

## GANG MEMBERS TO BE INDICTED ON RACKETEERING CHARGES

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U.S. Attorney Saul Green will unseal a federal indictment today charging more than 20 **members** of the Crips and Folk **gangs** in Ypsilanti Township with **racketeering** in dozens of crimes ranging from drug-dealing **to** murder, a person familiar with the investigation said Tuesday.

The **charges** come after a two-year investigation by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. It is believed **to be** only the second time a street **gang** in eastern Michigan will **be** charged with violating the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, known as RICO.

It also is one of a few cases in the country **to** use the RICO statute **to** prosecute youth **gangs** . The act, created largely **to** prosecute **members** of organized crime, allows prosecutors **to** attempt **to** connect several crimes by showing the alleged perpetrators acted as an enterprise. Convictions bring stiff penalties.

Six **members** of the Cash Flow Posse in southwest Detroit were **indicted** under RICO in July for allegedly killing five people and assaulting several people.

The indictment in the Ypsilanti Township cases involves the July 1995 slaying of Brian Taylor of Ypsilanti, the shootings of five Washtenaw County sheriff's deputies in June 1995, three fire-bombings, about a dozen drive-by shootings and numerous drug deals, according **to** the person familiar with the investigation, who asked not **to be** named.

In fall 1995, a **Gang** Crimes Attack Team of officers from the FBI, Michigan State Police, Ypsilanti Police Department, federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and U.S. Marshal's Office was formed **to** attack the township's **gang** problem. The team's work led **to** the indictment, which is **to be** announced at a news conference today in Ann Arbor.

The efforts of the task force and Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Convertino led **to** a substantial drop in **gang** activity in Ypsilanti Township, according **to** the person familiar with the case.

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