

# Identifying the Antecedents of Intimate Partner Violence and the Nexus between Domestic and Gang Violence



*Lt. Det. Charles Wilson*



# Research on Domestic Violence to Gang Violence

- An active gang member is three times more likely to commit a domestic aggravated assault than an intimate partner abuser with no gang affiliation.
- A firearm is 2-3 times more likely to be brandished by a gang member on an intimate partner
- In many cases these firearms are also used in the commission of other crimes
- Gang members involved in repeated incidents of domestic violence have more prevalence for violence than gang members with no history of DV.



# Gang Studies in Boston

- 2006-2009 a significant number of gang members involved in a domestic incident also had a prior firearm arrest
- DV/Gang Database-close to two thousand entries from 2006-2009
- Human Trafficking- Gang members shifting from drugs to prostitution have repeated IP entries
- Cease Fire Initiative – Multi-Agency strategy to reduce gang violence



# The Boston Miracle

- Operation Ceasefire (1996-2002)
  - Harvard Criminologist David Kennedy
  - Truce/Isolate the worst perpetrators
  - Night Light
  - Gun trafficking stings
  - Federal Convictions
  - Police Policy versus DV Policy



# The Nexus between DV, Gangs, & Firearms

- In a two year period 900 gang affiliated members were arrested for a domestic violence crime
- Of those 900 gang members 700 had also been arrested for a violent crime (not domestic)
- A significant number of gang members arrested for firearm poss. also have a history of domestic violence



# Firearms

- Guns are more often used by gang members to intimidate and control victims
- Twenty-five percent of judges fail to ask victims seeking ROs if the offender owns or has access to firearms
- Intimate partners are more likely to have a weapon used against them when attempting to leave
- Gang members are twice as likely to use a firearm against their partner than a non gang member



# Criminal History

- Law enforcement research has found that the presence of prior felony convictions played a greater role as predictor of domestic violence recidivism
- Individuals with prior DV history are more likely to violate a restraining order
- Individuals with a violent criminal history are three times more likely to have a violent domestic assault



# DVU Protocols

- DV/Gang Database flags Impact Players
- Domestic Misdemeanors are not CWOF
- Search Warrants are sought for any evidence
- Prosecutions are evidence based
- Dangerous/Bail Hearing- Qualify experts
- Impact Players are recommended for prosecution under Federal Guidelines or as a career criminal





# DV DV/Gang Database Gang Database

Microsoft Access

GangDB : Database (Access 2000 file format)

Frm\_Firearm\_Arrest

### Domestic Violence Gang Database

<b>SUSPECT INFORMATION</b> Last Name: Pringle First Name: Dyiocious DOB: 2/26/1977 GANG ASSOCIATION: inactive Wainwrigl	<b>INCIDENT</b> CC#: 80729161 DVIP / NIDV: DVIP Date Occured: 12/21/2008 Districts Involved: B-3 Suspect Booked?: No Comments: suspect chocked victim, pulled her hair, covered her nose and mouth and stated "I might as well finish you off".	<b>THIS SECTION COMPLETED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT</b> Detective Assigned to: John McCabe Case Status: I spoke to the victim and told her i will get a warrant from dor c.t. she stated she has a ten day date in dor c.t. for the r.o. I did get a warrant from dor c.t. and notified her of this Weapons:
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VICTIM INFORMATION  
Last Name: Robinson  
First Name: Tayah

Last Record New Record Main Menu

Record: 16 of 1082

Name of suspect



Boston Police Department

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR #:

16047

POSTER GENERATED BY:

Mulrean, Brian

# WANTED

## FOR <>KIDDN APPING

### MAR TIN, Mar quis R

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 37 Williams ST #6, ROXBURY MA

02119 US

DOB: 08/01/1989

HEIGHT: 5'08

WEIGHT: 140

BUILD: Medium

RACE: Black Non-Hispanic

COMPLEXION: Medium Brown

SEX: Male

EYES: Brown

HAIR: Dk Brown

CAUTION FLAGS:



COURT: DORCHESTER

DOCKET #: 0807CR006248

AGENCY/INCIDENT #: BPD 080541717

ALSO HAS OUTSTANDING DEFAULT WARRANT ACESORY  
AFTER THE FACT TO WIT MURDER. ALSO COLUMBIA  
POINT DOG.

