



# Fairfax County Gang Prevention 2005 – 2006 Status Report



Office of the County Executive



Fairfax County Juvenile &  
Domestic Relations District Court



**“Every Child Is Worth Saving:  
A Community Partnership”**  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors  
September 24, 2007

Fairfax County Coordinating Council  
on Gang Prevention  
Fairfax County Gang Prevention Steering Committee

# Presenter

- Bob Bermingham  
Fairfax County Gang Prevention Coordinator

# Acknowledgements

- Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
- Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
- Coordinating Council on Gang Prevention
- Gang Prevention Steering Committee

# Presentation Overview

- The Challenge.
- Fairfax County's Response.
- Return on Fairfax County's Investment.
- Fairfax County's Ongoing Commitment.

# The Challenge

*“With more than 1 million residents, Fairfax County is one of the safest large jurisdictions in the country. One of the few clouds on that bright horizon is the rise of gang activity in the region. Gangs and their activities challenge the county’s fundamental mission to keep every neighborhood and community safe.”*

Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

# The Challenge

- Maintain safe neighborhoods and communities through addressing gangs and their activities.
- Prevent Fairfax County's youth from becoming involved in the destructive and dangerous gang lifestyle.
- Develop cross-agency, communitywide initiatives that strengthen and improve collaboration among county, schools, private, faith-based and community organizations.

# Fairfax County's Response

- Fairfax County Board of Supervisors establishes the Coordinating Council on Gang Prevention and the Gang Prevention Steering Committee.
- February 25, 2005, Fairfax County holds Gang Prevention Summit.
- Fairfax County adopts U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model's three-pronged approach: suppression, intervention, prevention.

# Fairfax County's Response

- Establish a comprehensive effort to eliminate existing gangs and their offenses and prevent Fairfax County's youth from ever joining gangs.
- Implement a balanced approach to deal with gangs that employs suppression, intervention and prevention strategies.
- Provide an open venue for county agencies and other stakeholders to band together to address the issue of gangs in an efficient and effective manner.

# Fairfax County's Response

- Five current initiatives demonstrate collaboration within county services and with community stakeholders.
  1. Expansion of Middle School After-School Programs.
  2. Enhancement of Road DAWG Program.
  3. Intervention, Prevention and Education Program.
  4. Gang and Youth Violence Resource and Referral Phone Line.
  5. Smart Kids/Safe Choices.

# Middle School After-School Program

- Collaboration between Fairfax County Government and Fairfax County Public Schools with support from 140 outside organizations/groups.
- 27 middle schools offer a total of 767 different activities, including homework help, athletics and leadership skills development.
- Average weekly attendance across all middle schools is 11,654.

