



PO Greg Clark, SPO Dario Radoslovich, SPO Hector Benitez and Intel Director Barbara Bonura

### **Intel Honored for Helping Take Down Violent Gang**

Four members of the Department of Probation's Intel unit were honored in October by US Attorney Benton J. Campbell for their ongoing effort in helping Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to strike a blow against one of this nation's most violent gangs.

The US Attorney for the Eastern District presented plaques to Intel Director Barbara Bonura, SPO Hector Benitez, SPO Dario Radoslovich and PO Greg Clark and thanked them for Intel's valued cooperation.

As part of Operation Community Shield, Probation has been helping ICE to identify and arrest members of MS-13 currently on probation in New York City. This notorious gang has its roots in El Salvador and other Central American countries. Thanks in large part to the cooperation of the Intel unit, 85 MS-13 gang members have been arrested. Thirty-five of these gang members were prosecuted federally, 15 were arrested on administrative charges and later deported and the remaining gang members were charged in the state courts. Whether or not these gang members entered the country legally, all face deportation because of their gang affiliation and their criminal activity.

Director Bonura said all of the probationers were arrested without incident in the office when they reported or in the streets during gang suppression operations.

She said the fact that these gang members were on probation demonstrates the potential dangers facing Intel and supervision Probation Officers who routinely made

visits to their homes. She noted that MS-13 is considered the nation's most dangerous gang.

“MS-13 relishes violence and preys on our youth,” said US Attorney Campbell. “Violent street gangs have no place in our communities. In this case, the joint efforts of the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Queens District Attorney's Office, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the New York City Police Department and the New York City Department of Probation resulted in the arrest, conviction, and incarceration of over 30 leaders and member of MS-13 in New York City. The result is a safer city for all New Yorkers.”

Acting Commissioner Patricia Brennan congratulated the members of the Intel unit. “I believe that the work our officers did in this operation has saved lives. We welcome the opportunity to work with ICE and other law enforcement partners to protect the people of this city.”

Early on in Operation Community Shield, ICE arrested an MS 13 member who in turn identified probationer Amilcar Gomez as a major recruiter for MS 13. Gomez, who goes by the name Goofy, was taken into custody by Probation and turned over to ICE. He eventually agreed to cooperate and based on the information that he provided, ICE launched a RICO investigation into activities of MS 13 organization throughout the east coast and specifically in Queens and Long Island.

MS 13 or Mara Salvatrucha 13 was created by immigrants from El Salvador living in Los Angeles. The gang now has strong ties to El Salvador and other Central American countries with factions in major American cities, including New York. MS-13 criminal activities include drug murder, smuggling and sales, auto theft, carjacking, home invasions, aggravated assault, contract killing and attacks on law enforcement officials.

The Department of Probation has cooperated with ICE since it was created under the Homeland Security Act of 2002. The mission of ICE is to protect national security by enforcing our nation's customs and immigrations laws. NYC Probation has worked with ICE in similar operations such as Operation Predator and Operation Retrack in which probationers convicted of violent offenses, including sex offenses, were taken into custody by Probation Officers and turned over to ICE for possible deportation.