

CHIEF OF POLICE

BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 North Third Street, Burbank, CA 91502

OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED FOR GRAFFITI VANDALISM SPREE

DATE: March 3, 2017

Burbank, California - Beginning the week of February 20, 2017, the Burbank Police Department began noticing an increase in gang-related graffiti along Empire Avenue and Thornton Avenue, between Buena Vista Street and Hollywood Way. Several police reports were generated documenting the graffiti and locations, which included both residential and commercial properties.

Burbank Police Detectives and Police Officers assigned to the Burbank Police Gang Unit quickly began investigating these cases and were able to identify two individuals responsible for the graffiti.

On February 27, 2017, Burbank Police Detectives and Gang Officers responded to a residence in the 2300 block of North Fairview Street and arrested one male and one female, both minors. The male, a 16 year old resident of Burbank, is a documented gang member. The female, 17, also lives in Burbank and is a documented gang member. Both suspects are facing charges of felony vandalism with gang enhancements and could be held liable for damages and costs associated with the graffiti clean-up.

The purpose of gang graffiti is to glorify a gang and to mark territory. Graffiti is often meant to create a sense of intimidation and produces a feeling of fear within our neighborhoods. Innocent residents are also subjected to gang violence by the mere presence of graffiti in the community.

The Burbank Police Department has a dedicated gang enforcement team consisting of police officers and detectives. The Burbank Police Department has a zero tolerance for graffiti of any kind and works diligently to investigate any and all occurrences of graffiti in the City of Burbank.

The community can help our efforts by immediately reporting graffiti on the 24-hour City of Burbank Graffiti Removal Hotline, at 1-818-238-3806, or by sending an email to graffitiremoval@burbankca.gov. There is no charge for Burbank's graffiti removal service.

> QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS STATEMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO: SERGEANT DEREK GREEN | 818-238-3240 | DGREEN@BURBANKCA.GOV

24-Hour: 818-238-3000

@BURBANKPD LACRIMESTOPPERS.ORG Press Information Office: 818-238-3240

www.BURBANKPD.org **CRIME STOPPERS:** 800-222-TIPS (8477) **DETECTIVE BUREAU: 818-238-3210**

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