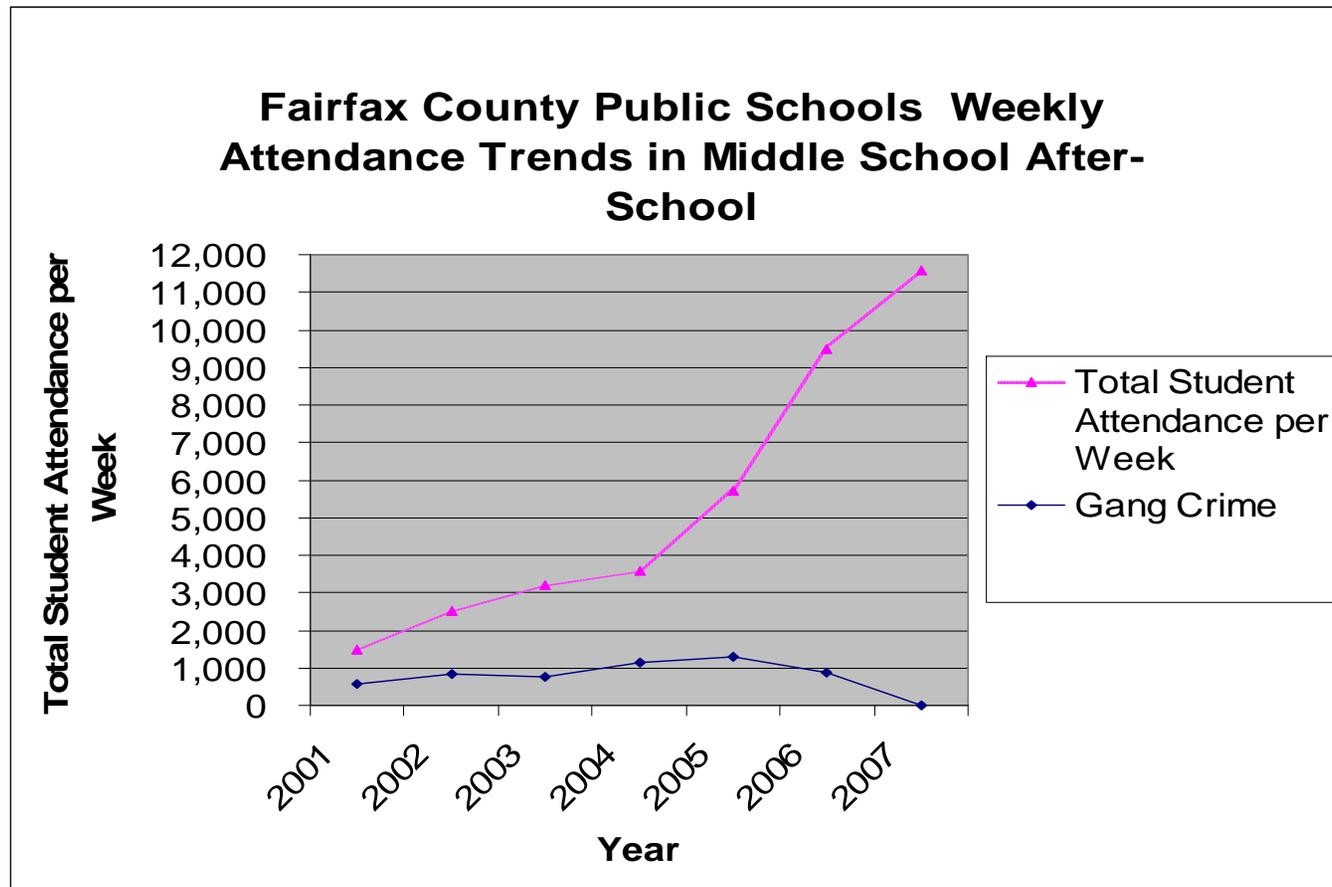
# Middle School After-School Program

- Teacher Survey Outcomes

The percent of middle school faculty reporting after-school programs had a “moderate-to-strong” impact:

Homework completion rates	80%
Classroom behavior	76%
Academic performance	80%
School connectedness	86%
Behavioral referrals	57%
Involvement in school or community activities	86%
Peer-to-peer relationships	90%

# Middle School After-School Program



# Road DAWG

- Collaboration between Fairfax County Police Department and eight other Fairfax County agencies.
- Reached over 100 at-risk youth and their parent/guardian.
- Weeklong camps held at West Springfield, Reston, and Mount Vernon district stations.
- Ongoing follow-up with campers throughout the year.

