



SPOTLIGHT ON SPLOST

“GANG REDUCTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM”

The gang mentality in the Griffin-Spalding County area is one of violence and crime. In the past three years, there have been roughly 66 Aggravated Assault cases, 97 Shots Fired cases, 7 Homicide cases, 86 Simple Battery cases, 7 Aggravated Battery cases, 52 Affrays, 24 Armed Robberies, 94 Battery cases, 179 Residential Burglaries, 69 Criminal Damage to Property, 210 Criminal Trespass and 520 Arrests involving narcotics all in known gang areas within the city and the county.

Current statistics indicate there are approximately 15 active Gangs in the Griffin-Spalding County area. The Georgia Department of Corrections currently has 147 validated gang members from the Griffin-Spalding County area. Including the 147 validated members, there are a total of 330 known Gang members operating in Griffin-Spalding County and credible information puts the gang population between 700-800 members.

Currently, the Spalding County Sheriff's Office has two officers to work gang activity inside the county and only one of these officers has completed specialized gang training and gang investigations. These officers have identified a need for this specialized training and have been working, on their own time, to assist the agency with identifying gang members and activity within the City of Griffin and Spalding County.

Funding from the 2015 SPLOST will assist the Spalding County Sheriff's Office in equipping a Gang Reduction and Intervention Program (GRIP), consisting of six (6) specially trained investigators with vehicles, handguns, protective vests, mobile and portable radios, computers and other necessary equipment. They will be trained to identify and investigate gangs, recognize gang activity and to identify gang signs and affiliations. Although their duties will be to investigate gang activity, they will also be trained to help prevent future gangs from infiltrating the community and to also provide information and to help educate the community on gang activity. The ultimate goal is to educate young people on the dangers of gang activity and to be a positive role model and mentor to young people in our community. They will also be able to assist other divisions within the Sheriff's Office as needed.

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