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## INDIANA STATE

### *Intervention Should Affect the Youngest of Offenders, Officials Agree*

**11/29/05 Lake County, IN** | James W. "James G" Parks and Antonio "Tone" Jones of Gary won't be coming back -- unless they can successfully appeal their 240-year prison terms for a quadruple murder in a Gary drug house last year. But their co-defendant, Lenzo "Thirst" Aaron III, of Gary, will be presumed to be rehabilitated -- by the standards of the justice system -- and will be free in nine years. Law enforcement officials debate whether Aaron will return to a society that's improved since the three burst into a Gary apartment in 2004 and shot dead a small-time drug dealer, his 23-month-old son and the couple who lived there.



Some signs point to an improving state of affairs in the region. U.S. Attorney Joseph Van Bokkelen said the U.S. Department of Justice recently dropped Gary from its list of the top 200 cities with the highest Part I crime rates per population. Although Gary again appeared in the Top 10 on Kansas-based Morgan Quitno Press' tally of the country's "most dangerous" cities this year, it improved its ranking from third to ninth. Hammond fared even better, falling from No. 10 on the list to No. 62. The city crime rankings are calculated with 2004 FBI crime data. Van Bokkelen credits the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area task force -- a combined effort of federal, state and local law enforcement -- with successfully tamping down the volatile mix of gangs, guns and drugs in the Calumet Region.

*Source: The Times*

**Full Story:**

[http://www.nwintimes.com/articles/2005/12/01/news/top\\_news/607510ffeaab891862570c6002245a3.txt](http://www.nwintimes.com/articles/2005/12/01/news/top_news/607510ffeaab891862570c6002245a3.txt)

## ***Former Gary Cop Gets Life Term***

**12/3/05 Hammond, IN** | A federal judge sentenced former Gary cop-turned-gang hitman James Ervin to life in prison Friday for his role in a Calumet region narcotics enterprise, the U.S. attorney reported. The sentencing followed the 2003 conviction of Ervin and drug gang leader Jay Zambrana on charges of homicide and extortion for their roles in the gang that imported millions of dollars of illicit drugs into Northwest Indiana and then sold the substances to street-level dealers.

During their trial, the government alleged that Zambrana used Ervin to extort money from competitors -- often while Ervin was in uniform and using his police squad car. Ervin was accused of helping strangle two rival drug dealers with an electrical extension cord on the stage of the Puerto Rican Beneficia Club, 400 E. 5th Ave., Gary. He reportedly put their bodies into the truck of a 1985 Ford Crown Victoria and then



set the car ablaze on Chicago's South Side. At trial, it also was shown that Ervin used his position as an officer to identify the registered owners of vehicles with certain license plates for Zambrana when the drug kingpin believed he was being followed by federal agents.

*Source: The Times*

### **Full Story:**

[http://www.nwintimes.com/articles/2005/12/03/news/lake\\_county/b6ce54bf8a44b1f0862570cc00075f39.txt](http://www.nwintimes.com/articles/2005/12/03/news/lake_county/b6ce54bf8a44b1f0862570cc00075f39.txt)

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## **Midwest**

## ***Elgin Trying to Get to Graffiti***

**12/28/05 Suburban Chicago, IL** | Elgin's graffiti removal program hasn't been disbanded - it was just put on hold by the early December cold wave. "It's frustrating," said Ed Swierbinski, who also heads the city's community restitution program. "Nobody wants graffiti on their house or business, and I try to sympathize. "But there's really not much I can do." The city's 10-year-old power washing machine is meant to work in temperatures higher than 50 degrees. But it has come through when temperatures are above freezing. Normally, Swierbinski likes to send community restitution workers out to remove graffiti within days of a report. But with below-freezing temperatures in the first three weeks of December, the machine has been out of commission and removal is taking longer than usual, Swierbinski said. "And the calls keep coming and coming," Swierbinski said.

Incidents of graffiti tend to rise when school is out of session, said Ryan Theriault, an assistant with the community restitution division.

Source: Daily Herald

Full Story: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10627160/>

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### ***Inmate Tattoos Provide Evidence of Gang Activity***

**12/25/05 COVINGTON, KY** | Earlier this month, federal and local law enforcement officers made several drug-related arrests in Covington, raiding homes and confiscating large amounts of crack cocaine in what local officials say is evidence of continued gang activity in the region. Among those arrested were several "regulars" with prior convictions for drug trafficking and gang connections, said Kenton County chief prosecutor Ken Easterling.