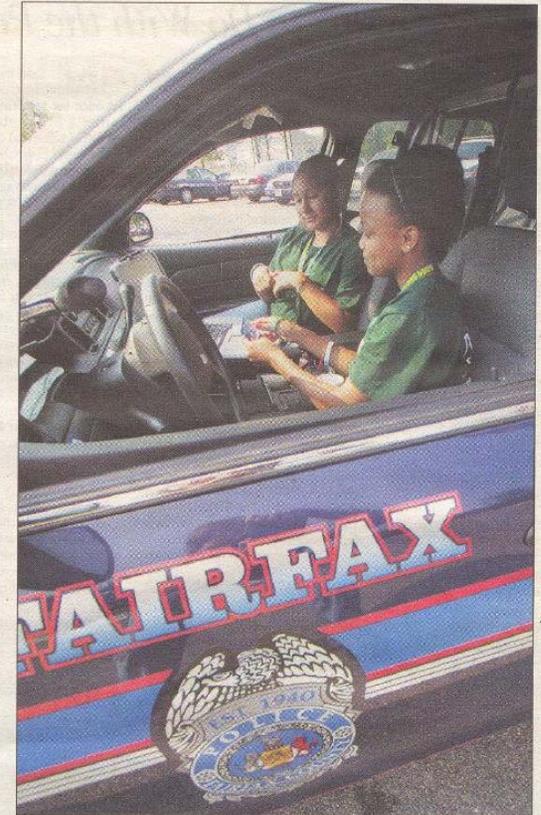
## THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SIREN



Second Lt. Mike Reser lays down the law at the Road DAWG Camp, which stands for Don't Associate With Gangs, at the Springfield District Police Station.



Officer Matt Kunstel shows his license to Khayla Washington of South County Secondary School and Samantha Luna, far right, of Annandale High. At right, Luna and Washington run a check on the license as part of a role-playing exercise designed to teach Fairfax County students about various aspects of police work.



Discussing graffiti are Gary Velasquez of Poe Middle School, left, Officer Louis Robinson and David Singh of South County Secondary School. Awareness of vandalism was among Friday's lessons at the week-long program.

# Intervention, Prevention and Education Program (IPE)

- IPE is a collaborative between the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, Fairfax County and the Center for Multicultural Human Services.
- IPE is funded by the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force. Funding provides two full-time Gang Outreach Workers assigned to targeted communities in Fairfax County.
- Program provides intervention services to gang-involved youth, prevention services to siblings and educates parents/guardians regarding gangs and available resources.

# Gang and Youth Violence Resource and Referral Phone Line

- Collaboration between the Department of Systems Management for Human Services and Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.
- 24 hours, 7 days a week resource and referral phone line for youth, parents/guardians, law enforcement, community organizations and service providers to obtain information regarding gang prevention and intervention services.

## Smart Kids/Safe Choices – Building Community Capacity for Prevention Services

- Community Services Board partnered with community and faith-based organizations to deliver a violence/gang prevention program.
- More than 30 sites with 524 youth served.
- Targeted 9-13 year olds; 55% males/45% females; ethnically/racially diverse youth served.

