snitching and what they're going to face on the streets. It's also helpful to be able to tell them that what you're telling me is something I already know… So you're going to convince them that, look, I know what happened out there. It's obvious what's happened out there. We're talking to other people. . . . You need to

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551 Original or Older Gangster.
do the right thing for you, which is to be honest with us and tell us what your part in this is. Because right now we're looking at you as a suspect. Until you're honest with us, we're going to look at you as a suspect. You need to say, one, if you didn't do the shooting, fine. You didn't do the shooting. Who did? . . . Tell us what you did. Tell us what you saw.

Gracia also stated that gang members who "snitch" are frequently retaliated against, and consequently it is often necessary to relocate witnesses who inform on gangs to safer environments.
Defendant's Name: Miguel Soto-Enriquez

Gang: Hot Boys/Fourth Avenue Bloods (FAB)/ Oak Park Bloods vs. 29th Street Crips

Case Number: 06F05369

Victim's Names: Erick Young and Malcolm Brewer

Case Summary

On June 11th 2006, at approximately 1:00PM, Miguel "Lil Deadly" Soto-Enriquez and several friends- including other known Oak Park Bloods, and it's subset the Fourth Avenue Bloods (FAB) gang members- were at the K Street Mall in downtown Sacramento. While at the K Street Mall, Soto's group encountered another group of teenagers, among whom were rival gang members who included Anthony “Baby Killer” McCants, Malcolm Brewer, Benjamin "Benzo" Brasley, all of whom were 29th Street Crips, and Erick Young who was reported to be a Bad Ass Youngster (BAY) gang member. Verbal insults, all gang related, were exchanged. The groups then separated for approximately thirty minutes to an hour, at which point they met up again at near the Hard Rock Cafe. At that point, one of Soto's friends motioned to him, with his hand in the shape of a gun, while at the same time members of the two groups mutually agreed to go

552 Xref 3650951.
around the corner and engage in a fight. At this point, the groups were similarly matched, with approximately six people each.

Once the two groups went around the corner, they ended up on 6th Street. Two members from Soto's group, Donta Fields and Bryant "Betta" Clark, both Oak Park Blood gang members, took off their shirts to fight. Brasley and McCants prepared to fight Fields and Clark. The four would-be combatants were in the street, ready to exchange blows, when Soto pulled a .38 caliber revolver, and fired several rounds from the north side of 6th Street. Young was struck by one round in his lower back, and died of the wound. Brewer was struck by one round on the left side of his body, which lacerated his liver and damaged his colon, diaphragm and rib.

After the shooting, Soto and the members of his group fled. Soto told Robert Haynes, who was also a part of his group, that he had better not saying anything. Soto also sent text messages to his girlfriend, Saqqara "Baby Deadly" Dinkins informing her that Clark and Fields were "snitching" and advised her he was leaving the area. Soto then fled to Guatemala, where his father was living, while his mother claimed to not know his whereabouts. It took a joint task force with the FBI, and approximately ten months of surveillance, search warrant service, and money wire tracing to locate Soto. It quickly became apparent that

553 Xref 3033594.
554 Xref 4050518.
his mother had been sending money to him all along, so that he could avoid being apprehended. Once Soto's location was pinpointed, he was apprehended by Guatemalan law enforcement, and flown to Los Angeles, where he was picked up by Sacramento homicide detectives and driven to the Sacramento County Main Jail.

Soto was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Haynes was not charged, but was later murdered by a Guttah Bois gang member.\textsuperscript{555}

\textit{Gang Testimony}

Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Detective Sam Blackmon testified that the Oak Park Bloods are “one of the oldest gangs in Sacramento.” The Fourth Avenue Bloods (FAB) are a subset of the Oak Park Bloods.\textsuperscript{556} The Hot Boys are a group within FAB, which Soto\textsuperscript{557} belonged to.

\textsuperscript{555} See \textit{State of California vs. Marvel Barksdale}.
\textsuperscript{556} A subset is a “group from the main group who start up their own little clique” and “eventually gain a reputation on the streets and therefore, become a subset.”
\textsuperscript{557} Soto had been documented by his Probation Officer as having a tattoo of “Hot Boy” on his hands, and had been caught associating with Donta Fields, a FAB gang member.
Defendant's Name: Jamel Rashawn Stevens (Xref 4270953)

Gang: Fourth Avenue Bloods (FAB)/ Oak Park Bloods vs. Starz Up/ Stick Up

Starz

Case Number: 07F00732

Victim's Name: Lamar Gasaway

Case Summary

On January 17, 2007, three teenage boys--Jeremy Basped, Lamar “Loyalty” Gasaway, an Oak Park Blood gang member, and Shelby Freeman--took the light rail train to Florin Road. They went to a nearby mini-mart, where Basped saw Jamel “Lil Stay” Stevens, a Starz gang member, and Davonte Stinson, leaving the store. The three boys bought some items and left after three to four minutes. When they left, Stevens, and Stinson were outside.

