

NEWS

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Board pledges resources to fight crime in San Bernardino

The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today pledged county resources to the fight against a sudden increase in violence targeting the children of San Bernardino.

The board today agreed to fund the Sheriff's Department's participation in a month-long saturation patrol aimed at crime in the City of San Bernardino and adjacent unincorporated neighborhoods.

"Random violence threatens all of us, and it can't go unchallenged," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Bill Postmus. "I'm confident the board's action today will have a measurable impact on the crime wave currently sweeping through the City of San Bernardino."

During the most recent board meeting on November 22, supervisors asked the Sheriff's Department to develop a plan to assist the City of San Bernardino in addressing a recent spate in violence. This past weekend, the Sheriff's Department assigned two sergeants and 10 deputies to participate with the San Bernardino Police Department and the California Highway Patrol in an interagency task force targeting crime in the city and nearby unincorporated areas.

During the first two days of the operation, the task force conducted field interrogations on 26 suspected gang members, issued 84 traffic citations, made five felony arrests, and made 28 misdemeanor arrests, among other activities.

The board today allocated \$105,472 in county contingency funds to fund the Sheriff's month-long participation in the effort.

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Sheriff's personnel assigned to this task have been pulled from the Sheriff's Central, Fontana, Highland, Rancho Cucamonga, Yucaipa, and Victorville stations and the Narcotics Division. The funding approved by the board will fund overtime costs to ensure these divisions will remain fully staffed while they contribute resources to the San Bernardino effort.

"It is a good first step," said County Supervisor Josie Gonzales, who represents the Fifth District, which includes the City of San Bernardino. "A strong reinforcement of the partnership now established between the county and the city will help combat this violence and help ensure that our residents – especially our children – will be safe."

"We are acting appropriately by saturating the area with police to combat the most identifiable crime problem, but also we have to dig deeper to solve the root causes of the crimes," said County Supervisor Dennis Hansberger.

The actions were spurred specifically by the November 13 murder of 11-year-old Mynesha Crenshaw in her San Bernardino apartment (her sister was wounded as a hail of bullets ripped through their home) and by the November 19 murder of 16-year-old Melanie Miers, who was shot from a passing car while she stood on the front lawn of a home in San Bernardino.

The murders are two of 12 that have occurred in the City of San Bernardino and an adjacent unincorporated area since October 26.