



**OFFICE OF THE
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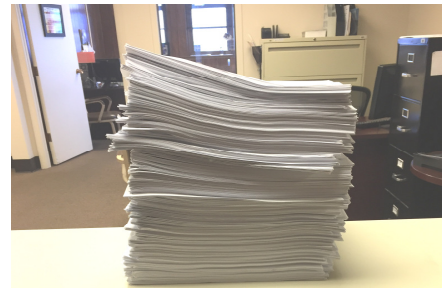
July 17, 2017

PRESS RELEASE

IT IS TIME FOR THE GANGS TO GO:

State's Attorney Files Lawsuits Against 67 Gangster Disciples & Latin Kings

KANKAKEE, IL –On Monday, July 17, 2017, the Kankakee County State's Attorney's Office filed civil charges under the *Illinois Street Gang Terrorism Omnibus Prevention Act* (the "Act") against 67 members of the Gangster Disciples and Latin Kings in Kankakee County. This Act recognizes the fact that street gangs are operating throughout our county and their activities present a clear and present danger to public order and safety that no neighborhood should be required to endure without redress.



Complaints filed with the Circuit Clerk earlier today.

“Enough is enough. Every law abiding citizen and taxpayer is sick and tired of the shootings and criminal activity plaguing our communities – in short, it is time for the gangs to go. Rather than just relying on the prosecution of gang members *after* a crime is committed – when a victim has already suffered the effects of a gunshot wound or armed robbery - I am seeking a long-term proactive prosecution of the entire gang to prevent crime and dismantle the gang networks. First we will go after the gang members, then we will go after their assets – the cars and houses from which they commit these crimes – and if they violate the civil injunction, we will put them in jail”, said Rowe.

The complaint names the Latin Kings and Gangster Disciples as defendants, along with 67 known gang members in the City of Kankakee and Kankakee County area. Rowe is requesting, among other things, an order prohibiting gang members from congregating in public and in vehicles together, engaging in the possession and use of weapons and illicit narcotics, graffiti, ‘throwing’ gang signs, violent behavior and other activities generally associated with street gangs. Rowe is also seeking monetary damages from the gangs to offset the costs incurred by taxpayers and law enforcement in combating gang crime.

“I would like to thank our Chief Deputy of the Civil Division, paralegals and interns for going above and beyond the call of duty in helping to prepare these cases, as well as the Kankakee Police Department, Kankakee County Sheriff's Department and Circuit Clerk's Office for their assistance in preparing and filing the complaints and serving the named defendants,” commented Rowe. “We are hopeful that this action will further encourage support in our community for closer cooperation and collaboration to combat street gang activity.”