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HOW LA CONQUERED GANG CRIME: LA MAYOR ANNOUNCES VICTORY IN GANG CRIME AS NEW DOC EXPLORES HOW IT HAPPENED

A Violence Disrupted, a documentary on gang intervention set in gritty inner-city LA begins production.

An all-star team of filmmakers are launching production on **A Violence Disrupted**. The documentary highlights efforts that have contributed to the drop in gang crime recently announced by Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa.

A Violence Disrupted profiles this new type of community policing - one where the gang members themselves become the crime-fighters. To tell this story, the documentary team journeyed into the core of evil in a gang world where killing and murder between blood enemies is commonplace. Yet here in one corner of LA, rival gang members are working together to fight crime in a new and risky model of peacemaking. Gang members who are being trained by the city to work alongside law enforcement while *staying inside their gangs*. It is messy, but it is working.

On Monday, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced significant drops in gang crime in an LAPD news conference, ***"L.A. (Now) has the lowest violent crime per capita of any big city."*** At the same press conference Chief of Police Charlie Beck noted that **gang homicides are down 12% from the previous year, with overall gang crime down 10.8%.**

These former gangsters play an important role in reducing crime, and leaders believe in them, even creating a city-endorsed gang intervention training academy. Villaraigosa told the inaugural graduates of 2010 "You're the front line to save a life, to bring people out of that culture of violence...to end the retaliations." (View graduation footage on site <http://kck.st/UhLazV>)

With a police force 10,000 strong and a reformed gang squad wrestling both inner and outer struggles the unfolding story is anything but predictable.

Producer/Director Nikki Hevesy says of their early filming, "This production hasn't been easy, there have been daily safety issues to be considered - for the filmmaking team but even more importantly for the gang members and interventionists being profiled."

A Violence Disrupted will profile this extraordinary story through the eyes of four gang interventionists - OGs (Original Gangsters, also called shot callers) who are ready for change. Coming from opposing territories these street-hardened men, freshly out of prison, now seek work as *Violence Elimination Professionals*. All are guides on LA Gang Tours, a new idea for economic development in the hood founded by reformed Florencia 13 gang member Alfred Lomas.

In addition to gang members, **Through the Glass Productions** has brought on a team of on-the-ground experts and professionals who work with and study gangs and their impact on society in the fields of anthropology, sociology, psychology, law and mediation.

Los Angeles is still considered the gang capital of the world with over 45,000 gang members in more than 450 gangs, but gangs are a worldwide concern and the impact is showing.

London newspapers report “Britain is becoming a battleground for the notorious Bloods and Crips gangs that once brought fear to Los Angeles. Insiders said small street crews (In London) have been grouping together — copying the LA supergangs’ culture and tactics and communicating with overseas counterparts.”

With an offer for international distribution from TVF in the UK, and domestic broadcast interest from PBS SoCal, Hevesy and her team are gearing up to launch production this spring. Hevesy says, “We are committed to producing a fair, thoughtful project and are dedicated to the time and effort it takes to make this happen.”

The project team includes: Nikki Hevesy (Cine Golden Eagle Award), Anne Marie Gillen (**Fried Green Tomatoes**), Derrick Warfel (**Midnight Reckoning**), James O’Keffee (International Cinematographer Guild’s Showcase Award), Art Kellner (**Sherri**).

A small portion of the current phase of production has been opened to crowd funding to capitalize on the growing interest in profiling the work of gang intervention. For more information on the details on the project and the needs visit: <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1485180407/a-violence-disrupted-were-back>

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MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA ADDRESSES GRADUATING CLASS OF CITY’S GANG INTERVENTION ACADEMY

http://mayor.lacity.org/PressRoom/LACITYP_019373

Company

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