While gang activity is down compared to previous years - Covington police swept through the city thoroughly during the mid to late 1990s - it still exists, according to Easterling and staff at the Kenton County Jail. "It is still somewhat out there. Probably not as prevalent as it used to be, but certainly there is some gang activity that we see from time to time," said Easterling.

Lt. Col. Scott Colvin, chief of operations for the Kenton County Jail, said staff members continue to compile photographic evidence of gangs - primarily tattoos on inmates - as part of an ongoing gang file.

Source: ChallengerNKY

Full Story:

[http://www.challengernky.com/articles/2005/12/25/around\\_nky/doc43aad18f5b900202117542.txt](http://www.challengernky.com/articles/2005/12/25/around_nky/doc43aad18f5b900202117542.txt)

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**National**

### ***Ex-Gang Leader Tookie Williams Executed in California***

**12/13/05 California** | Stanley ``Tookie" Williams, a former gang leader and convicted murderer whose anti-gang advocacy from prison garnered praise, was executed by lethal injection after a series of last-minute appeals were rejected.



Williams, 51, co-founder of the Crips gang who was on death row for murdering four people in 1979, died at 12:35 a.m. after receiving a lethal dose of drugs at San Quentin State Prison outside San Francisco, said Todd Slosek, a spokesman for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Yesterday California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the U.S. Supreme Court refused Williams's requests to stop the execution. He was the 12th prisoner to be executed in the state since 1977.



## ***Gang's Number Growing***

**12/04/05 Port Arthur, TX** | MS-13, a predominantly Hispanic gang, is gaining nationwide notoriety for its crimes and violence. And in Port Arthur -- where almost one-fifth of the population is Hispanic -- police have taken notice. "Hispanic gangs, overwhelmingly, are a growing problem," said Sgt. Terry Chance of the Port Arthur Police Department. "In the beginning, they used baseball bats, clubs and knives, but they've stepped up."



*Source: The Beaumont Enterprise*

**Full Story:**

[http://www.southeasttexaslive.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15689970&BRD=2287&PAGE=461&dept\\_id=512588&rft=6](http://www.southeasttexaslive.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15689970&BRD=2287&PAGE=461&dept_id=512588&rft=6)

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## ***Gang Members Busted At Park With Deadly Weapons***

**12/23/05 ORLANDO, Fla.** | Orlando police arrested more than 20 gang members Thursday night carrying exotic deadly weapons, including brass knuckles with long attached steel blades, according to Local 6 News. Investigators said 14 teenagers and eight adults were charged with the possession of deadly weapons at Demetree Park after officers spotted up to 60 teens getting ready to fight.



*Source: Local 6 News*

**Full Story:** <http://www.local6.com/news/5548372/detail.html>

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## ***Authorities Tackle Rise in Local Gangs***

**12/31/05 Orange County, FL** | His baggy, navy-blue pants showed his loyalty. The simple rosary inked into his chest signified his rank. Sureno 13, the name of a well-known Los Angeles gang, was etched into his long back.

"I know some [gang members], but I don't kick it no more," David Flores, 20, said recently during a routine question-and-answer with a special agent from the Orange County Sheriff's Office Gang Unit. "I'm not into that gang-banging stuff."

The scene has become increasingly familiar: Agents are called to interview, photograph and input data collected from suspected members of gangs, whose activity continues to



police said, he was the man behind the gun. Wednesday night, city police arrested Walker and accused him of shooting at a van full of people early Sunday in the 300 block of Ontario Street. No injuries were reported in that shooting. Walker now faces three felony charges - first-degree reckless endangerment, second-degree criminal possession of a weapon and second-degree criminal use of a firearm - and if convicted, he could get up to 15 years in state prison.

Source: *The Post-Standard*

Full Story: <http://www.syracuse.com/news/poststandard/index.ssf?/base/news-1/1133516428133690.xml>

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### ***Union Grapples With New Kinds of Crime: Gang Activity, Meth Labs Bigger Problems than Ever this Year***

**12/29/05 Charlotte, NC** | Local law enforcement officials say gang activity and meth labs are two relatively new criminal problems in Union that required more attention than ever before in 2005.

