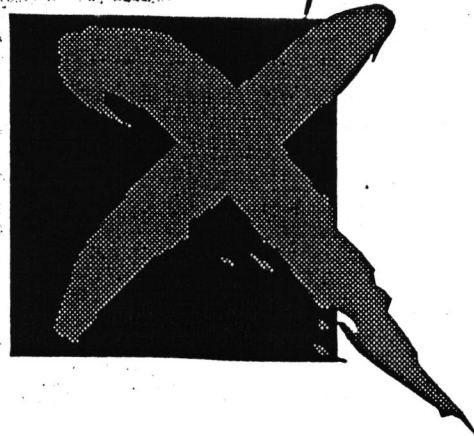


GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# **STREET GANG INFORMATION**

**Grand Rapids, Michigan**

Revised, Compiled, & Edited by  
**Mr. Willie D. Taylor, Jr.**



The information contained in this booklet comes from many different sources both here in the city of Grand Rapids and in other locations. I have tried to provide accurate and easy to remember details that would allow anyone seeking basic information for identifying those who participate in gang activity. Several individuals have also contributed information, some of them were current gang members of the two most widely known groups here in Grand Rapids, the Vice Lords and the Gangster Disciples. The purpose for doing this was not to try and provide you with every detail about gang activity, but merely help you be more aware of how they may look, what they may wear, what they may say, what hand signs they may use and what symbols they may draw.

Please, do not think that this is all the information available or that the gangs listed are the only ones in this city. There are other groups that finding someone to talk about them is not easy. Just be advised that gang activity crosses all boundaries. Race, creed, national origin, or economic condition limits gang activity. The more you know about it, the better prepared you are to deal with the problem. You will find that most youth gang members are proud of their association with a particular group, and will probably not be interested in stopping.

Also, don't be surprise by the number of females you will find in these groups. In most cases the female members are usually just as dangerous as their male counterpart. They also, have the same identifiers as the male members.

From time to time, some gangs have been known to change their habits in order to keep their rituals a secret. However, they do not stray to far from their original codes. Always, keep in mind that this is only a fraction of the information available on this subject, and that all youth who display any of the identifiers may not be a gang member.

*Willie D. Taylor, Jr.*

## **"ZERO TOLERANCE" in schools**

NOTE: "Zero tolerance" means:

- ✓ No colors will be worn in school.
  - ✓ No hats, bandannas, pants rolled up, etc., are accepted.
  - ✓ No hand signs will be tolerated.
  - ✓ No graffiti.
  - ✓ Immediate discipline for any of the above infractions.
- 
- ✓ Immediately informing gang members that the school and school grounds are neutral and that no gang related behavior or mannerisms will be tolerated.
  - ✓ Making no exceptions to any of the above.
  - ✓ Presenting every parent with a letter that there is a Zero Tolerance policy and with that letter ways to identify if their child is a gang member, and a description of the gangs in the area, their known initiations and activities that are often violent.
  - ✓ Working closely with law enforcement and legislatures, if necessary, to be informed by police of students who are gang members, so that gang members become aware that the school knows who they are and what gangs they belong to.

***Police, courts, parents, schools, business, community and neighborhood leaders can minimize gang activity, crime, beatings, drug traffic and killing if they work together and work quickly.***

## LIST OF STREET GANGS

### Black Gangster disciples

Colors: Black and Blue  
Emblem: Pitch fork and six pointed star  
Affiliation: Folks

### Bloods - California Gang

Colors: Red  
Emblem: —  
Affiliation: People

### Crips

Colors: Blue  
Emblem: —  
Affiliation: Folks

### Deuces

Colors: Black and Green  
Emblem: Four playing cards all showing deuces  
Affiliation: People

### Latin Kings

Colors: Gold and Black  
Emblem: Five pointed crown with the letters "L" and "K"  
Affiliation: People

### Vice Lords

Colors: Red, Black and Gold  
Emblem: Upside down pitch fork and five pointed star  
Affiliation: People

# PEOPLE

CONSERVATIVE VICE LORDS

INSANE VICE LORDS

VICE LORDS

CHERRY

IONIA BOYS

ALEXANDER

LAFAYETTE & HALL & PROSPECT

EASTERN & FRANKLIN

CASS

BLOODS

LATIN KINGS

5

LEFT

RED, BLACK, GOLD

# GANG IDENTIFIERS

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

The following is a list of items to assist you in the recognition of street gang members.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:** If a person has one of these identifiers, it does not always mean that he/she is a gang member. The best and safest thing to do is check for additional items, such as tattoos, jewelry, etc.

