


Atlanta Police Department Policy Manual		Standard Operating Procedure
Effective Date: August 13, 2020		APD.SOP.3067 Gang Data Reporting
Applicable To: All Sworn Employees		Review Due: 2024
Approval Authority: Chief Rodney Bryant		
Signature: Signed by: RB		Date Signed: 8/13/2020

1. PURPOSE

To establish a procedure for collecting data on gang-related crime.

2. POLICY

The Atlanta Police Department (APD) will investigate gang-related crimes and collect and analyze information about them.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Officers responding to the scene of a crime, in addition to their other responsibilities, will collect and record any evidence that tends to indicate gang involvement.
- 3.2 Patrol supervisors will review their officers' reports and field interview for the proper documentation of gang involvement.
- 3.3 Investigators will retain responsibility for investigating gang-related crimes within their specialized areas and will also collect and record any evidence that tends to indicate gang involvement and forward that information to Gangs Unit.
- 3.4 Investigative supervisors will review their investigators' work for the proper reporting of gang involvement.
- 3.5 The Gangs Unit is responsible for monitoring and collecting intelligence on gangs and for preparing an annual report on gangs.

4. ACTION

- 4.1 The officer responding to a crime scene will take notice of evidence or other indicators of a possible gang crime based on the following criteria:
  - 1. The motivation of the perpetrator.
  - 2. The perception of the victim.
  - 3. The display of gang symbols, colors, words, or acts etc.
  - 4. Groups involved in the attack.



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5. Manner and means of attack.
- 4.2 If a gang-related crime appears to have been committed, the reporting officer will check the appropriate box in the RMS platform and include in the narrative any facts which tend to indicate gang-related activity.
- 4.3 The Gangs Unit supervisor will query the RMS for all reports that have the “gang information” box completed and assign the recovered reports to a Gang Unit investigator.
- 4.4 Information on gang members or gang activity will be verified, documented, and entered in the Atlanta Police Department Intelligence Network (APIN).
- 4.5 Gangs Unit will maintain an information system on all known gang members, activities of youth, street, drug gangs and delinquent groups. Information entered into the system must be verified. The information will be shared on a systematic basis with law enforcement, probation, and parole authorities to track gang activity.
- 4.6 The Gangs Unit will prepare and forward the annual report through the chain of command to the Chief of Police, with copies to the Central Records Unit and Planning, Research and Accreditation Unit.
5. DEFINITIONS
- 5.1 APIN (Atlanta Police Department Intelligence Network): APIN is a comprehensive Web-based platform that organizes investigations, including homicides and criminal gang activity. Rather than investigating gang-related crimes as individual incidents, investigators are able to address the organized structure of criminal gangs and view them in a larger picture. Gang investigations exist in a “living file” that tracks criminal activity over time, and includes information on gang history, identifiers (graffiti, tattoos, hand signs, etc.) and members
- 5.2 Gang/Criminal Street Gang: Any organization, association, or group of three or more persons associated in fact, whether formal or informal, which engages in criminal gang activity as defined in O.C.G.A. 16-15-3. The existence of such organization, association, or group of individuals associated in fact may be established by evidence of a common name or common identifying signs, symbols, tattoos, graffiti, or attire or other distinguishing characteristics. Such term shall not include three or more persons, associated in fact, whether formal or informal, who are not engaged in criminal gang activity.
- 5.2 Gang-Related Crime: Criminal acts that include gang violence or gang retaliation related to turf protection, signing, recruitment or any criminal activity such as drug trafficking. Any incident wherein participants, suspects, or victims are identified gang members or associates. When a reliable informant identifies an incident as gang activity. When an informant of previously untested reliability identifies an incident as gang activity and it is corroborated by other attendant circumstances or independent verification.
- 5.3 Gang Member: Gang member identification is based on the following criteria:
  1. When an individual admits membership in a gang;
  2. When a reliable informant identifies an individual as a gang member;



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3. When an informant of previously untested reliability identifies an individual as a gang member and it is corroborated by independent verification; and
4. When an individual resides in or frequents a particular gang's area and affects their style of dress, use of hand signs, symbols, or tattoos, and associates with known gang members.
5. When an individual has been arrested several times in the company of identified gang members for offenses which are consistent with usual gang activity.
6. When there are strong indications that an individual has a close relationship with a gang but does not fit the above criteria, he should be identified as a "gang associate."

5.4 Gang-Related Crime Data: Data on gang-related incidents involving the criminal acts of homicide, involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault, simple assault, simple battery, robbery, armed robbery, aggravated battery, burglary, drug trafficking, disorderly conduct, aggravated sodomy, aggravated sexual battery, statutory rape, rape, stalking, theft, arson, vandalism, trespass, threats, racketeering, damage or vandalism of property, violating the security protocols of any state or county correctional facility, and aid or encourage a minor to escape from custody.

5.5 Gang Associate: A person who frequents a gang area, Associate with gang members, has been contacted in the company of gang members but does not display the outward characteristics of a gang member

5.6 Gang Symbols and Indicators:

1. Graffiti: may represent a gang name, the nickname of a gang member, denote turf boundaries, resemble graffiti of gangs in chronic problem neighbors or cities ("wannabees"), or indicate disrespect for rival gang symbols.
2. Clothes/Colors: each gang is usually but not always identified by distinctive colors or color combinations of clothing, hats, shoe laces, etc. Clothing, such as sweaters, gloves, hats, and pants, may be worn in a particular manner to indicate gang affiliation.
3. Tattoos: usually illustrating gang symbols, gang name or the gang moniker of the individual usually found on different parts of the body.
4. Signing: hand and arm signals and special body expressions may be used to identify membership in a specific gang or confederation, or may signify a challenge to a rival gang.

6. CANCELLATIONS

APD.SOP.3067 "Gang Data Reporting", effective August 15, 2015.

7. REFERENCES

Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Sections 16-15-3, 16-15-4 and 16-15-9

8. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



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Minor changes to policy.