# Return on Investment

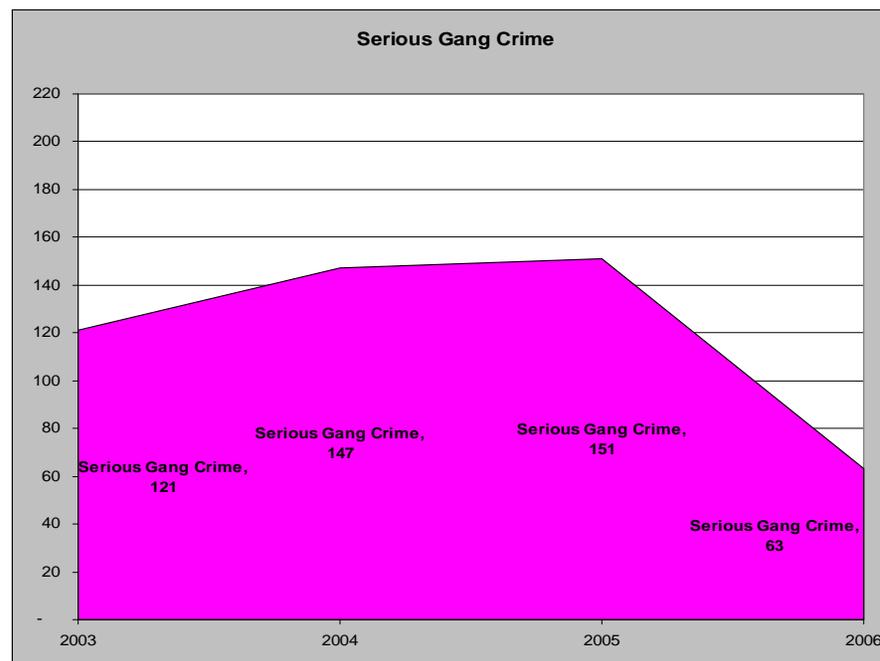
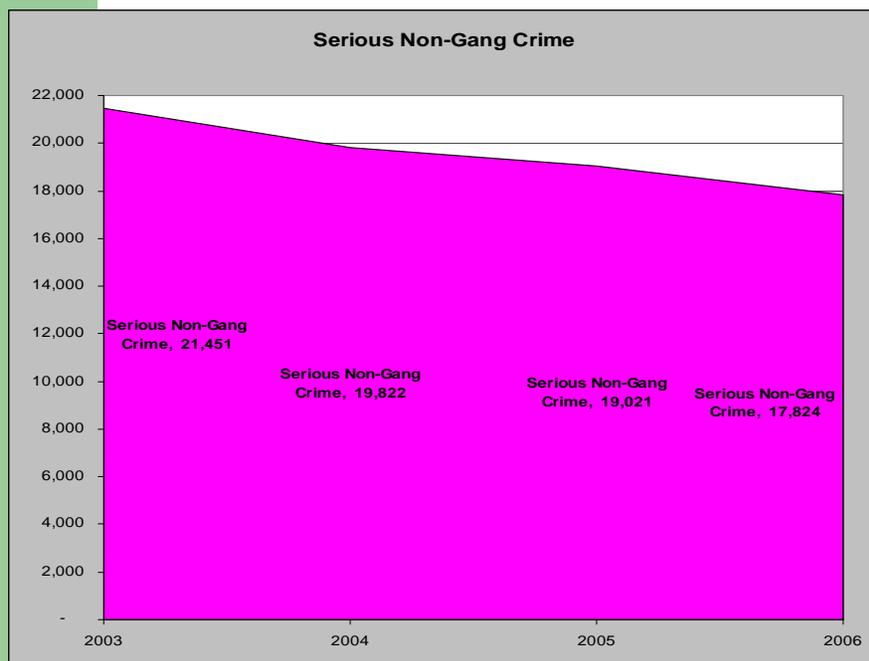
- 2006: Gang-related crimes decrease 32% from 2005. *Source: Fairfax County Police Department.*
- 2007: Gang crime statistics preliminarily indicate a further downward trend. *Source: Fairfax County Police Department.*
- Overall crime from 2005 to 2006 decreased. Gang-related crime has decreased at a greater rate. *Source: Northern Virginia Regional Commission.*
- No evident increase in number of gang members residing in Fairfax County during past year. *Source: Fairfax County Police Department and Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force.*

