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WEST SUBURBAN ENHANCED DRUG/GANG ENFORCEMENT
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WEDGE Task Force Expands – Brings in New Partners
River Grove Police Department and ATF Join WEDGE

Riverside, IL-

WEDGE chairman, Riverside Police Chief Thomas Weitzel, announced today that River Grove Police Department has joined WEDGE as a partner and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Chicago branch, will be partnering as a liaison to the WEDGE task force.

The inclusion of River Grove Police Department and the partnership with ATF, highlights the need to strongly combat gang activity in greater Cook County.

Chief Tom Weitzel stated, *“These multijurisdictional operational task force partnerships have never been more important than they are today. Today, we work with our counterparts at every level of government local, state, federal, and, in some cases, international. The inclusion of River Grove and ATF in this multiagency task force enhances our ability to gather intelligence and work closely on joint investigations at a local and federal level.”*

ATF Special Agent in Charge Andrew Traver stated, *“Violent street gangs wreak havoc in the neighborhoods where they operate and have a dangerous impact on the entire community. ATF, in conjunction with local police agencies and task forces, are committed to protecting the community by targeting gangs and taking illegal guns, drugs and criminals off the street”.*

“With Chicago Police Department’s new initiative on street gang suppression, the WEDGE gang and drug task force is ready to ensure that street gang activity in the municipalities served by WEDGE is not only held in check but that WEDGE will take a proactive stance in eradicating gang and drug activity in our municipalities, said Chief Weitzel”.

This multijurisdictional jurisdictional task force and our partnership at the federal level is a good example of the ability of combine assets to marshall more resources to combat gang activity and obtain tougher penalties against members of violent street gangs. We are sending the message loud and clear that we will not tolerate gang activities in our communities.