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**Judge Grants DA's Request for First Anti-Gang Temporary Injunction**

(Houston, Tx) – A judge late Friday afternoon granted the District Attorney's Office request for Harris County's first-ever temporary injunction to bar known criminal street gang members from an apartment complex that has been infested by gang activity.

The temporary injunction bans members of the notorious Blood and Crip gangs from a 57-acre safety zone established around the Haverstock Hills complex in northeast Harris County. Witnesses in a Friday hearing said the 2,400 residents of the complex have been subjected to public nuisances and chronic crime by gangs that had entrenched themselves in that area.

Gang members who violate any of the extensive conditions of the injunction will be subject to arrest, confinement and potential fines as penalties.

State Civil District Judge Alexandra Smoots-Hogan concluded the hearing by issuing the temporary injunction against 28 known gang members. That will remain in effect until the conclusion of a trial, now set for Feb. 7, to determine if the injunction will be permanent.

District Attorney Patricia Lykos had the injunction legal action filed on Nov. 10, saying it was a warning for criminal street gangs to get out of Harris County. Residents of that area should no longer have to be "terrorized by gang members, dope dealers and pimps," she said.

The far-reaching injunction bars the identified gang members from being in the safety zone, or even gathering among themselves in that area. They and their associates are also banned from engaging in gang actions – flashing "signs" or gang "colors" or carrying materials capable of being used for graffiti.

Kim Ogg, an attorney who is heading the anti-gang project for the District Attorney's Office, commended Lykos for the bold injunction action, and the judge for granting it. "Haverstock Hills has been a thorn in the side of our community for 30 years," Ogg said. "This injunction process is an effective way to fight areas infested by gangs. It is a novel approach that could revolutionize public safety efforts in Harris County."

The Friday order does not yet apply to five of the original defendants who have not yet been located to be served with the lawsuit. Officials said about 15 of the gang members who are defendants have signed agreed orders subjecting them to the conditions of the injunction.

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