Stevens, who was standing by the door, exchanged words with Gasaway, an Oak Park Blood gang member, and then Gasaway punched Stevens in the face. As Gasaway punched Stevens he stated “something about Oak Park.” Despite being struck repeatedly, Stevens did not strike back; instead, Stevens put his head down and tried to grab Gasaway, but fell to the ground. Gasaway stood up seven to eight feet away and faced Stevens, who pulled out a pistol as he stood up. Gasaway saw the pistol and ran toward the street. Gasaway was between 16 and 25 feet away when Stevens started shooting. He fell in a dirt area by the curb but
got up and kept running onto Florin Road, where he fell in the middle of the street.\footnote{Firefighters arrived shortly afterward but could not revive him. Gasaway died of a single gunshot wound to the chest from a .22-caliber bullet.}

Stevens’ home was searched two days after the murder. Steven's student identification card was found in one bedroom, along with writings and photographs attached to the wall. Among the writings were such phrases as: "nigga be a Star or nigga be a bitch, watch a FAB nigga slippin' and bust his shit," "It's random season, picking random niggas for no reason," "It's random season, killing random niggas for no reason," along with Steven's name and "9/17 of '06, aka Lil Stay." Stevens also had "South" and "SAC" tattooed on his arm, memorializing his claim to South Sacramento, the area around Florin Road.

\textit{Gang Testimony}

Expert testimony on African-American street gangs established that gangs gain respect through fear and intimidation, which may include fighting, stabbing, or shooting. Losing respect can cause a member to become ostracized. Furthermore, a show of disrespect from a member of another gang can lead to violent retaliation. Being bested by a member of a rival gang in front of his friend gave Stevens a motive to kill Gasaway.

There are several groups of the rival Crips and Bloods gangs in
Sacramento. The Oak Park Bloods is the largest Bloods sect in Sacramento, and other Bloods sects are found in the Del Paso Heights and Meadowview neighborhoods. A subset of the Oak Park Bloods are the Fourth Avenue Bloods (FAB), and they were at war with G-Mobb. There are several Starz sects in Sacramento, claiming territory in South Sacramento.

If a person from FAB displayed to a Starz member clothing representing that he was a member of FAB, it would show a lack of respect to the Starz, which would lead a Starz member to respond, possibly with violence. The presence of another Starz member would cause the responding person to react more violently. Some of the writing in defendant's room referred to gangs, being armed, handling disrespect, standing up for the Starz gang, and acts of violence. The phrase "'watch a FAB nigga slippin'" referred to catching a member of a rival gang at a disadvantage, either by having more men or more weapons.
Defendant’s Name: Jarrell Tyes (Xref 3859077)

Gang: Oak Park Bloods

Case Number: 07F03430

Victim’s Name: Jelisa Office

Case Summary

In March 23rd, 2007, Marvell “Biggie” Tyes, attended a house party in Del Paso Heights with his stepsister, Trashawnda Richards, his friends, Ira Swanson and Tyree Knox, and several other teenagers. At some point, Marvell told Richards that he wanted to leave because "somebody was messing with him" and he was afraid of getting "jumped." Marvell, Richards, and Swanson then left the party with a small group of partygoers and walked to an apartment complex a couple of blocks from the party.

While at the apartment complex, Marvell called his brother, Jarrell “Young G” Tyes, an Oak Park Bloods gang member, with Richards's phone, but was initially unable to get a hold of him. When Jarrell called back a short time later, Swanson grabbed the phone and told Jarrell that some people were following them and threatening to jump Marvell, and that defendant would be a "punk" unless he came out to the party to "back up his brother." Swanson told Jarrell to "bring the 'clapper,'" which Richards understood to mean the gun.

559 Xref 3719794.
Jarrell arrived at the party about an hour later. At this point, Marvell, Swanson, and Knox were in front of the home, outside the front gate. A dark vehicle pulled up with its headlights off. Jarrell stepped out of the passenger side of the vehicle wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and yelled to Marvell and his friends, "You guys go home. Go home right now." Marvell, Knox and Swanson ran.

Jarrell then opened fire with a .40-caliber handgun on the crowd gathered in front of the house. After firing over a dozen rounds, Jarrell got back in the vehicle and quickly departed. One of the bullets hit 16-year-old Jelisa Office in the forehead as she stood outside the party talking to one of her friends. Offices’ death was nearly instantaneous.

Jarrell confessed to the murder the following morning while talking to his cousin. Jarrell explained that his brother called him the previous night and said he got jumped by some people in "the Heights," so Jarrell "went up there" and "shut the party down" with a .40-caliber handgun. Jarrell also explained that "he was in shock" when he realized that he had shot Office.

Jarrell was arrested approximately one week later. He had been staying with his friend, Alexander Lopez, for the previous two or three nights. The .40-caliber handgun used in the shooting was recovered from underneath Lopez's bed.
Defendant's Name: Ricky Ware (Xref 3158244)

Gang: Oak Park Bloods/Ridezilla

Case Number: 05F06834

Victim's Name: R.A.

