



CITY NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**** News Release ****

Statistics Show Gang Activity Down in Wichita

Statistics released today by the Wichita Police Department show key gang activities have declined so far this year, it was announced today by WPD Investigations Deputy Chief Tom Stolz. The numbers, Stolz said, are encouraging.

“Drive-by shootings through April 26, 2010 are down 77% compared to the same period last year. In addition, aggravated assaults where firearms were used for the same period were down 40% while gang related homicides this year are down 90%. Clearly these numbers reflect a much lower level of gang violence in the community.”

Through April 26th, the Wichita Police Department has arrested 379 documented gang members. During that same period, a total of 61 people have been charged in connection with gang violence with three of those being charged in federal court. So far this year, WPD officers have seized 25 guns and worked with the District Attorney’s Office to file 12 felony gun charges.

“These numbers reflect strong citizen involvement as well as hard work done by WPD officers, WPD gang officers and members of the department’s SCAT teams. But, there’s more work to do.”

Stolz said the city’s latest homicide, which occurred on April 26, 2010 in the 1100 block of S. Webb Rd., is connected to gang activity as well as another case that occurred the same day.

“About three hours after 21-year-old Otis Bolden, Jr. was shot and killed in his apartment, a drive-by shooting occurred at approximately 2:30 p.m. in the 1600 block of N.

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Hydraulic that we believe is directly related to Mr. Bolden's death." Stolz said Bolden was a documented active gang member.

"While we have received some information about the two cases, we have not made any arrests in either Mr. Bolden's death or the drive-by shooting. We ask citizens with information about either case to contact us," Stolz said.

WPD has learned there were two African-American males between the ages of 19 and 23 years old involved in Bolden's homicide. They are believed to have been in a green Mercury Mountaineer or Ford Explorer with expensive spoke wheels.

Anyone with any information about the homicide or the drive-by shooting should contact the Wichita Police Department's Homicide Section at 316-268-4181, the Gang Section at 316-268-4191, or Crime Stoppers at 316-267-2111.

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