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For Immediate Release: \$1.2 Million Grant Allows District Attorney's Office to Double Size of Gang Unit

(Dallas, Texas) – The Dallas County Criminal District Attorney's Office is expanding its Gang Unit thanks to a new \$1.2 million dollar grant awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) program, through the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

The grant allows the District Attorney's Office to add two additional prosecutors and one additional investigator, for a total of three prosecutors and two investigators to its gang unit. "The additional money will greatly assist in the prosecution of violent transnational gang members affiliated with groups like MS 13 and 18th Street gangs," said Assistant District Attorney Tommy Adams.

Gangs have been around the Dallas area for decades, but the Gang Unit is seeing a troubling trend with younger teens getting pulled into gang activity. As part of the District Attorney's Office goals to reduce gang activity, we have partnered with DOJ and programs like, Project Safe Neighborhoods that was launched in 2001. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide initiative that brings local, state, and federal law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and community leaders together to identify the most pressing violent crime problems in a community and develop innovative solutions to address them. These efforts help make our communities safer.

As part of our approach, the District Attorney's Office will continue to focus on keeping kids out of gangs through partnerships with the community and the Dallas Independent School District (DISD). Our mission includes education about gang awareness, intervention, and one-on-one visits to schools by our Assistant District Attorney's as part of our DAs in Schools program. "These efforts help us reach teens before they become involved in gang activity and reduces the occurrence of youth gang-related incidents while increasing positive outcomes for young people with a high risk for gang involvement," said Chief Jason Hermus who oversees the Gang Unit."