



CITY OF GRESHAM

March 7, 2019

Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
Representative Carla Piluso, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee

Co-Chairs Winters & Piluso, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in favor of the City of Gresham’s top legislative priority, the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team (EMGET). As the City of Gresham’s Superintendent of Public Safety, I want to stress the vital importance of these resources in our efforts to curtail gang violence in East Multnomah County, and by extension, in communities across Oregon.

EMGET was formed in 2005, and provides a collaborative, multi-agency approach to the rise of acute gang issues in our area. As gang violence has moved eastward in the Portland metropolitan region, EMGET has been an extremely effective state and local partnership, and has provided an outstanding return on investment.

The seven-member team represents a partnership between the cities of Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village, and the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office. The seamless integration of these agencies, from a law enforcement perspective, ensures that we remain a step ahead of gang activity, and that our knowledge and experience with gangs in our area is not lost at any municipal boundary.

We want to convey how effective your investment has been. In Fiscal Year 2017/18, EMGET made 4,298 citizen contacts, seized and removed 58 illegal weapons from our streets, and conducted 226 felony arrests. Those are impressive numbers by themselves, but they are even more impressive in the context of the results they produce. EMGET’s community contacts and cross-departmental diligence directly contribute to Gresham’s 94% homicide “solve rate” which is 30% higher than the national average of 64%.

Gang crimes constitute some of the worst and most organized cases involving the trafficking of people, narcotics, and illicit enterprises in law enforcement. Gang’s use violent and homicidal

means to conduct their business and threaten the lives and property of the communities in which they operate. This organized, collaborative approach has proven successful in disrupting their networks and bringing violent perpetrators to justice.

In addition to this testimony, we are also submitting a detailed fact sheet for this hearing, which speaks to EMGET's history, the growing need, the statewide benefit, and the outstanding success achieved through this partnership.

We are grateful for the partnership this dynamic team represents, and extremely appreciative of the Legislature's recognition that these issues cannot be solved by local government alone. We strongly urge the Subcommittee to continue the Legislature's vital support for EMGET, and to fully fund the team at \$2,451,400 for this biennium. Thank you for the opportunity to share EMGET's success with the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Corey Falls
Superintendent of Public Safety



East Metro Gang Enforcement Team

Serving the Communities of Gresham, Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village & Multnomah County

History:

The East Metro Gang Enforcement Team (EMGET) formed in 2005 after state legislators toured local gang violence hotspots, and studied homicidal violence in the metro area. As a result, the legislature allocated funding for the anti-gang unit, which has been a critical resource in disrupting gang violence and criminal enterprises in East Multnomah County and across Oregon. The state has continued this vital support of EMGET each biennium, making outstanding progress on gang enforcement.

Representing five jurisdictions and comprised of officers from the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and Gresham Police Departments, this seven-person, collaborative team demonstrates the success that can be achieved through partnerships with state and local government, across multiple jurisdictions.

The Growing Need:

As the movement of poverty in the Portland Metropolitan Area has been gentrified eastward, communities in East Multnomah County have faced substantial challenges with gangs, narcotics, and violent crime. Coupled with that, Gresham has seen the arrival of dangerous, high-profile national and international criminal enterprises like the Gypsy Jokers Outlaw Motorcycle Gang, which recently moved their regional headquarters to Gresham. At least two of the six Gypsy Joker-related gang members recently indicted under federal RICO statutes lived in Gresham.

Last year, violent intruders entered a home and fired their weapons at a 9-year-old Gresham boy, who lost an eye and the use of his left arm, but miraculously survived. The suspects in that case, rival gang members of the boy's father, were eventually captured, and evidence was tied to a prior Portland homicide, resulting in at least six gang members charged with murder or attempted murder. EMGET's gang expertise and community relationships directly resulted in the identification, arrest, confession, and conviction of these violent perpetrators.

These examples are just brief anecdotes of the challenges EMGET faces with gangs of every type, as they answered over 3,000 calls for service just last year. These resources from the State of Oregon allow EMGET to disrupt Metro-Area gangs, interfering with their criminal enterprises across the state.

And all of this work is conducted in a property tax environment that has largely hamstrung local resources in the communities EMGET serves. In 1995, when Measure 50 froze permanent property tax rates, Gresham was a very different community with largely suburban and rural needs, meaning that it had only a modest permanent rate of \$3.61 per \$1,000 taxable assessed value (which local voters are now restricted from changing under Oregon's Constitution). Today, that rate is one of the lowest of any full-service city in Oregon (the rate in neighboring Portland, for context, is about double that amount),

and certainly does not reflect the modern challenges of the Portland area's second-largest city, facing organized gangs, violence, and the illegal distribution of illicit narcotics.

The Statewide Benefit and Impact:

By in large, criminal gang enterprises run in networks across the state and nation. Disrupting and prosecuting violent criminals in Gresham prevents them from operating in other communities, and interferes with the criminal economy across Oregon. Additionally, as a respected resource in this arena, EMGET is routinely called upon to work with other agencies, and provide training opportunities, serving communities and public agencies statewide. Recently, EMGET has worked with the following agencies:

- Portland Police Gun Violence Reduction Team/GET
- Beaverton Police Department
- Metro Gang Task Force (FBI/PPB/ATF/Homeland Security joint operation)
- IGET (Washington County gang team currently in utter disarray)
- SIU (Multnomah County Special Investigations Unit)
- SET (Gresham Special Enforcement Team)
- Tri-Met Police
- Washington County Corrections intel unit
- Multnomah County Parole and Probation (adult and juvenile)
- Oregon Youth Authority
- Multnomah County District Attorney's Office
- Columbia County District Attorney Jeff Auxier
- Jackson County Sheriff's Office
- US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF)
- United States Attorney's Office (District of Oregon)
- Oregon State Police Crime Lab
- Regional Computer Forensics Lab (FBI)
- Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC)
- US Marshals' Task Force
- Sacramento, CA Gang Enforcement Team
- Portland Police Sex Trafficking unit
- Portland Police East Precinct Neighborhood Response Team
- Gresham Neighborhood Enforcement Team
- Multnomah County Major Crimes Team (MCSO and GPD)