Some Union officers began training on meth labs this year, knowing it was just a matter of time before the drug moved from the N.C. mountains into the Piedmont. And gang activity, officials say, continues to grow. Fortunately, while crime is increasing in those two areas, violent crime including homicide remained at a steady low in Union this year.

Source: *Charlotte Observer*

Full Story: [http://www.charlotte.com/mld/observer/news/local/states/north\\_carolina/counties/union/13505270.htm](http://www.charlotte.com/mld/observer/news/local/states/north_carolina/counties/union/13505270.htm)

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### ***Federal Hand Seen as Ally in Crime Fight***

**12/29/05 San Bernardino, CA** | Prosecuting gang members in federal court for drug and gun trafficking can mean stiffer prison sentences if convicted. Federal law mandates that a minimum of 85 percent of a defendant's sentence be carried out. Early release for good behavior is non-existent. With an uptick in gang violence and homicides in San Bernardino and across the country, authorities and civic leaders are offering ideas and possible solutions to the violent crime

#### **Federal Prosecution PROS and CONS**

##### **PROS:**

- Lengthier prison terms for drug and gun trafficking.
- Sentences carried out in federal penitentiaries and not confined to the state where the conviction occurred.
- Sets an example to gang members and other criminals as to how vigilant law enforcement is in prosecuting certain offenses.

##### **CONS:**

- County prosecutors must present convincing cases and strong evidence to warrant federal prosecution.

problem. The violence came to a head on Nov. 13, when 11-year-old Mynasha Crenshaw was gunned down inside an apartment in the Del Rosa area of San Bernardino, reportedly by half a dozen gang members targeting a rival gang. Some have looked to other cities and law-enforcement agencies with similar problems to see what they have done and what the results have been. A recurring theme has been the use of federal prosecutors to secure lengthier prison sentences for gun and drug crimes. Typically, at least 50 percent or more of these crimes are gang-related, experts say.

San Bernardino Superior Court Judge Pat Morris, a mayoral candidate, suggested in his Operation Phoenix crime-fighting plan assigning a U.S. attorney to work with police in the city to target illegal traffickers supplying guns and drugs to gangs and youth.

*Source: San Bernardino County Sun*

**Full Story:** [http://www.sbsun.com/news/ci\\_3355464](http://www.sbsun.com/news/ci_3355464)

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### ***'Snitching' T-shirts Come off the Shelves***

**12/05/05 Boston, MA** | Mayor Thomas M. Menino yesterday said his campaign to take "Stop Snitching" T-shirts off the streets of Boston is progressing and that the decision of two merchants to remove the shirts from store shelves is one step in a long process of ending witness intimidation citywide.



Antonio Ennis, who owns the Antonio Ansaldi clothing store in Dorchester, agreed to remove about 35 shirts Saturday and to stop manufacturing them, Menino said. The mayor yesterday said Ennis also removed all references to the shirts -- which critics say have fostered a culture of fear from the store's website.

Ennis could not be reached yesterday. The removal of the shirts came after the ACLU of Massachusetts sent a letter to Menino and Police Commissioner Kathleen M. O'Toole on Friday asking them not to pressure store owners to stop selling the shirts. The letter cited constitutional protections of free speech.

*Source: The Boston Globe*

**Full Story:**

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2005/12/05/snitching\\_t\\_shirts\\_come\\_off\\_the\\_shelves/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2005/12/05/snitching_t_shirts_come_off_the_shelves/)

## ***Website of Interest***

This website is committed to providing the individuals interested with a basic historical development and operation of Chicago-based



street gangs (which are commonly referred to as "Mobs"). This website does not promote violence or endorse gang activity in any way, shape, form or fashion. The information provided is meant to educate the streets about Chicago gangs and the sociological and economic factors which produced them. Some of the information posted has been collected from historical texts (i.e. newspaper articles, research studies, case studies by Chicago Crime Commission and the National Gang Crime Research Center, etc.), as well from individuals involved with active street gangs themselves. Due to the nature of the Chicago street gang culture, some information provided on this website may not be precisely accurate and/or outdated. The secretive nature of gangs and the constant changing of bases of operations and leadership provides a unique challenge in that one must carefully validate information and sources which is not always possible.

**Web Address:** <http://www.chicagomobs.org/>

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### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. We are always trying to improve the quality and effectiveness of our products.

**If you have any comments, suggestions or articles that can be used in the "G.A.I.N." Newsletter please send them to:**

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