



PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN
FY2018

I. Planning Phase

A. Partnerships for Planning Phase

The planning strategy was determined by the United States Attorney's Office ("USAO") for the Central District of California (the "District"), in consultation with the previously-designated fiscal agent (the Children's Initiative). The strategy is based on the USAO's and PSN Coordinators' prior experience with the PSN initiative. The USAO and PSN Coordinators have worked collaboratively with ATF, local law enforcement, and community partners in prior fiscal years on the PSN initiative.

The strategic plan was presented to members of the PSN Committee, which provided input and suggestions. The PSN Committee is composed of Martin Vranicar (Former CEO, California District Attorneys' Association; Former Supervising Attorney, Gang Unit, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office), Peter Shutan (Former Supervising Attorney, Gang Unit, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office; Vice President, Legal Affairs, California Gang Investigator's Association), and Robyn Bacon (Former Assistant United States Attorney; Partner, Munger Tolles & Olson), as well as the District's PSN Coordinators and Chief of the Violent & Organized Crime Section. The PSN Committee will also include various representatives from the ATF and local law enforcement at different times during implementation of the SAP.

The PSN Committee determined that the ultimate goal of the distribution of grant funds should be approximately 30% for law enforcement efforts, 20% for intervention efforts, 20% for outreach and prevention, 20% for research, and 10% for the fiscal agent administrative fee. The PSN Committee and USAO recognize, however, the significant challenges related to certification requirements by law enforcement agencies in the State of California, and that much of the allocated PSN funds will likely need to be diverted away from law enforcement and toward non-governmental, non-profit, and other community partner organizations, not affected certification difficulties.

The USAO's PSN Coordinators and PSN Committee plan to meet periodically throughout the grant and sub-grant application process, as well as periodically to review and discuss crime statistics from the District, the PSN enforcement strategy, the results and progress of any retained research partners, and the deployment of PSN grant funds and other resources.



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B. Problem Analysis to Develop Targeted and Prioritized Enforcement Strategies

The Central District of California covers seven counties in Southern California – Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino – and has a population of more than 19 million people. It is the largest district in the country and encompasses more than 5% of the United States population. The District spans roughly 43,000 square miles, with more than a dozen cities in excess of 200,000 inhabitants. Los Angeles County alone – as of the 2010 census – had a population of over 9.8 million, making it California’s most populous county. It includes the City of Los Angeles, the second most populous city in the United States. Based on law enforcement estimates there are between 30,000 and 50,000 active gang members in the greater Los Angeles region alone. Enforcing state law in the District are approximately 120 separate police and sheriff’s departments, with the two largest being the Los Angeles Police Department (“LAPD”) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (“LASD”), each with nearly 10,000 sworn officers.

All federal agencies maintain a significant presence in Los Angeles and many have dedicated gang squads. The FBI alone maintains more than ten groups that focus on the prosecution of violent groups through short- and long-term investigations. The USAO handles most of its significant violent crime cases out of the Violent & Organized Crime Section, which has 19 line AUSAs who prosecute racketeering, narcotics, large-scale firearms cases, human trafficking, and child exploitation. The International Narcotics, Money Laundering, and Racketeering Section (“INMLRS”) also prosecutes significant gang cases that involve substantial quantities of narcotics. Smaller, reactive firearms prosecutions are handled by the Complaints Section in General Crimes.

In 2019, several of the large cities in the District saw an overall decline in violent crime rates. For example, in Los Angeles, Part I Violent Crimes were down 7% over the prior year. The cities of Long Beach (-12.4%) and San Bernardino (-2.23%) also reversed prior trends. However, firearms continue to pose a problem, with the LAPD seizing nearly 7,000 guns in 2019, which was the largest number in the last decade. As of November 2019, the Long Beach Police Department had seized 940 firearms, which was up 22% from the same time in 2018.

The Central District of California PSN enforcement program will target violent gangs, felon in possession and other firearms offenses, geographic hot spot areas,¹ and known shooters and

¹ Because the USAO’s PSN resources are deployed throughout the seven counties, we have selected the entire District as the Target Enforcement Area for purposes of PSN reporting. Any



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chronic violent offenders, in addition to simultaneous prevention and re-entry efforts for at-risk communities.

C. What data were used in the analysis? How many years of data were examined?

The data above was taken from: 2019 online crime statistics from local police departments as well as the 2019 part-year FBI Uniform Crime Reports.