# Return on Investment

Crime	2004	2005	Inc/Dec	% Change	2006	Inc/Dec	% Change
Homicide	1	2	1.0	100.00%	0	-2.0	-100.00%
Rape	5	7	2.0	40.00%	2	-5.0	-71.43%
Robbery	30	23	-7.0	-23.33%	12	-11.0	-47.83%
Abduction	3	5	2.0	66.67%	2	-3.0	-60.00%
Burglary	13	7	-6.0	-46.15%	8	1.0	14.29%
Assault by Mob	6	16	10.0	166.67%	2	-14.0	-87.50%
Malicious Wounding	39	43	4.0	10.26%	20	-23.0	-53.49%
Assault	63	106	43.0	68.25%	58	-48.0	-45.28%
Weapons Violation	41	48	7.0	17.07%	24	-24.0	-50.00%
Sexual Assault	6	3	-3.0	-50.00%	1	-2.0	-66.67%
Stolen Auto	22	17	-5.0	-22.73%	12	-5.0	-29.41%
Illegal Controlled Substance	32	33	1.0	3.13%	32	-1.0	-3.03%
Destruction/Graffiti	452	524	72.0	15.93%	397	-127.0	-24.24%
Larceny	20	26	6.0	30.00%	25	-1.0	-3.85%
Other Crimes	127	129	2.0	1.57%	89	-40.0	-31.01%
Police Service	266	306	40.0	15.04%	196	-110.0	-35.95%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1126</b>	<b>1295</b>	<b>169.0</b>	<b>15.01%</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>-415.0</b>	<b>-32.05%</b>

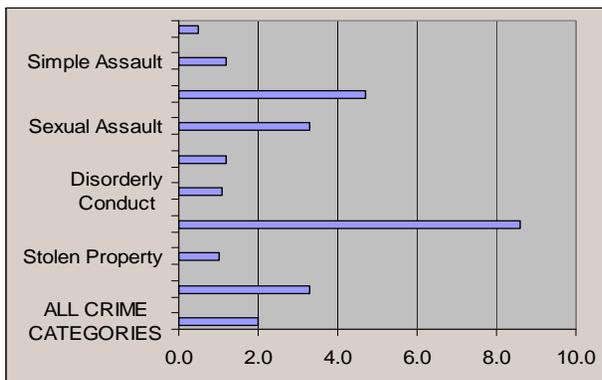
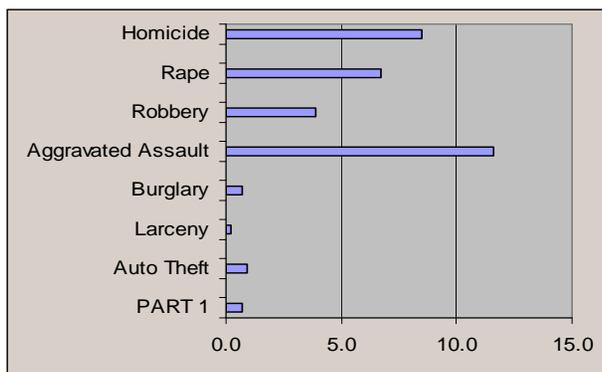
# Return on Investment

## SERIOUS NON-GANG CRIME VS. SERIOUS GANG CRIME TRENDS



# Return on Investment

## Reported Gang-related Crime as a Percentage of Overall Crime: Fairfax County Based on Four Years of Crime Statistics - 2003 through 2006



	Total Crimes	Reported Gang-Related Crimes	Percentage (Gang-Related)
Homicide	59	5	8.5
Rape	313	21	6.7
Robbery	2,205	86	3.9
Aggravated Assault	1,632	190	11.6
Burglary	6,355	45	0.7
Larceny	60,417	98	0.2
Auto Theft	7,137	67	0.9
PART 1	78,118	512	0.7
Arson	563	3	0.5
Simple Assault	24,165	300	1.2
Weapons	3,524	166	4.7
Sexual Assault	450	15	3.3
Drug Offense	10,659	125	1.2
Disorderly Conduct	16,793	189	1.1
Graffiti	20,996	1,812	8.6
Stolen Property	2,242	23	1.0
OTHER	79,392	2,633	3.3
ALL CRIME CATEGORIES	157,510	3,145	2.0

# Fairfax County's Ongoing Commitment

- Keep focus on gangs.
- Maintain balance between suppression, intervention and prevention.
- Continue to expand collaboration between county, schools and community.
- Increase targeted community involvement and engagement.
- Strengthen family intervention services.
- Continue integration of gang prevention and countywide prevention system.
- Continue participation in and support of Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force.



**Thank You and Questions**