### 1. EARRINGS:

**RIGHT EAR** - Gangster Disciples and gangs affiliated with the Disciples.

**LEFT EAR** - Vice Lords, Latin Kings, and gangs affiliated with the Kings.

### 2. HATS (Generally):

Tilted to the **RIGHT** - Gangster Disciples.

Tilted to the **LEFT** - Vice Lords, Latin Kings.

### 3. GLOVES (One):

**RIGHT HAND** - Gangster Disciples.

**LEFT HAND** - Vice Lords, Latin Kings.

(Caution should be mentioned again regarding this as it is popular with Break-Dancers, Punk Rockers, Rap Groups, etc.)

### 4. RIGHT/LEFT RULE:

The same right and left rule applies to other things like: belt buckles, bandannas hanging from a pocket, tied around a leg, hanging from a belt loop, etc.

**RIGHT** represents Folks>      <**LEFT** represents People.

### 5. STARS:

Six (6) Pointed: Folks affiliation (Gangster Disciples).

Five (5) Pointed: People affiliation (Vice Lords).

### 6. CROWNS:

Pointed - Latin Kings.

Rounded - Gangster Disciples.

7. **RABBIT HEAD:**

Straight Ears - Vice Lords, Latin Kings.  
Bent Ears - Gangster Disciples.

8. **GYM SHOES:**

Gang affiliation can be shown in many ways. The following are just a few examples:

- A. The color of the shoe vs. the color of the laces.
- B. Two (2) sets of laces in the shoes representing the gang's colors.
- C. Two (2) colored laces in either the right shoe or left shoe showing gang affiliation.
- D. One (1) lace of the primary color in one shoe.
- E. Vice Lords have been known to wear Converse gym shoes because of the five-pointed star logo.
- F. Tongues of shoes: Right Up, Left Down - Folks  
Left Up, Right Down - People
- G. Right Shoe Laced Up, Left Shoe Halfway - Folks  
Left Shoe Laced Up, Right Shoe Halfway - People

9. **JEWELRY:**

Gangs have their gang symbols made into jewelry (six or five-pointed stars, rabbit heads, etc.) and worn as a necklace, key ring, earring, etc. One of the latest pieces of jewelry is the wearing of the Italian Horn by the Disciples. The horn is supposed to represent the devil's horn, which is part of their logo.

10. **BRACELETS:**

A colored rubber, plastic or cloth loop that is worn around the wrist. May be worn in multiples representing the gang's colors. Sometimes a second bracelet can be attached and worn around a finger and wrist together (like a "slave bracelet").  
Note: Caution is to be used again because this is also a popular fad with non-gang individuals.

11. **BUTTONS:**

With the latest craze in buttons, gangs have emblems, logos, slogans, etc. imprinted on them.

12. **FINGERNAILS:**

Gang members have been coloring two (2) nails with their gang colors. Nails colored should be on the hand they represent (right side or left side).

13. **SWEATSHIRTS:**

Gang members have been wearing hooded sweatshirts with jackets over them. The hood is usually hanging out over the collar of the jacket. The thing to remember is the color of the hood vs. the color of the jacket. This represents the gang's colors.

14. **COMBS:**

The gang member has a comb "stuck" in his beard or hair (front or back side). It will be "stuck" on the side the gang member represents towards left or right. This originally started in the jail/prison system, but has been seen on the streets and in schools.