Case Summary

At approximately 1:00 a.m. on October 1, 2006, R.A. was working as a security guard at a nightclub called “The Tent” in Sacramento when a fight broke out. R.A. grabbed one of the participants, Rickey Ware, and took him outside of the club. When Ware took a swing at R.A., R.A. pulled out a taser and told Ware if he touched him Ware would be tased. Ware threatened to kill R.A., said this is "Oak Park," and walked across Florin Road.

R.A. turned his back on Ware and watched others coming out of the club. R.A. then heard the sound of gunshots and ducked behind a car. R.A. looked back to where Ware had walked away and saw him standing in the middle of the street shooting toward the ground. However, when Ware saw other security personnel coming his way, he began backing away. Ware reached the other side of the street, fired some more shots, and then got into a light-colored Mercedes automobile. After Ware got into the Mercedes, he emerged out of the sunroof. The Mercedes drove in circles around the parking lot while Ware fired more shots. The car drove away only after sirens could be heard in the distance.
At approximately 1:05 a.m., Deputy Jason Abbott and his partner, Deputy Ty McIntyre, received a dispatch about shots fired from a gray Mercedes. As they drove on Florin Road toward the scene, Abbott noticed a silver metallic Mercedes parked at a liquor store and several males standing around it. The detectives continued past the liquor store then made a u-turn and returned. They observed the Mercedes drive out of the store's parking lot and head east on Florin Road.

The detectives followed the Mercedes as it turned north onto Chandler. After a short distance, they initiated a traffic stop. The Mercedes began to pull over but, before coming to a complete stop, it made a u-turn and headed south on Chandler. The detectives gave chase. During the pursuit, the Mercedes reached a speed of 40 miles per hour in a 25 miles-per-hour zone, drove at times in the northbound lane, and ran stop signs.

When the Mercedes reached Florin Road, it stopped in the middle of the road at a concrete divider. The driver and a passenger emerged and began running. Abbott chased the passenger for 40 to 50 yards, where the passenger scaled a fence and entered the parking lot of a town home complex. As the man went over the fence, a 9-millimeter Glock handgun and a 31-round magazine fell to the ground. Abbott was not able to catch the man. In the meantime, McIntyre chased the driver, who he recognized as Ware from prior contacts at the jail. However, after a brief chase, a blue sport utility vehicle drove up to Ware, a door
opened, defendant jumped inside, and the SUV drove off.

Gang Testimony

Detective Wendy Brown, testified that respect is of paramount importance to gang members and such respect is not earned but taken through fear, intimidation and violence. Fear and intimidation are used to dissuade witnesses from reporting crimes and to keep rivals from encroaching on a gang's territory. Brown further stated,

For a gang member, a gun is the biggest way for them to have that respect. If you have a gun, that trumps all other cards because if you have a gun, you take that respect. You can take that respect by threatening someone's life or even taking someone's life. So for a gang member to have a gun means that they are respected.

Brown testified Ridezilla is different from other gangs in that all the members have earned respect by being "soldiers," which she defined as "someone who is willing to put in the work for the respect and earn the respect for the gang." Brown described Ware’s reputation in the gang,

(Ware) is someone who is known to always have a gun. He is a soldier in
the gang. He's someone that you can go to if you need business taken
care of, business meaning if you need a gang--excuse me--if you need a
gun or someone taken care of. He is someone who is an active participant
in the gang.

Brown stated that Ware’s possession of a firearm on August 4, 2005,
benefited the Oak Park Bloods and Ridezilla,

Like I spoke of before, a gang member--what a gang member does
represents not only himself as a gang member but it represents the gang
itself. Being a gang member is all about fear and intimidation and respect
and having a gun and using a gun, gives a gang member respect. The
reputation for Ridezilla is all about the soldiers, the gang members, having
guns, using guns, being people who are willing to commit crimes with
guns.

During cross-examination, Brown elaborated further on the relationship
between gangs and guns. According to Brown, "just the fact that a gun is being
carried by a gang member makes it a gang gun." Defense counsel asked: "So what
you are saying, any time that a gang member has a gun, automatically, it's carried
for the benefit of the gang?" Detective Brown responded, "Yes." When defense
counsel pointed out the law requires more than just gang member status, Brown responded:

What I'm telling you is that when a person who is a gang member is always carrying a gun and they are known for carrying a gun and they are also known for being a very active member of that gang that is what goes to the status of the gang. That does benefit the gang because they know that people who come in contact with gang members, they know that gang members are armed and that they're willing to use these guns against anyone.
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Sumthin Terrible. Do It For Tha MOBB. Produced by Demolition Men.

Sacramento: 13 Songs.

Sumthin Terrible. Owner’s Modern Day Stoners. Produced by Demolition Men.

Sacramento: 20 Songs.

Sumthin Terrible. Turf Tested Hood Approved. Produced by Thizz Muzik.

Northern California. 18 Songs.


Sacramento: STU 11. 22 Songs.


