



**METRO GANG UNIT
CHOOSE GANG FREE
RESIDENTS AGAINST GRAFFITI**

To: Deputy Chief Brett Miller and Taylorsville City Administration.
From: Lieutenant Nate Hutchinson Project Director SLAGP
Subject: Justification for Designation of Public Places Where Gang Loitering is Prohibited

I. Statutory Authority

Under **Utah Code § 11-48-104**, a municipal legislative body shall designate public places where gang loitering is prohibited when criminal street gangs have been able to, or are attempting to:

- Establish control over an area;
- Intimidate individuals from entering the area; or
- Conceal illegal activities within the area.

“Gang loitering,” “criminal street gang,” and “public place” are defined in **Utah Code § 76-9-802**, which provides the legal framework for enforcement and prosecution.

II. Observed Conditions in Salt Lake County Events

Through the Salt Lake Area Gang Project and Metro Gang Unit operations, we have identified a consistent and escalating pattern of gang-related activity at public events throughout Salt Lake County, including events similar in nature to those hosted in Taylorsville.

In the past year alone:

- Our unit assisted over 10 municipalities with large-scale public celebrations.
- Every event experienced gang presence, including:
 - Coordinated group loitering
 - Physical altercations and assaults
 - Intimidation of attendees
 - Disruptive and violent conduct

- These activities meet the statutory definition of “gang loitering” under § 76-9-802, as they facilitate control, intimidation, and concealment of criminal activity.

III. Critical Incident Demonstrating Risk

A significant example illustrating the danger of gang presence occurred at WestFest in West Valley City:

- A gang-related quadruple homicide occurred during the event
- An innocent infant bystander was killed
- The incident triggered multiple retaliatory shootings following the event

This event demonstrates the real and immediate risk to public safety when gang activity is allowed to escalate in public gathering spaces.

IV. Impact on Public Safety and Community Use

Gang loitering at public events and spaces has resulted in:

- Intimidation of law-abiding citizens, discouraging attendance
- Families being driven away from community events
- Increased likelihood of violent escalation and retaliatory crimes
- Reduced ability for communities to safely utilize public spaces

These conditions directly satisfy the statutory thresholds in § 11-48-104(2)(a)-(c).

V. Resource Limitations

While the Metro Gang Unit actively supports regional enforcement efforts:

- Resources are limited and cannot cover all city events simultaneously
- Proactive enforcement tools are necessary for local patrol officers
- Without a designated gang loitering ordinance, officers lack a critical early intervention mechanism

VI. Need for Local Designation and Enforcement Tool

Designation of specific public places in Taylorsville during its city celebration where gang loitering is prohibited will:

- Provide officers with legal authority to issue dispersal orders
- Allow early intervention before violence occurs
- Disrupt gang efforts to:
 - Establish territorial control
 - Intimidate community members
 - Coordinate criminal activity

- Enhance the safety and accessibility of public events, parks, and gathering areas

VII. Compliance with Statutory Requirements

This recommendation aligns with § 11-48-104(3), as it is based on consultation with:

- Law enforcement professionals with extensive gang expertise
- Regional intelligence gathered through the Salt Lake Area Gang Project
- Documented patterns of gang activity across multiple jurisdictions

VIII. Conclusion

Based on statutory authority and documented operational experience, there is a clear and compelling need for Taylorsville City to:

- Designate appropriate public areas where gang loitering is prohibited, and
- Implement enforcement procedures consistent with Utah law

This designation will serve as a necessary and proactive public safety measure to protect residents, preserve community events, and prevent further violent incidents.