## IDENTIFIERS

### GYMSHOES

2-6 NATION: Converse, white laces webbed, laced up only 6 holes.

VICE LORDS: Converse, five pointed star clearly displayed by coloring the star black or gold.

LATIN KINGS: Converse, the five pointed star is colored in at the bottom of the star to make a three pointed crown.

DISCIPLES: Adadis, with the Adadis tag on the right shoe.

DISCIPLES: 3/K's stands for Blood Killers (Vice Lords)

2-2 NATION: Black Converse

Some gangs will mark the inside of the tongue of the shoe with their gang affiliation (2-6, 2-2, V.L., etc.).

The People Nation will lace their shoes up only five holes.

The Folk Nation will lace their shoes up six holes.

## IDENTIFIERS

DISCIPLES: Troop Coats  
Flight Coats  
Brown Leather Bomber Jackets  
Raiders Warm-Up Coats  
N. Y. Yankees (Jersey)  
Denver Broncos  
Bulls Warm-Up Jackets (Bulls Emblem)

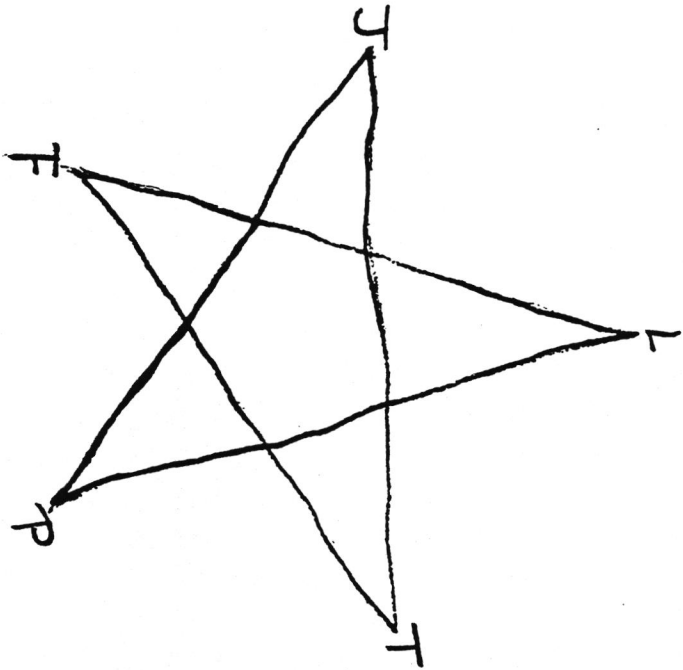
VICE LORDS: Unknown  
Task Force  
Force (Green)  
Bulls Warm-Up Jackets (Bulls spelled out)

Vice hords  
14/BM

ALL is weh

SiNthe skyb must DIE

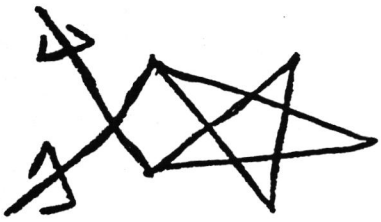
C.V.L



G.I.K



7-4-11



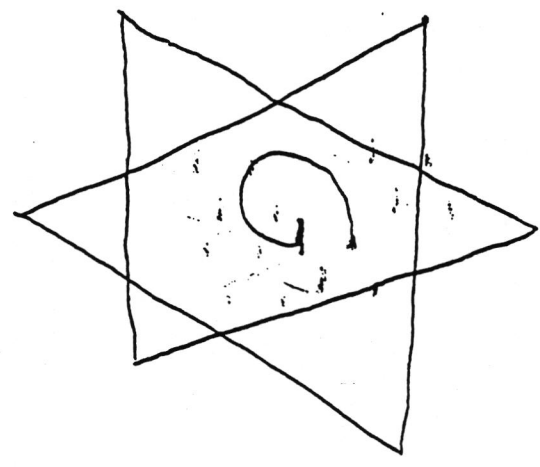
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65 poppin  
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V.L.K.

7

G.D.