In addition to partnering with agencies across Oregon for its enforcement work, EMGET has provided the following state and regional agencies with training opportunities:

- Washington County Sheriff's Office
- Washington County Corrections
- Washington County Parole & Probation
- Deschutes County Sheriff's Office
- Deschutes County Corrections
- Deschutes County Parole & Probation
- World Affairs Council of Oregon (providing training to Kenyan police, various English press and the BBC)
- Southern Poverty Law Center and the Skinhead Information Network or SIN
- 500+members of Northwest Gang Investigator's Association (comprising Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana)
- Clackamas County Sheriff's Office
- Reynolds School District (District and school staff)
- Gresham Citizen's Academy
- Gresham-area Landlord Tenant Association
- City of Gresham employees

The Value Proposition:

EMGET has become a critical, respected resource that makes an incredible impact for the residents of Multnomah County, and by extension, in communities across the state. When this collaborative, multi-agency team is successful in its work, it removes violent criminals from their statewide trafficking activities and illicit networks across Oregon.

In Fiscal Year 2017/18, EMGET made 4,298 citizen contacts, seized 58 illegal weapons, and conducted 226 felony arrests. Their community contacts and cross-departmental diligence makes a big difference. Gresham's 94% homicide "solve rate" is 30% higher than the national average of 64%, and that success is directly attributable to the value of this critical resource and partnership.

Gresham's Local Contribution on Prevention and Enforcement:

The State of Oregon's investment in EMGET is coupled with, and leverages, Gresham's own local resources and investments in this arena. In addition to law enforcement investments, Gresham has tripled down on its gang prevention and youth engagement and recreation efforts. These local investments include the following:

Administrative Support – The Administrative Assistant originally funded under the grant has been reclassified to a Police Officer providing more enforcement effort than ever before. The administrative needs of the team are being supported through existing administrative staff within the Gresham Police Department.

Investigative Support – EMGET related crimes are now being investigated as needed by all members of the Investigation Division.

Major Crimes Team (MCT) – The MCT has been activated for gang related crimes numerous times over the past several years. This team includes resources from Gresham Police, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and the Multnomah County District Attorney's Office.

Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC) – Gresham contracts with POIC to provide three (3) gang outreach workers to promote positive engagement between gang outreach workers and gang-involved youth, incentivize gang-involved youth to reach their education and career goals, and address the barriers that prevent them from reaching those goals.

Gang & Truancy School Resource Officers – Funded through the 2014 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant. This grant was awarded to address the problems of truancy and gang related issues within the Gresham area schools. Though the funding of this grant will end soon, the department will continue to grow the community policing program as it has proven to have a significant impact on gang affected and truant youth.

Equipment and Vehicles – GPD has assigned three (3) dedicated vehicles to the EMGET and provides all duty related equipment and clothing.

Rockwood Public Safety Office – All seven (7) members of the EMGET are housed in the Rockwood Public Safety Office.

Youth Engagement/Prevention – Since 2014, Gresham has dedicated one (1) full-time staff member to coordinate prevention and intervention strategies for gang-impacted youth. This position serves as a liaison between EMGET, gang outreach workers, and other youth-serving community partners. These efforts have led to the leveraging of more than \$300,000 in new prevention resources, including free basketball and soccer programs, job readiness training, structured futsal tournaments and programming, and paid work experiences for teens and young adults.

Community Partnerships – Gresham has partnered with Friends of the Children, The Boys and Girls Club, Open School, and Latino Network to bring their services to Gresham by helping them locate on City-owned properties.

The Budget:

<i>(July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021)</i>			
	<i>July 2019 - June 2020</i>	<i>July 2020 - June 2021</i>	<i>Total</i>
Salary Expense:			
Gresham Sergeant	162,700	167,800	330,500
Gresham Police Officer #1	135,100	139,400	274,500
Gresham Police Officer #2	146,900	151,500	298,400
Gresham Police Officer #3	132,900	137,200	270,100
Sub-Total: Gresham	577,600	595,900	1,173,500
Overtime	55,000	56,300	111,300
Training & Equipment	4,000	4,000	8,000
Sub-Total: Other Expense	59,000	60,300	119,300
Multnomah County Central Indirect Rate (2.80%)	17,900	18,400	36,300
Subsection 1.2.e.; Sub-Total: East Metro Gang Enforcement Team	654,500	674,600	1,329,100
Multnomah County Deputy #1	154,700	159,700	314,400
Multnomah County Deputy #2	148,000	155,300	303,300
Multnomah County Deputy #3	147,200	154,500	301,700
Sub-Total: MCSO	449,900	469,500	919,400
Overtime	42,300	44,000	86,300
Training	3,000	3,000	6,000
Sub-Total: Other Expense	45,300	47,000	92,300
Multnomah County Central & Dept. Indirect Rate (10.92%)	54,100	56,500	110,600
Subsection 1.2.f.; Sub-Total: Multnomah County Sherriff's Office EMGET Members	549,300	573,000	1,122,300
Total Proposal	1,203,800	1,247,600	2,451,400

Cost for EMGET Members during the 2019-21 Biennium
(July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021)

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