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CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT
Chief of Police Operations
Justin D Snyder



CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT
Mayor Derek Slaughter

August 23, 2022

DA PRESS RELEASE

RE: SHOOTINGS/SHOTS FIRED

As you likely recall, after assuming Office in 2020 I held a press release where I named the various non-traditional gangs known to law enforcement in the Williamsport area. The most well-known non-traditional gangs at that time included the “400” and “600”. Unfortunately, since that time and despite the ongoing efforts of law enforcement to contain and eliminate all gang activity, different subsets of the “400” and “600” continue to organize. These subsets consist primarily of teenagers who band together with the common purpose of trafficking narcotics. As with most other gangs, members pursue the illegal acquisition of firearms to protect members belonging to their immediate gang and to deter other gangs/gang members from infringing on their illegal narcotic trade.

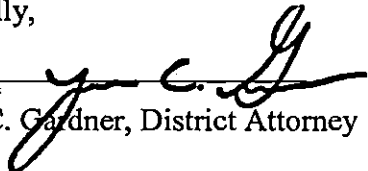
Based on new information gathered by law enforcement, it appears that the most recent uptick in violent crime is the result of two gangs exchanging gunfire back-and-forth between the competing gang members. These two upstart non-traditional gangs consist of juveniles around the ages of fifteen and sixteen. The members have named their respective gangs the FNN or “Fear No Ni[**]ers” and the BTK or “Born To Kill”. At this time, the evidence suggests that the shootings and subsequent shots fired that transpired late evening into early morning August 21-22 are isolated events resulting from the exchange of gunfire between members of the FNN and the BTK. Due to the sensitive nature of the investigation surrounding the homicide that occurred August 19, no details will be released at this time.

Inevitably, Law Enforcement's efforts to investigate reported shootings, shots fired and homicide incidents are complicated by the unwillingness of victims and witnesses to step forward and provide information. This unwillingness is understandably rooted in a combination of the victim and/or witnesses fear of retaliation or sheer desire to not be involved. However, the level of unwillingness when juvenile actors, victims and witnesses are involved in these types of incidents is exponentially heightened and presents a significant hurdle to the investigative efforts of law enforcement.

Generally speaking, the parents and/or guardians of juveniles strongly resist all efforts by law enforcement to interview the minor actors, victims and witnesses. I have children and fully appreciate what must be a complex set of emotions driving a parent/guardian's decision to not allow her/his child to participate in an interview with law enforcement. However, this recent uptick in violence is equal parts a community problem as it is a law enforcement problem and in order to help ensure the safety of this community, law enforcement needs the cooperation of the parents/guardians responsible for the children claiming membership in either the "FNN" or "BTK". Certainly, a red flag for any parent/guardian of a minor child in this instance is the child's membership in either the FNN or BTK gangs. The gang names "FNN" and "BTK" alone strongly suggests that the children claiming allegiance to these gangs do not fear acts of violence. Law enforcement needs the community's help to quash this surge in violence, especially the parents and guardians of the children involved in these vile organizations.

Parents and guardians of the children involved in any gang and specifically the "FNN" or "BTK", please initiate conversation with your child, discuss the most recent surge in gun violence involving gang activity and if information is learned during these conversations that relates to the shootings and shots fired on August 21 and August 22, immediately notify law enforcement. Again, this is a problem shared equally by the community and law enforcement and only by working together can these issues be quelled, prevented and successfully prosecuted.

Cordially,



Ryan C. Gardner, District Attorney