

Chronic Offenders: Purpose and Check List

Los Angeles Police Department

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A chronic offender bulletin is the result of work done by crime intelligence analysts. The purpose of the bulletin is to identify the most active violent chronic offenders in the Division and in the LASER Zones. These individuals are not suspects but persons of interest. The bulletins are for informational purposes only and for officer safety.

To create a bulletin analysts should focus first on the offense and then the individual. Based on a daily review of dozens of field interview cards, arrests, and incident reports, analysts identify a person who has been active and could be engaged in violent criminal behavior. The analyst conducts a 'work up' to determine whether the person has been involved in a violent crime, has any prior arrests for a handgun, is a gang member, or is on probation or parole. Further, the analyst determines the number of 'quality' police contacts in the last two years.

Check list

- Review Field Interview Cards to determine whether activities are associated with violent crime. Look on the back of the FI first and then look at the front to consider the individual's characteristics. Set aside the ones that are most relevant for a work up.
- Review Arrest reports that are violent crime or gun related. Set aside the ones that are most relevant.
- Using the abovementioned FIs and Arrests, use Palantir to do a work up of the individual. Do a search, resolve any conflicts, determine what the person has done over the last 2 years.
- In Palantir, identify the number of violent crime arrests the individual has over the last 2 years. Apply 5 points for **each** violent crime arrest (this is a change from our original protocol).
- Determine whether the individual has used a gun in the course of his/her activities. Apply 5 points for **each** incident involving a gun over the last 2 years. (this is a change from our original protocol).
- Determine whether the individual is a member of a gang. Apply 5 points for gang membership.
- Determine whether the individual is on probation or parole. Apply 5 points for this status.
- Determine how many 'quality' police contacts the individual has had over the last 2 years. Apply 1 point for each contact. (Primarily FIs)
- Add up the number of points for this individual. This will give you a Chronic Offender Score.

— Create a Chronic Offender Bulletin in Palantir. At a minimum you should create 12 bulletins. In addition, you should identify 5-10 offenders as 'back-ups'.

— Rank order the 12 offenders based on the number of points per person.

— Validate and de-conflict the offenders with detectives, gang units, other special units, and command staff at your Division. Make sure that the offenders are active and not in custody. Ensure that other units are not tracking the same individual.

— Chronic offenders should be assigned to special units for engagement (see below).

— Enter the information into the Chronic Violent Offender database for tracking and monitoring purposes.

— Every week the list should be reviewed – determine whether the persons are active or in custody. If they are in custody, then that person should be replaced with one of the back-ups. The replacement should be assigned to a specialized unit.

Suggested methods of engagement with Chronic Offenders (some or all may apply).

1. Send letters to the offenders indicating that the police are aware of them and that they do not want them to engage in criminal activity.
2. A special unit (gangs, narcotics, others) can do door knocks - go to the households, talk with whoever is there, and again let them know that the police are aware of them. (They may hand deliver the letter described in #1).
3. At your weekly crime control meeting, discuss what was done with each chronic offender. The specialized units that have been involved with the offenders should give a report on their progress.
4. Engage patrol officers by going to roll calls and telling patrol officers about the chronic offenders. Provide officers with 3-4 names of chronic offenders who are 'active' and tell the officers to be on the lookout for them. If officers see them, they may stop them, do a field interview, and let them go, if appropriate. In some situations, the chronic offenders are on warrants and arrests can be made. In many situations, however, as with all stops, they should be constitutional and legal.
5. Conduct warrant checks -- do they currently have outstanding warrants for felonies and misdemeanors? If so, then a special unit or patrol officers could serve that warrant.
6. Armed Prohibited Possessor (APP) checks – Coordinate APP gun checks with GND's gun unit. They have a list of people who should not have guns (probationers, parolees, others). Sometimes there is cross-over with the list of chronic offenders, so you have cause to go to the home, seize the gun, and even make an arrest.

NOTE: All of these activities need to be monitored and tracked within the Chronic Offender database.