



Houston HIDTA
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May 16, 2012
Houston, Texas

MEDIA ADVISORY

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WHAT: News Conference to Announce Top Law Enforcement Officials Joining Forces to Create Anti-Gang Tactical Operations Center

WHEN: Thursday, May 17, 2012, at 11:00 am

WHERE: Houston High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Headquarters 15311 Vantage Parkway W, Ste. 286, Houston, TX 77032

APPEARING: Director of HIDTA Michael McDaniel, Houston High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area District Attorney Pat Lykos, Harris County District Attorney's Office Regional Commander, Duane Steen, Texas Department of Public Safety Associate Special Agent in Charge, Thomas Hinojosa, Drug Enforcement Administration Assistant Chief John Trevino, Houston Police Department Assistant Special Agent in Charge Carlos Barron, Federal Bureau of Investigation Sheriff Adrian Garcia, Harris County Sheriff's Office

BACKGROUND: This unprecedented initiative was conceptualized by the HIDTA Board and became reality with District Attorney Pat Lykos' securing of a \$1.7 million dollar grant to fund the project. This will establish and equip a preeminent Texas Anti-Gang Tactical Operations Center.

Once completed, TAG will serve as a central headquarters for an estimated 75-100 of the regions' most knowledgeable and experienced federal, state and local anti-gang investigators, analysts and prosecutors.

TAG's physical and personnel structure, as well as its technological capabilities, will make it a unique law enforcement initiative, devoted to fighting violent, transnational criminal organizations and the street gangs with which they are increasingly allied.

The Houston HIDTA region includes 17 counties and encompasses over 14,900 square miles within the State of Texas. It includes all but six of the counties along the Texas coastline. The total population of the HIDTA exceeds six million people, nearly one quarter of the population of the entire state.