

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: DAVID L. BROWN
CITY MANAGER

DATE: MAY 6, 2008

FROM: M. L. HAMMERSCHMIDT
CHIEF OF POLICE

SUBJECT:
PONCE DE LEON MIDDLE
SCHOOL REPORT OF
ALLEGED GANG ACTIVITY

On April 18, 2008, Assistant Principal Daniel Atlas contacted the Coral Gables Police Youth Resource Unit and advised there appeared to be two groups of juveniles that may have gang affiliation. One group wears yellow bandanas and claim to be Latin Kings. The second group wears purple bandanas and claims to be Purple City gang members.

According to Mr. Atlas and other members of the school staff, there were rumors a fight would break out that afternoon following school between the two groups. The possible fight was rumored to be retaliation for an incident which occurred the previous day, Thursday, April 17, 2008, during early release. In that incident, the juvenile victim, claiming to be a member of the Latin Kings, was pushed to the ground from behind by several black males claiming to be members of the Purple City gang. The victim telephoned a friend to come pick him up. Upon arrival, one of the Purple City gang members threw a rock at the vehicle.

According to school officials, the Purple City gang is predominant in the Coconut Grove area. They have had reports from other juveniles that they have been intimidated by juveniles claiming to be Purple City members who are attempting to recruit them. School Staff have been told the Purple City gang members belong to a rap group which sings out of JJ's Dinner on South Dixie Highway.

Detective Norma Dieppa immediately initiated an investigation under case number 08-3515. The juveniles involved, including the victim, were documented as gang members and administratively suspended from school, including two individuals attending Coral Gables High School. A copy of the report was forwarded to the School Board Police, the Multi-Agency Gang Task Force (MAGTF), and the City of Miami Police Department. The victim was uncooperative and would not assist in the investigation other than identifying other juveniles involved. Coral Gables Police provided increased presence for the next two weeks at dismissal time.

On April 22, 2008, at the regular meeting of the Coral Gables School and Community Relations Committee, Ponce De Leon Middle School Principal Anna Rodriguez advised the committee members that they should be aware of possible gang issues in the school. Sergeant Melissa DeJong advised the Police Department was aware of the issues and were investigating them.

On April 24, 2008, Sergeant DeJong presented all of the information to the regular meeting of the Multi-Agency Gang Task Force. The report and a second follow-up report, case number 08-3758, written by Detective Dieppa the same day, were presented to the MAGTF analyst. City of Miami Gang Task Force detectives advised they had never heard of the "Purple City" gang and had no information on the group.

As of the date of this memorandum, no additional incidents have occurred.