All Is One

15-19

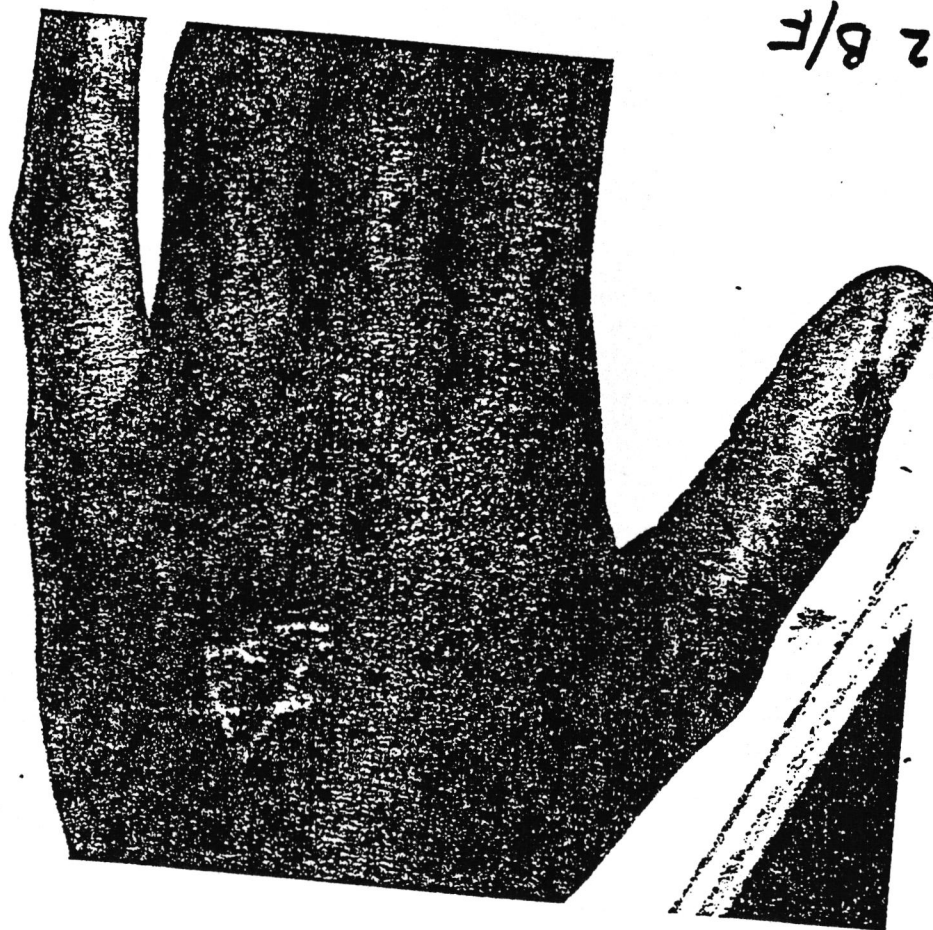