D. Describe other sources of information about the gun and violence problem

On January 30, 2020, ABC7 news published a story detailing the increased seizure of un-serialized, un-traceable “ghost guns” within the District (<https://abc7.com/5893043/>). As detailed in the article, ATF estimates that approximately 41% of guns seized in ATF investigations are ghost guns. The PSN Coordinators have worked with ATF and local law enforcement to address the issue, including a recently-formed Ghost Guns Working Group comprised of representative from the USAO, ATF, FBI, and a number of local law enforcement agencies. The working group will address the increasing threat of ghost guns, as well as related issues with illegal Glock auto-switches and silencers, within the District.

E. Violence Reduction Assessment Tool (VRAT)

The Central District of California has not participated in VRAT.

II. Plan Implementation

A. Goal Identification

The goals of the District PSN strategy are to: (1) mitigate and reduce gun and gang violence throughout the District; (2) increase federal prosecution of the most violent offenders; (3) enhance collaboration between the USAO, federal, and local law enforcement agencies, and non-

smaller subdivisions would not be reflective of the USAO’s PSN program, nor would there be measurable results because each geographic area within the District represents only a fraction of the USAO’s PSN prosecutions. We frequently partner directly with certain areas for enhanced crime suppression, such as the Crime Gun Intelligence Center in LAPD’s 77th Division, and the 2015-2018 Public Safety Partnership with the LASD in Compton. However, for purposes of the PSN program, our efforts are District-wide.



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governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, and community partners; (4) promote and support meaningful anti-gang, anti-violence, and re-entry strategies; and (5) engage a research partner to provide quantitative analysis on the PSN strategies employed and their effectiveness in reducing violent crime and firearms offenses throughout the District.

B. Proposed Strategies to Address the Drivers of Gun Violence

The USAO intends to use a collaborative approach to combat violent crimes and firearms offenses to foster safer neighborhoods. The PSN Committee will work with federal and local law enforcement partners, as well as community non-governmental and non-profit organizations to implement programs and strategies to combat violence crime and utilize research to measure effectiveness. The PSN Committee will focus its efforts on issues specific to the District, including gang violence; ghost guns, Glock auto-switches, and illegal silencers found in the District; repeat and habitual violent offenders; and geographic hot spots that have seen recent increases in violent crime rates.

To date, the USAO has successfully engaged in significant enforcement, intervention, and prevention efforts. The USAO PSN program has focused on bringing large-scale racketeering cases and sweeping takedowns of violent gangs; Hobbs Act robbery cases targeting violent actors; and individual firearms prosecutions, including working with local law enforcement to identify and target the most dangerous and violent offenders for federal prosecution. In Fiscal year 2019, the USAO indicted over 150 members and associates of local street gangs, including members and associates of MS-13 who were involved in brutal murders of rival gang members, with the victims' bodies dismembered and left in National Forests. The USAO has also increased prosecutions of defendants who committed armed robberies of businesses ranging from convenience stores to high-end jewelry retailers, as well as numerous cases against firearms traffickers, manufacturers, and more than 115 felons in possession of firearms and ammunition. The USAO has worked with ATF and LAPD as part of a Crime Gun Intelligence Center, which uses forensic tools to match recovered firearms to other crimes, with the goal of removing "trigger pullers" from the street.

Moving forward, the Central District of California plans to continue to build on these established and successful enforcement practices to combat violent crime. The USAO plans to continue to work with federal and local law enforcement partners, although the ability to do so has been significantly challenged by PSN's immigration certification requirements. The reduction of gang violence and firearms, particularly ghost guns and illegal Glock auto-switches and silencers, will continue to be a focus of the program. The PSN Committee believes in promoting innovative



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solutions to these specific issues, as well as violent and firearms crimes generally, including identifying research and other partners such as software developers to aid law enforcement in creating technology to properly identify and catalog ghost guns and Glock auto-switches.

