



# ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

550 N. FLOWER STREET  
SANTA ANA, CA 92703  
714-647-7000  
WWW.OCS.D.ORG

SHERIFF-CORONER  
SANDRA HUTCHENS



## NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Public Information Manager Carrie Braun  
W: 714-647-7042  
C: 714-904-7042

### California Attorney General and Orange County Sheriff's Department Announce the Arrest of 85 Individuals in Orange County Gang Takedown

**SANTA ANA, Ca. (May 2, 2018)** - Attorney General Xavier Becerra and Orange County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens today announced the arrest of 85 individuals; seizure of 36 firearms, including assault weapons; seizure of 14 pounds of methamphetamine and 3 pounds of heroin; and the recovery of 2 stolen vehicles, as part of an investigation of Mafia members and associates operating in Orange County.

"Apprehending dangerous criminals is my number-one priority. We will hold accountable those who terrorize our communities and jeopardize public safety," said Attorney General Becerra. "The California Department of Justice will continue to work alongside our law enforcement partners to successfully disrupt and dismantle gang activity in the Golden State. I especially want to applaud the bravery and outstanding performance of the men and women involved in this operation. Thanks to them, Orange County neighborhoods are safer."

"The success of this operation highlights the importance of collaborative partnerships amongst law enforcement agencies," said Sheriff Hutchens. "The shared communication amongst our respective agencies have resulted in the removal of significant threats from our community. My hope is that these actions will send a message to criminal gangs that you are not welcome in Orange County."

The arrests are the result of a three-month investigation targeting the Sureño criminal street gang subsets and their criminal enterprise directed by the Mexican Mafia. The California Department of Justice Bureau of Investigation (CA DOJ), Special Operations Unit, the California Highway Patrol, and the Orange County Sheriff's Department Gang Division worked in conjunction on this investigation.

This investigation, coupled with previous collaboration between the Orange County Sheriff's Department and CA DOJ Special Operations Unit, has led to the largest crackdown on gang activity in the state this year, preventing a total of five violent crimes including two attempted murders.

The [Special Operations Unit](#) is a collaborative investigative effort between the California Department of Justice and the California Highway Patrol that provides statewide enforcement to combat violent career criminals, gangs, and organized crime groups, along with intrastate drug traffickers.

As a result of the investigation, the South Gang Enforcement Team and the California State Department Of Justice filed thirty-one cases with the Orange County District Attorney's Office and two cases with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

###