



SPOKANE Violent
Crime GANG
ENFORCEMENT TEAM



Spokane's New Gang Website



www.stopspokanegangs.org

The Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council (GSSAC) partnered with the Spokane Violent Crime Gang Enforcement Team (SVCGET) to develop and maintain the first comprehensive and in-depth gang prevention and interdiction website in the Northwest. The Stop Spokane Gangs website is dedicated to educating Spokane County residents, both adults and youth, about the gang presence in Spokane County, gang indicators, their common criminal activities, the dangers of joining gangs, the various Prevention and Intervention efforts being undertaken and much more. The website, www.stopspokanegangs.org, is also designed to accept anonymous tips from the public to facilitate reporting suspicious, potentially gang-related activities to local law enforcement, without fear of retaliation.

The goal of building this website was to encourage residents of Spokane and its surrounding areas to **Prevent, Report, and Get Involved** in the anti-gang effort. Community policing has proven to be an effective and worthwhile practice time and time again, and by engaging residents to educate themselves on gangs, and to take charge of their neighborhoods by giving them an outlet to report crimes completely anonymously, we hope to see long-term progress in our fight against gangs and the negative influence they provide, especially in criminal activity, intimidation and recruitment.

One fundamental piece to this reporting feature of the site is that there is a feedback component tied into the overall reporting system. Those sending in crime tips are given a tip number to track the status of their tip. Law enforcement officers will be assigned the tips and are able to easily communicate back to the tipper/public with whether or not any action was taken, if they need more information, etc. Active involvement and



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communication with the public is extremely important in making this website a success. Giving the public a way to be heard and have their tips validated should encourage continual involvement by the community in this gang effort.

The website launched on June 30, 2011 and will be maintained by the SVCGET. The website is also featured on a series of Billboards throughout Spokane County. The month of July will be devoted to publicizing this website by the partners and encouraging local residents to make use of this valuable tool.

The Spokane Violent Crime Gang Enforcement Team is a multi-agency FBI Safe Streets Task Force. Member agencies include the Spokane County Sheriff's Office, Spokane Police Department, Spokane Valley Police Department, Washington State Patrol, WA State Department of Corrections, US Border Patrol, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.