C. Prevention Strategies to Compliment Enforcement

In addition to enforcement efforts, the USAO has participated in a robust outreach and engagement program to cultivate community and law enforcement relationships as well as deter future criminality. As examples, the USAO works in partnership with the District Court and other agencies in the CASA and STAR programs, diversion and re-entry programs aimed at reducing recidivism through meetings with judges and prosecutors, self-help and life skills training, and alternative sentences. The USAO has also previously been part of the Operation Ceasefire program, which focuses on felons released from custody who are under some form of supervision (parole, probation, or supervised release). During call-in meetings for these offenders, law enforcement and community members inform the gang members of the consequences of any future violence by the gang, and they are exposed to the stories of violent crime victims, family members of violent crime victims, and reformed former gang members. In addition, they are provided with resources for job training and education opportunities. The USAO also recently partnered on DEA's 360 strategy, geared toward combating heroin and opioid use through coordinated law enforcement actions, diversion control, and community outreach. The USAO also sponsors one of the Gang Reduction and Youth Development ("GRYD") events, "Summer Night Lights," which operates during the summer months throughout the city of Los Angeles, keeping parks open after dark to provide community members alternatives to gang activity and gang violence, as well as "Coffee with Cops" events to introduce community members to law enforcement officers working in their neighborhoods.

These programs are integral aspects of the District's PSN crime-prevention efforts. The USAO will seek to continue building and expanding these successful programs by continuing to foster relationships with local law enforcement and community organizations, including through PSN grants to eligible organizations. The PSN Committee has also identified additional potential outreach and prevention efforts to complement the USAO's efforts, including outreach to Federal Firearms Licensees and to the public to encourage responsible and safe gun ownership and to prevent the use of illegal straw purchasers.



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D. Accountability

The Chief of the Violent and Organized Crimes Section and District PSN Coordinators review crime data and statistics, including with ATF and local law enforcement partners. The PSN Committee plans to meet to review crime data with the PSN Coordinators, and to assess the effectiveness of the District's PSN program.

E. Next Steps

The next steps for the District's PSN program include: (1) continuing successful enforcement and crime-prevention programs; (2) disbursing PSN grant funds to eligible recipients; (3) selecting and funding a research partner to analyze crime data and the effectiveness of various crime-prevention efforts; and (4) reviewing and adjusting our efforts in the future as needed.



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Appendices

Appendix A – Identifying Key PSN Partners

Criminal Justice Partners:	Involved in Planning	Involved in Implementation
<i>Police: Various local law enforcement agencies, including Los Angeles, Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and various others – no, yes</i>		
<i>Federal law enforcement: ATF – yes, yes, FBI, USMS – no, yes</i>		
<i>Prosecutor's Office : Various local prosecutor's offices, including Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, and various others – no, yes</i>		
<i>U.S. Attorney Office: yes, yes</i>		
<i>Community Corrections: Various – no, tbd</i>		
<i>Department of Correction: Various – no, tbd</i>		
<i>State Probation and/or Parole: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation – no, tbd</i>		
<i>US Probation: no, yes</i>		
<i>Research partner: tbd</i>		
<i>Fiscal Agent: The Children's Initiative – yes, yes</i>		
Local Government:		
<i>Schools: – no, no</i>		
<i>Executive (Mayor's Office, Manager): – no, tbd</i>		
<i>Public Housing: – no, tbd</i>		
Community Stakeholders:		
<i>Faith Community: – no, tbd</i>		
<i>Neighborhood Associations: – no, tbd</i>		
<i>Foundations: – no, tbd</i>		
<i>Social Services: – no, tbd</i>		
<i>Outreach Workers: – no, tbd</i>		
<i>Trauma Center: – no, tbd</i>		

Appendix B – Sources of Data for Analyzing Problem

What types of data and sources of information have you gathered and analyzed?
<i>Calls for police service – yes</i>



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<i>Police incident reports – yes</i>
<i>Street level intelligence – yes</i>
<i>Systematic crime incident reviews – tbd</i>
<i>Shots fired/shotspotter – no</i>
<i>NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistics Intelligence Network); Gun tracing – yes</i>
<i>Gun crime case processing (e.g., GUNSTAT) – no</i>
<i>Citizen perceptions – yes</i>
<i>Community characteristics – yes</i>
<i>Other – FBI and local law enforcement crime statistics</i>
What types of analysis have you conducted?
<i>Trend analysis – tbd</i>
<i>Crime mapping – tbd</i>
<i>Risk Terrain Modeling – no</i>
<i>Social Network Analysis – tbd</i>
<i>Gang audits – tbd</i>
<i>Repeat violent offender patterns – tbd</i>
<i>Other – Attempting to identify research partner to analyze district-wide crime trends</i>

