

ORLANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE
1506. 2, GANG ENFORCEMENT TEAM (GET)

EFFECTIVE:	06/15/12
RESCINDS:	1506.1
DISTRIBUTION:	ALL EMPLOYEES
REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY:	GANG ENFORCEMENT TEAM COMMANDER
ACCREDITATION CHAPTERS:	NONE
CHIEF OF POLICE:	JOHN W. MINA

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POLICY: It shall be the policy of the Orlando Police Department to provide specially-trained sworn officers designated to handle situations involving gangs. All officers will strive to obtain as much information as possible on gangs to help reduce and counteract gang violence.

PROCEDURES:

1. DEFINITIONS

Criminal Gang: A formal or informal ongoing organization, association, or group that has as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal or delinquent acts, and that consists of three or more persons who have a common name or common identifying signs, colors, or symbols, including, but not limited to, terrorist organizations and hate groups.

The Florida Intelligence Site (InSite): Allows law enforcement users to record and query statewide intelligence regarding criminal street gangs, gang associates, and members. Documented members will appear as Gang Members in FCIC.

Suspected Gang Member: A person who meets one or more of the below listed criteria (a-k) but has not been documented as a Criminal Gang Associate or Gang Member by entry in InSite.

- a. Admits to criminal gang membership.
- b. Is identified as a criminal gang member by a parent or guardian.
- c. Is identified as a criminal gang member by a documented reliable informant.
- d. Adopts the style of dress of a criminal gang.
- e. Adopts the use of a hand sign identified as used by a criminal gang.
- f. Has a tattoo identified as used by a criminal gang.
- g. Associates with one or more known criminal gang members.
- h. Is identified as a criminal gang member by an informant of previously untested reliability and such identification is corroborated by independent information.
- i. Is identified as a criminal gang member by physical evidence.
- j. Has been observed in the company of one or more known criminal gang members four or more times. Observation in a custodial setting requires a willful association.
- k. Has authored any communication indicating responsibility for the commission of any crime by the criminal gang.

Criminal Gang Associate: A person who meets one of the above-listed criteria (a-k) and is documented as a Criminal Gang Associate by entry in InSite.

Criminal Gang Member: A person who meets two or more of the above-listed criteria (a-k) and is documented as a Criminal Gang Member by entry in InSite.

Gang Enforcement Team (GET): Sworn officers specially trained to handle situations involving gangs. GET members identify, monitor, report, and coordinate the exchange of information concerning the identity of criminal gangs, gang members, gang associates, and gang-related activity. GET members are an integral component of the Gang Unit's gang suppression capability and will assist the Gang Unit as necessary.

Gang-related Incident: An incident that, upon investigation, meets any of the following conditions:

- a. The participants are identified as criminal gang members or criminal gang associates, acting, individually or collectively, to further any criminal purpose of the criminal gang, or for the purpose of increasing a person's own standing or position within a criminal gang.
- b. A reliable informant identifies an incident as criminal gang activity; or an informant of previously untested reliability identifies an incident as criminal gang activity and it is corroborated by independent information.

2. G E T COMMANDER/COORDINATOR

The GET Commander is a lieutenant or above as designated by the Chief of Police. The Gang Unit Supervisor will function as the GET Coordinator to assist with administrative/operational directives, and plan and supervise GET suppression/enforcement operations.

3. TEAM MEMBER SELECTION

3.1 CONSIDERATION FOR ASSIGNMENT

Any member who has completed his or her probationary period and is in good standing per existing City of Orlando/FOP Contract can be considered for this assignment.

The following traits may be considered when selecting an applicant to fill a vacancy on the GET:

- a. Communication skills.
- b. Active listening skills.
- c. Ability to work well under pressure.
- d. Ability to maintain a positive attitude under stressful situations.
- e. Ability to exercise good judgment and decision-making skills.

4. TRAINING

Once appointed to the GET, the members will continually acquire and share intelligence with the Gang Unit and other agencies. Members will be required to remain proficient in their knowledge of gangs and gang activity through gang intelligence bulletins/information distributed by the Gang Unit Supervisor/GET Coordinator, and by attending periodic training. The GET Commander and/or Coordinator shall be responsible for scheduling training sessions when necessary. The training is mandatory, and repeated absence from training events may result in removal from the GET. Members serve at the pleasure of the Team Commander.

5. UTILIZATION OF A GET MEMBER

5.1 INCIDENTS

A GET member assigned to Patrol shall be dispatched to suspicious incidents or criminal activity involving confirmed or suspected gang member/members when a Gang Unit detective is not available.

The GET Coordinator will provide Communications with a list of current GET members. Communications may refer to the active list of GET members when dispatching calls or may request a GET patrol officer over the radio.

If neither a Gang Unit detective or GET member is available and the dispatched officer needs assistance, Communications will provide the telephone number to the Gang Unit Supervisor for further instructions.

5.2 GET OFFICER ON SCENE

If a GET member responds to the scene, he or she shall be responsible for determining if the incident is gang related. The GET officer will then assist the primary officer by interviewing the suspected gang member/members, gathering intelligence, and ensuring that an OPD Gang Intelligence Form (Attachment A) is completed. Other officers on scene shall provide backup as needed.

When necessary, GET members will conduct follow-up investigations of gang-related incidents and complete any necessary supplemental reports.

GET officers will forward the OPD Gang Intelligence Form and any gathered intelligence (statements, photos, gang paraphernalia, etc.) to the Gang Unit Supervisor

5.3 GANG SUPPRESSION/ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

GET members will be organized into eight-person teams and may be required to participate in one Gang Suppression/Enforcement Operation per quarter. They may be required to participate in unscheduled operations in a call-out capacity at the discretion of the Investigative Services Bureau (ISB) Commander.

All GET officers will have their pagers or phones set up to receive pages on the GET pager group.

