



# MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Mayor and City Councilors

**FROM:** Rich Olson, City Manager  
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Chief of Police

**DATE:** March 28, 2013

**RE:** Recommendation on Gang Documentary/Video

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***BACKGROUND:***

During a January 2013 session of City Council and in the most recent March session, a concerned citizen approached Council with a possible training video regarding gang related violence. The citizen, Mr. Kaleem Shahid, voiced concerns about recent acts of violence in Elizabeth City (i.e. two homicides that occurred in January 2013). Mr. Shahid made a formal request for the Police Department to review the video/documentary and possibly use it in their training methods in the fight against gangs and gun violence in the City. Chief Buffaloe reviewed the video and felt that it was a very good documentation and accurate representation of gangs throughout the Nation. However, the methodology used in this video is geared to the same approach currently used by the Police Department in its crime fighting techniques but does not mesh with the community policing initiatives already in place.

***ANALYSIS:***

Chief Buffaloe carefully reviewed the video entitled "To Live and Die in Amerikka." It was determined that the Police Department is already accomplishing many of the key points that are discussed in the video. Since 2009, the Police Department has had a full-time gang prevention officer who gives presentations to private citizens, civic organizations, churches, businesses, and the school system. The Police Department is committed to having a pro-active approach and has partnered with River City Community Development Corporation's YouthBuild program in mentoring the youth of this city. The Department has a long and productive history in its Police Athletic League program that targets youth 6 - 18 years of age. The PAL program has expanded in

recent years with the acquisition of a permanent gymnasium and its curriculum includes sports/recreational activities, enrichment programs, social youth gatherings, and in-house Youth Challenge camps. In addition, the Police Department has an Adopt-a-Cop community policing initiative in place in the elementary schools which teaches gang awareness, anti-bullying, and safety techniques to children ages 5 – 10 years of age. The gang video was geared towards an audience aged 13 and older and would be too graphic to use in some of the programs already in place by the Police Department.

***STAFF RECOMMENDATION:***

City staff recommends that the Police Department continue its current efforts in reducing crime City-wide as it relates to gang activity and gun violence. We will support working in collaboration if needed, along with Mr. Kaleem Shahid, and encourage him in his efforts to make a difference in his community.