Appendix C – Problem Analysis Summary

Based on your analysis of violent crime patterns, to what extent are the following drivers of violent crime in your target area? (repeat if multiple target areas) Rate (1=highest priority; 2=priority; 3=concern but not as significant relative to others; 4=does not appear to drive a significant amount of our violent crime)	Note if this will be a focus of your violence reduction strategy
<i>Gangs or violent street groups -1, yes</i>	
<i>Geographic hot spot areas – 2, tbd</i>	
<i>Felons in possession – 1, yes</i>	
<i>Prolific (chronic) violent offenders – 2, tbd</i>	
<i>Street disputes – 3, tbd</i>	
<i>Household/family/neighbor disputes – 3, tbd</i>	
<i>Intimate partner violence – 3, yes</i>	



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<i>Illegal drug markets – 1, yes</i>
<i>Other (specify)</i>

Appendix D – Linking Targeted and Prioritized Enforcement Strategies to Problem Analysis

For each identified driver of violent crime, what strategies have you identified to address the problem? Insert Drivers of Violent Crime that your team has prioritized (from Appendix C)	Strategies
<i>Gangs or violent groups</i>	<i>We are conducting investigations of criminal gangs and members using federal RICO/VICAR, drug distribution, and firearms statutes, and are hosting trainings on those investigations and prosecutions for law enforcement and prosecutors.</i>
<i>Geographic hot spot areas</i>	<i>We are analyzing crime statistics and trends to determine geographic crime hotspots, and hope to assign additional investigative and prosecutorial resources to those areas.</i>
<i>Felons in possession</i>	<i>We have trained federal and local law enforcement on federal prosecution of firearms offenses, and have an open and ongoing dialog with our local District Attorney’s Offices to ensure felons in possession of weapons are prosecuted in the most appropriate venue.</i>
<i>Prolific (chronic) violent offenders</i>	<i>We rely on local law enforcement to identify the most violent gangs and gang members to direct investigative and prosecutorial</i>



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	<i>resources to the most violent actors, including federal task forces.</i>
<i>Street Disputes</i>	<i>For disputes involving firearms, we are educating officers on the importance of collecting shell casings to be run through NIBIN. The use of NIBIN by the CGIC at LAPD's 77th Division has already resulted in identification of trigger pullers and violent offenders.</i>
<i>Intimate partner violence</i>	<i>We have conducted trainings on the use of federal gun laws related to persons under TRO or with prior DV convictions, and have assigned a coordinator to review potential cases for federal prosecution.</i>
<i>Illegal drug markets</i>	<i>We have implemented small targeted federal prosecution policies around chronic street level drug dealers with firearms who are cycling through the local justice system.</i>

Appendix E – Prevention Strategies

Identify prevention strategies that focus on high-risk people and places? People (e.g., high risk youth; gun involved former prisoners returning to community; shooting victims; community engagement & awareness)	Strategies
<i>Target Enforcement Areas and Task Forces</i>	<i>We focus on bringing large-scale racketeering cases against gangs that control specific geographic areas, as well as federal and local task forces that focus on specific</i>



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	<p><i>gangs or geographic areas within the district. Last year, we completed a three-year Public Safety Partnership (“PSP”) in the City of Compton, which addressed the city’s long-standing problems with gang violence and provided federal resources, training, and other assistance to local enforcement, prevention, and intervention efforts. During the period of the grant, federal agencies assisted in seizing over 300 firearms, 80 pounds of explosives, and 300 pounds of methamphetamine from the streets of Compton.</i></p>
<p><i>Reentry and Prevention</i></p>	<p><i>We participate in multiple reentry and crime prevention programs to reduce recidivism. In partnership with the District Court and other agencies, we participate in the Conviction and Sentence Alternatives (“CASA”) and Substance Abuse Treatment and Reentry (“STAR”) programs, two diversion and re-entry programs aimed at reducing recidivism through meetings with judges and prosecutors, self-help and life skills training, and alternative sentences. We also previously have been part of the Operation Ceasefire program, which focuses on felons released from custody who are under some form of supervision (parole, probation, or supervised release). Recently, we partnered on DEA’s 360 strategy, geared toward combating heroin and opioid use through coordinated law enforcement actions, diversion control, and community outreach.</i></p>
<p><i>Community Engagement and Outreach</i></p>	<p><i>In addition to the reentry and prevention programs discussed above, we participate in</i></p>



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	<p><i>a number of programs aimed at cultivating community and law enforcement relationships to deter future criminality. We sponsor one of the Gang Reduction and Youth Development (“GRYD”) events, “Summer Night Lights,” which operates during the summer months throughout the city, keeping parks open after dark to provide community members alternatives to gang activity and gang violence, as well as “Coffee with Cops” events to introduce community members to law enforcement officers working in their neighborhoods.</i></p>
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