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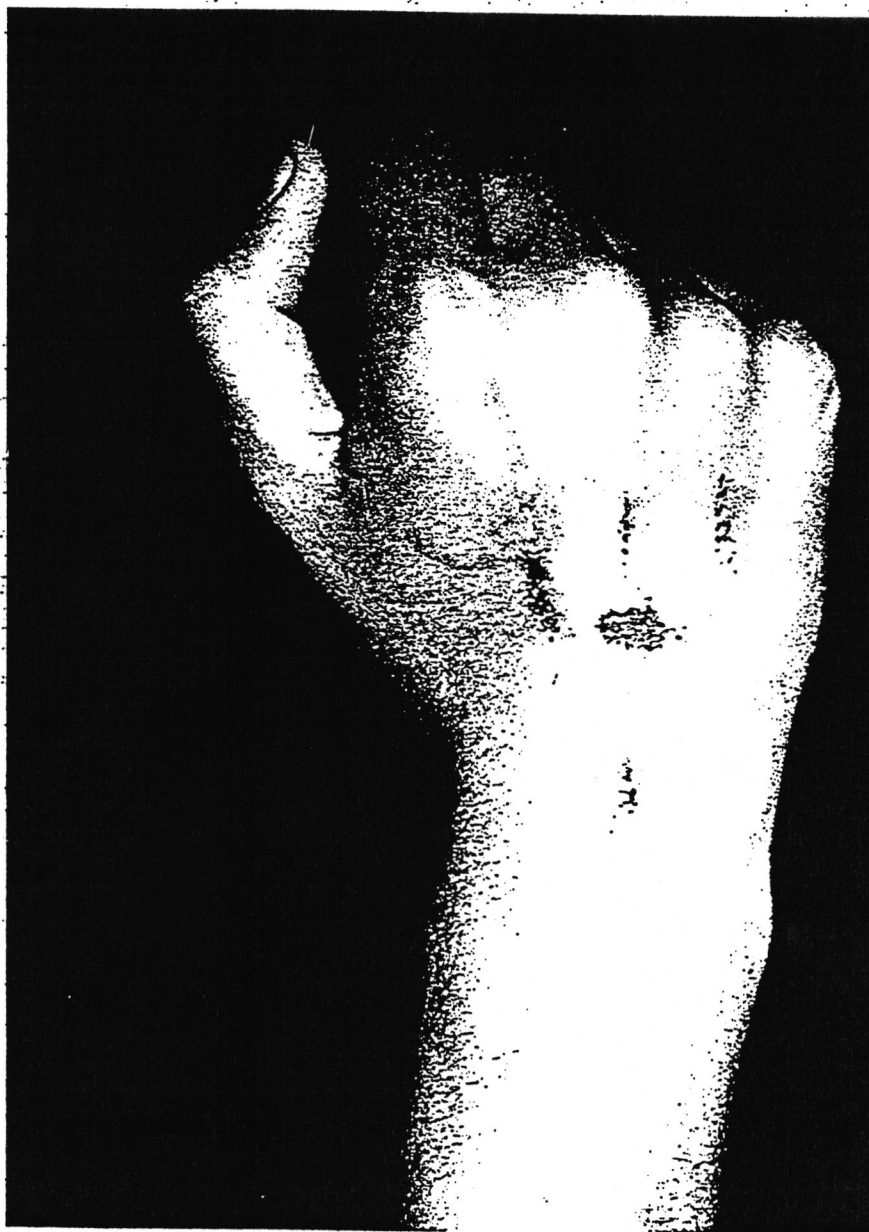
AUGUST 19

