



## State of New Jersey

### STATE PAROLE BOARD

JON S. CORZINE, GOVERNOR

PETER J. BARNES JR., CHAIRMAN

Post Office Box 862

Trenton, New Jersey 08625

# Media Release

For Immediate Release:

1/28/08

For more information contact:

**Neal Buccino**

**(609) 292-4031, office**

**(609) 468-9728, cell**

## State Parole Officers, Vineland Police, State Troopers Conduct “Clean Sweep” for Gang Presence in Cumberland County

MILLVILLE – Responding to this month’s increase in gang-related incidents in Cumberland County, the New Jersey State Parole Board conducted a joint enforcement operation during the weekend with the Vineland Police Department Street Crimes Unit and the New Jersey State Police Street Gang Unit, with additional intelligence provided by the Millville and Bridgeton Police Departments.

Operation Clean Sweep consisted of unannounced home visits of all known street gang members under the State Parole Board’s supervision in Cumberland County. The operation began at 4 pm Friday and ended at midnight, to maintain the element of surprise and disrupt any planned gang activity. Fourteen State parole officers, along with three Vineland Police officers and two State Troopers, conducted the visits to 32 homes.

“New Jersey’s State parole officers have one of the most complex jobs in law enforcement,” State Parole Board Chairman Peter J. Barnes Jr. said. “Their supervision and investigation responsibilities give these officers a wealth of intelligence that we are now sharing with law enforcement partners on the local, State and Federal levels. Joint missions like this are a vital component of New Jersey’s public safety.”

The operation led to the identification of six offenders who are not charged with new crimes, but are charged with violating the conditions of State Parole Board supervision. They included three curfew violators and two individuals not residing in their approved residence, and two individuals who failed to pass a drug test. Arrest warrants have been issued, and Parole Revocation hearings or intervention meetings with the parolee will be held to determine whether the individuals should be returned to incarceration, referred to rehabilitative programs, or placed under heightened levels of supervision.

Also during the operation the Vineland Street Crime Unit and State Police Gang Unit gathered intelligence from parolees that will be used to more closely monitor gang activity.

The New Jersey State Parole Board (SPB) is New Jersey's lead reentry agency, and works to ensure ex-prisoners return to society as law-abiding citizens. As required by law, appointed Parole Board Members and staff conduct more than 20,000 hearings per year, solicit input from victims and decide parole matters. SPB sworn parole officers supervise more than 15,000 offenders statewide. In addition, SPB is New Jersey's primary law enforcement agency responsible for sex offender supervision. SPB officers are also active partners with multiple Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies and task forces. Finally, SPB's Community Programs Unit partners with government, non-profit and private agencies to connect ex-prisoners with vocational, mental health and related services, targeted to break the cycle and risk of crime.

###