A Discussion about Group Think and the Violence Reduction Strategy
What is a Gang/Group?

Florida Statute 874.03 defines a "Criminal Gang" as an informal or formal ongoing organization, association, or group that has as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal or delinquent acts, and that consists of 3 or more persons who have a common name or common identifying signs, colors or symbols.
What was the legislature’s intent in enacting this law?

“The Legislature finds that it is the right of every person regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation or handicap to be secure and protected from fear, intimidation and physical harm caused by the activities of criminal gangs and their members.”
Gang Violence is a REAL Problem

The Legislature finds. . . that the state is facing a mounting crisis caused by criminal gangs whose members threaten and terrorize peaceful citizens and commit a multitude of crimes.

These criminal gang activities present a clear and present danger.
Gang Violence is a REAL Problem

Street gangs have evolved into increasingly sophisticated and complex organized crime groups in their criminal tactics, schemes, and brutality. The State has a compelling interest in preventing criminal gang activity and halting the real and present danger posed by the proliferation of criminal gangs. . .
Gang Violence is here in Jacksonville

https://youtu.be/dyhtgRzg70k
What are the Risk Factors for being a Gang Member?

Launch “Why Youth Join Gangs” in a New Window

Risk Factors:

• Individual
• Family
• School
• Peer
• Community
Example Risk Factors Across Domains

**Individual:**
- Prior Delinquency
- Deviant Attitudes
- Street Smartness/Toughness
- Fatalistic View of the World
- Aggression
- Problem Behaviors (hyperactivity)
- Victimization

Example Risk Factors Across Domains

**Family:**
- Broken Homes
  - Parental Drug/Alcohol Abuse
- Lack of Male Role Models
- Low Socioeconomic Status
- Family in Gangs

---Juvenile Justice Bulletin 1998---
Example Risk Factors Across Domains

**Individual:**
- Academic Failure
- Low Educational Aspirations
- Trouble at School
- Low commitment to School
- Negative labeling by Teachers
- Learning disabled

Example Risk Factors Across Domains

Peer Group:

- High Commitment to Delinquent Peers
- Low Commitment to Positive Peers
- Street Socialization
- Gang Members in Class
- Friend who use or sell drugs

Example Risk Factors Across Domains

Community:

• Social Disorganization
  – Poverty and Residential Mobility

• Presence of Gangs in the Neighborhood
  – Social Norms in the Neighborhood supporting Gangs

• Drugs and Firearms available in the Neighborhood

• Feeling unsafe in neighborhood

Blood in . . . Blood Out

https://youtu.be/_j-dkwBIJVM

• When a person decides to join a gang there is some level of violence to get in the gang.

• When a person decides to leave the gang there is some level of violence to get out of the gang.
What is “Group Think”
Group Think

• Groupthink is a term first used in 1972 by social psychologist Irving L. Janis that refers to a psychological phenomenon in which people strive for consensus within a group. In many cases, people will set aside their own personal beliefs or adopt the opinion of the rest of the group.

• People who are opposed to the decisions or overriding opinion of the group as a whole frequently remain quiet, preferring to keep the peace rather than disrupt the uniformity of the crowd.
HOT BOY
If nobody's speaking up, somebody probably needs to.
Group Violence Intervention

National Network for Safe Communities has partnered with the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office to intervene in Gang and Group Violence in Jacksonville.
KEEP CALM AND ASK QUESTIONS