



# **ericGARCETTI**

## **LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL**

District 13 ? 200 N. Spring St. Room 470 ? Los Angeles ? CA 90012



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## **GANG CRIME IN HOLLYWOOD CUT IN HALF IN FIRST FOUR MONTHS OF 2004**

*HOLLYWOOD REVITALIZATION, ANTI-GANG PROGRAMS INCLUDING ENFORCEMENT OF  
INJUNCTION AGAINST 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET GANG FOR DRUG DEALING ARE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS*

Councilmember Eric Garcetti joined with City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, LAPD Chief William Bratton and Councilmember Tom LaBonge to announce that gang crime in Hollywood decreased 49.5 percent in the first four months of 2004, as compared to the same period in 2003.

The officials credited the crime reduction in part to a coordinated effort to revitalize Hollywood and enforcement of anti-gang programs, including enforcement of injunctions against the 18th Street gang for dealing drugs and the Mara Salvatrucha gang for violent activity.

Delgadillo also announced that the city's latest gang injunction - against members of the 18th Street gang in the Wilshire area - was designed to curb the active recruitment of children.

In November 2003, Delgadillo's Gang Unit filed a drug enforcement action against the 18th Street gang seeking to curtail its organized drug sales in Hollywood. In March, an injunction was filed to curtail gang activity of the Mara Salvatrucha gang in parts of Hollywood.

"Law enforcement's continued focus on gang activity in Hollywood continues to yield positive and tangible results," Delgadillo said at a news conference at Sunset and Vine. "When we keep gang members on the run they cannot conduct illegal activity. We will continue to keep the pressure on everyday to help make the neighborhoods safer for Los Angeles residents and visitors."

The Los Angeles Police Department has reported a 49 percent reduction in gang related crime in the Hollywood area from Jan. 1-April 30, while gang crime citywide has fallen 17 percent during that same period. Hollywood gang crime reduction includes a 60 percent reduction in robberies, a 47 percent drop in felony assaults and a 58 percent cut in attempted homicides, according to LAPD.

"Gang injunctions have proven to be an effective way to curb illegal street activity in our neighborhoods," said Councilmember Tom LaBonge, whose district includes parts of Hollywood. "Residents and businesses have asked for safer streets, and this injunction will go a long way to achieve this goal."

Working closely with the Los Angeles Police Department and the Hollywood Entertainment District, Delgadillo's office also plans to launch a pilot program to install wireless cameras covering the Hollywood Entertainment District, the Sunset Corridor, the Western Corridor, and the Hollywood Media District in order to further curtail criminal activity in Hollywood.

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"Thanks to the strong commitment of our City Attorney's office and the Los Angeles Police Department to public safety, Hollywood is one of the safest communities in which to live or work in the City of Los Angeles," says Leron Gubler, president and CEO of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce. "Simply stated, safe streets are a critical component of Hollywood's successful revitalization effort - one that is underscored daily by the more than one billion dollars that have recently been invested in our community's new retail, entertainment and residential redevelopment projects."

"Hollywood's transformation into a 24-hour community, its renewed centrality to L.A.'s arts and entertainment scenes and its restored urban vibrancy didn't happen on their own," said Councilmember Eric Garcetti, who represents Hollywood. "Smart and effective policing and targeted injunctions have helped everyone live, work and play better in Hollywood."

"The statistics coincide completely with how we feel as community stakeholders," added Kerry Morrison, Executive Director of the Hollywood Entertainment District Property Owners Association which manages the business improvement district along Hollywood Blvd. "With the injunction in place, Hollywood sidewalks are safer for pedestrians from all walks of life who populate this neighborhood every day including school children, tourists, subway riders, clubbers and business people."

The 18th Street gang originated on or near 18th Street in the Rampart Police Division in the early 1960s and has grown into the largest and most violent street gangs in Los Angeles with more than 10,000 estimated members in the county and 20,000 nationwide. It has a strong reputation for brutal violence and intimidation that allow them to control the Safety Zone in the Wilshire area. Gang members are known for aggressive recruitment of young children - some as young as 9 years old - and other local street gangs, according to Deputy City Attorney Jim McDougal of Delgadillo's Gang Unit. The 18th Street members are known to commit robberies, felony assaults, graffiti and auto thefts within the safety zone to perpetuate their hold on their community.

The 18th Street Wilshire gang injunction is the city's 20th filed since 1993 and the third action taken by Delgadillo against the 18th Street gang. In March, Delgadillo's office secured a permanent injunction against 18th Street Hollywood criminal street gang in an effort to curtail narcotics sales designed to bring revenue to the 18th Street gang. On August 13, 2002, a permanent injunction was secured against 18th Street Rampart, the traditional "home" of the 18th Street gang.

Los Angeles is home to 800 known gangs and more than 56,000 gang members, according to the LAPD.

In 1997, the California Supreme Court upheld the use of public nuisance laws to obtain injunctions prohibiting known gang members from nuisance and criminal behavior in narrowly defined areas. The Court upheld the legality of the orders, noting that unlawful and violent behavior does not come under the protection of the Constitution.

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