



Police Department

## Street Crime Unit(SCU)

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Sergeant Jason Cordova





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# Street Crime Unit Mission Statement

Police Department

## STREET CRIME UNIT

- The mission of the Street Crime Unit (SCU) is to conduct street level anti-crime operations to disrupt criminal gang activity as well as criminal activities that impair the quality-of-life for those residing, working, and visiting Pasadena. Through intelligence-based policing and the use of procedural justice, SCU will perform strategic enforcement, investigate crimes, and collaborate with stakeholders to find long-term solutions to problems.



# Street Crime Unit Overview

## Police Department

### STREET CRIME UNIT

- The Street Crime Unit (SCU) was created to interrupt street level criminal activity, with an emphasis on criminal street gangs, street level narcotics, and crime that impairs the community's quality of life. SCU is comprised of highly trained detectives who are experts in criminal street gangs, street-level narcotics, undercover surveillance, tactical operations, informant management, criminal street gang and narcotics investigations, and utilizing innovation to work locations deemed criminally problematic in the city.
- SCU detectives are experts in procedural justice and understand the undeniable value of our community stakeholders. SCU detectives are experts in building community relationships to collaborate on creating long-term solutions to street level criminal activity. SCU detectives consistently carry out their mission through strategic engineering, community education, and enforcement.



# Street Crime Unit Overview

## Police Department

### STREET CRIME UNIT

- The Street Crime Unit (SCU) believes in and applies the four principles of procedural justice as it carries out its daily mission.
  - > Fairness
  - > Transparency
  - > Providing opportunity for voice – collaborative problem-solving w/ community stakeholders
  - > Impartiality in decision making



# Street Crime Unit Overview

## Police Department

### STREET CRIME UNIT

SCU is divided into two elements:

- 1. Gang Detectives
  - > Investigate gang-related crimes utilizing emerging technology.
  - > Gather gang-related intelligence for strategic arrests , identifying trends, and assisting the Robbery / Homicide Unit with criminal cases.
- 2. Special Problems Detectives.
  - > Investigate quality-of-life issues to include: narcotics sales, drinking in public, problem locations causing a nuisance
  - > Bicycle patrols



# History of PPD Gang Enforcement Units

## Police Department

### STREET CRIME UNIT

- In 1991, the Neighborhood Crime Task Force (NCTF) was created to combat gang violence and conduct street level narcotics investigations. The NCTF was comprised of 20 Officers, 2 Sergeants and a Lieutenant.
- In 1997, the Special Enforcement Section (SES) was created to replace the NCTF. SES introduced a SWAT component to the mission of gang enforcement and street level narcotics investigations. SES was comprised of 16 Officers, 2 Sergeants, 1 Corporal and a Lieutenant. SES was disbanded due to prevalent community needs at that time.
- In 2020, the Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) was created to replace SES. CIU's mission was to investigate career criminals and violent crime offenders through intelligence gathering and information sharing with Robbery / Homicide Detectives. CIU was comprised of 6 Officers, 1 Sergeant and a Lieutenant.



# History of PPD Gang Enforcement Units

## Police Department

### STREET CRIME UNIT

- In 2023, the Street Crime Unit (SCU) was created to replace CIU. Chief Harris saw the need to bring back a gang unit to specifically deal with the reciprocal gang violence affecting Pasadena.
- SCU is a two-element unit that combines gang enforcement with quality-of-life policing with bicycle patrols designed to conduct street level anti-crime operations throughout the city. SCU utilizes current technology and intelligence gathering to focus on directed enforcement and strategic investigations to combat gang violence and quality of life problem locations. SCU is comprised of 13 Officers, 2 Sergeants, 1 Corporal and a Lieutenant.





# SCU Gang Enforcement

## Police Department

SCU Gang Detectives are responsible for the following:

- Street level gang enforcement operations
- Identify, locate, and arrest gang members who illegally possess firearms, commit assaults, robberies or any other gang related crimes
- Investigate gang related cases utilizing emerging technology.
- Coordinate enforcement operations with outside agencies to identify gang activity that may affect Pasadena
- Surveillance / Apprehension operations on suspects who are involved in serial criminal activity
- Collect, organize, and disseminate gang related intelligence to patrol and other detectives
- Partner with LASD Operation Safe Jails to gain intelligence on gang activity within the LA County jail system that directly affects Pasadena
- Conduct Parole / Probation compliance operations
- Provide high visibility patrols to city parks and known active gang locations



# SCU Quality of Life Policing / Problem Locations

## Police Department

SCU Special Problems Detectives are responsible for the following:

- Identify problem locations through crime statistics, calls for service, and informants.
- Investigate problem locations through intelligence-based policing and community engagement.
- Coordination with service area patrol lieutenants to address quality of life policing efforts within designated service areas.
- Utilize bicycle patrols to strategically address neighborhood quality of life issues throughout the city
- Utilize the mobile command post as an impromptu sub station for deployment of bicycle enforcement operations.
- Investigate street level narcotics to identify and dismantle low level dealers affecting city parks and transit platforms.
- Deploy to Old Town business district as foot beat patrols to provide extra service to bars and nightclubs



## Police Department

SCU Detectives routinely collaborate with the Robbery Homicide Unit (RHU) and homicide units from outside agencies to identify gang members involved in high profile crimes. Since SCU's creation on May 8, 2023, a total of 36 firearms have been seized from gang members throughout the city. The following is a summarized statistical overview of the gang-related gun seizures.

- Pasadena Denver Lane Bloods: 11
- Villa Boys: 3
- Vario Pasadena Rifa (VPR): 4
- Northside Pasadena (NSP): 3
- Southside Pasadena (SSP): 10
- Westside Pasa (WSP): 2
- Duarte 13 gang: 3
  
- SCU Special Problems Detectives have conducted numerous bicycle operations and served narcotics related search warrants in response to locations that have consistent criminal activity affecting the quality of life for residents and visitors.





# SCU Conclusion