\*\*\*PRIOR FIREARM CHARGE\*\*\*

Please Contact: DET .BRIAN MULREAN D V UNIT 343-6166



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# Evidence Based Prosecution

- The DVU has increased the number of search warrants executed for evidence
- Evidence based prosecution can proceed without the testimonial evidence from an uncooperative victim or witness
- An ancillary benefit can be realized by a weapon seized used in a non-domestic crime or contraband
- Other evidence includes photographs, and letters of rage or apology from offender



# Dangerousness Hearings

- Widely used throughout the U.S.
- Mostly post conviction in capital cases or parole
- In MA used at or shortly after arraignment to deny bail
- Great tool for DV/Gang cases as a nexus to victim
- Drawback is discovery issues



# VAWA Statutes

- Possession of a firearm while under a RO-  
18 U.S.C. 922 (g)(8)
- Possession of firearm after misdemeanor  
conviction- 18 U.S.C. 922 (g)(9)
- 10 year felony
- Federal Definition of a firearm and a  
domestic relationship

# Human Trafficking





# The Nexus between DV, Gangs & Human Trafficking

- The average age of a trafficking for sex victim is 15 years old
- Female gang members are either crimed-in or sexed-in
- Significant number of gang members arrested for deriving support have repeated cases of intimate partner violence
- Gang members realize that pimping girls is much more attractive for four reasons;



# Gangs moving into Human Trafficking

- 1. It involves less overt violence
- 2. It can be done clandestinely by using cell phones and the Internet
- 3. Large sums of money can be made in a short amount of time
- 4. Chance of getting shot or arrested decreases considerably





# Policing & Prosecuting Human Trafficking in Boston 1990's

- Columbian gangs ran brothels in EB transported Central American women from NY occupied same residence as victim (woman)
- Asian gangs supplied women to hair and nail salons trafficked women from Southeast Asia
- Undercover operations
- Arrested women for prostitution
- Most women bailed and defaulted
- No trafficker (gang member) arrested



# Domestic Trafficking by Gangs Outside the US

- A gang in Dublin trafficked young local boys to pedophiles including a police officer, teacher, and a probation officer
- In New Zealand a gang stalked a woman who was a former member to safe house before she was forced to flee to Australia
- In Glasgow, women are kept as prisoners by gang members in brothels. 700 victims of trafficking in Scotland with no successful prosecutions.
- A gang in Nova Scotia lured young girls in as a boyfriend/girlfriend scenario



# Domestic Trafficking the US

- A Brooklyn Bloods gang member recruited local girls from junior high schools. The girls were kept in his house and if they did not make the minimum of \$500 he beat them.
- Boston gang assoc. pick up runaways in the downtown area calling them his girlfriend moving from hotel to hotel and pimping them out on Craigslist.
- Both investigations began as a case of domestic violence. The woman/victim later told detectives that she was also forced into prostitution.



# DV Policy Against Traffickers

- 1. Establish a relationship between victim and trafficker
- 2. Past misdemeanor crimes are arrestable under domestic statutes
- 3. Victims can qualify for restraining orders
- 4. Freeze house and seize weapons on RO
- 5. Common in brothels to have the target on the lease and the victim residing there under strict control
- 6. Can qualify even without dating relationship



# Law Enforcement Strategies for Domestic Violence

- Integrate domestic violence investigations
- Qualify as Experts to render opinions
- Partnerships with community service providers
- High Risk Response Teams
- Develop strategies to reduce recidivism
- Utilize DV data as a useful tool for non-domestic investigations
- Family Justice Center



# Benefits to Specialization

- Unit commander and line supervisors are also specialists
- Uniform training opportunities
- Consistent delivery of service to victims
- Better suited to compete for public and private funding
- Development of databases to capture significant information on offenders that otherwise would not be available to investigators
- A person with rank can advocate within the agency for personnel, equipment, training, policy, initiatives, etc.
- Consistent with Community Policing Philosophy



# Outcomes for Integration and Specialization

- Database Development
- Evidence based prosecutions
- Increase the number of search warrants
- More firearms and cocaine seized as contraband and used in non-domestic criminal prosecutions
- Higher clearance rates
- Intelligence driven
- Resource allocation



# Boston Police Clearance Rates

## Domestic Aggravated Assault

• Year	DV Aggravated Assault	Clearance Rate
• 2003	1283	76.46%
• 2004	1291	71.65%
• 2005	1286	65.71%
• 2006*	1408	93.21%
• 2007*	1593	93.57%
• 2008*	1538	91.62%

\* After Domestic Violence Unit centralized





# Partnerships

- MOU's with service providers
- Best practices approach
- NGOs may be better suited to respond to cultural/language/sexual orientation victims
- Outreach effort goal: increase reporting and participation
- Confidentially issues



# Community Partnerships Expected Outcomes

- Number of reported cases should increase
- Recidivism rates should drop
- Victim cooperation should increase resulting in fewer dismissed cases
- Intimate partner homicide rates could drop
- In the U.S.- police collaborations with non-governmental agencies attract grant money



# High Risk Response Teams

- D.A.R.T.- Danger Assessment Response Team
- Partners include police, prosecutors, court, probation, service providers
- Meet weekly to focus on 4-6 offenders who have the greatest potential to inflict serious harm on the victim
- Threat Assessment- CORI, gang affiliation, access to weapons
- Safety Plan- safe house
- Dangerous Hearing or Bail Consideration
- Fugitive Unit or Warrant Apprehension Team



# Family Justice Center

- Police- direct access to prosecutors and victim services
- Prosecutors- greater role for policy recommendations
- Community Service Providers
  - Temporary Shelter
  - Transitional Assistance
  - Legal Services
  - Cultural/Language
  - Sexual Orientation
  - Keep the victims “on board” through disposition