(Done with a sharp pin)

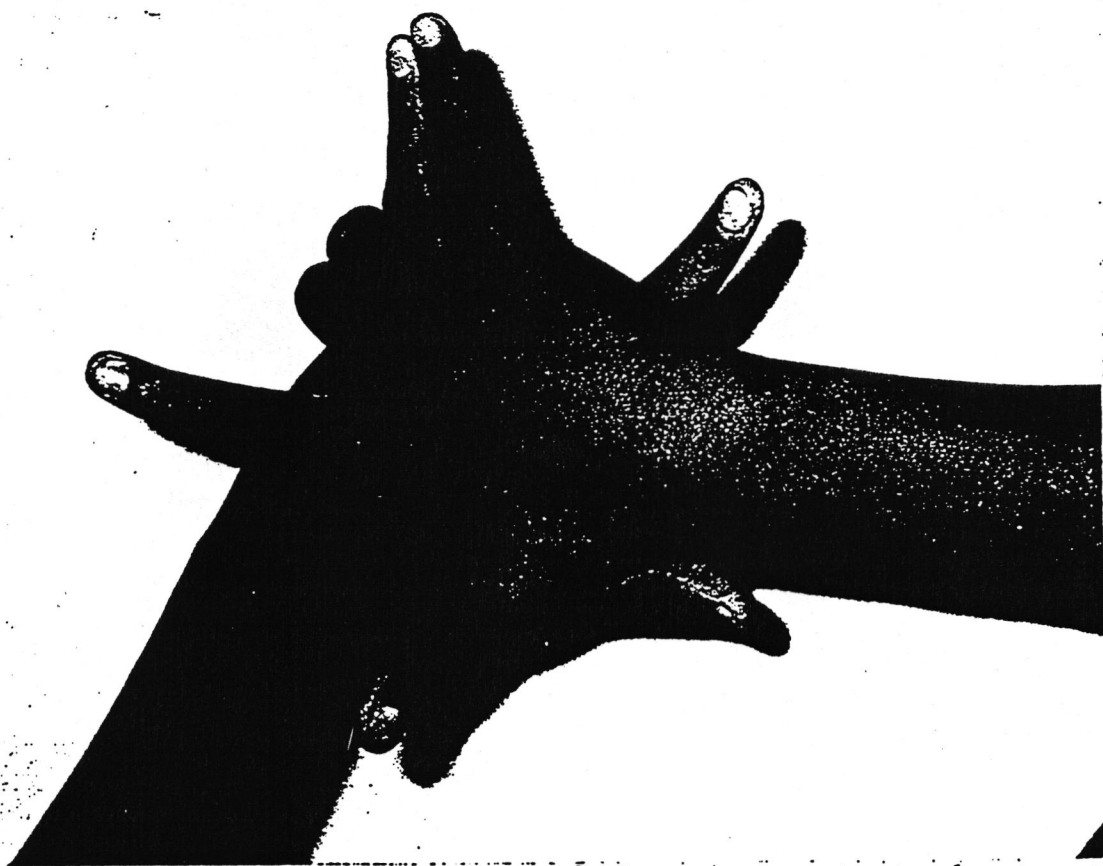
VL 5 Point Star

12 B/F





G.D Pitch Fork on Right Hand  
(Rubbed into flesh with a pencil ~~eraser~~)



VL Five Point Star



VL GD Killer





VL Hand Sign (Pitch Fork Down)



GD Hand Sign (Pitch Fork Up)



VL Hand Sign

11/24/20



GD Six Point Star

## AN INTRODUCTION TO "GANGSTER" RAP MUSIC AND ITS CORRELATION TO THE GANG ENVIRONMENT

The increased phenomenon of gangs and the escalation of gang violence has, in many respects, paralleled the increasing public acceptance of rap music as a bonafide art form. To be more specific rap, like jazz, is a musical art form whose origin is deeply rooted in the experience of black America, especially the inner city ghettos.

To a generation of black youth rap has served as their anthem. It is a musical anthology of their life and times (approximately 1975-present). Through the medium of rap these youth, many of whom embody the disenfranchised of America, vent their anger, frustration and depression over the myriad social ills which have plagued and continue to plague their hopes and dreams. Their rhythmic chants have helped shape the image of a societal class lost and abandoned by the mainstream. For many of this generation rap serves as a catalyst for effecting social change.

The recent rise of rap, its popularity among the young and acceptance into the mainstream of the music industry, has resulted in a musical miscegenation transcending race, color, religion and other cultural barriers. For impressionable youth influenced by the criminal ethic of street gangs, the popularity of rap has an even greater appeal.

To define rap music as controversial would be an understatement. It ignites positive and negative passions in millions of its listeners. Commitment and support of the rap medium tends to fall on one side of the spectrum or the other. It is either adored or reviled, boycotted or endorsed, embraced or denounced. Some officials in law enforcement circles, most notably the F.B.I., point an accusatory finger at certain "gangster" rap artists and their lyrics as being inflammatory and promoting anarchy while inciting violence and loose sexual morals among disgruntled youth.

It is unfair to the vast majority of rap artists and their fans to define the medium in strict negative terms. Depending on one's particular perspective and frame of reference, an abundance of positive themes exist in most rap music. Unfortunately, though, it is the negative image of rap music which ingrains itself on the mind of the average listener. That image is best defined in terms of the segment known as "gangster" rap.

"Gangster" rap music was born out of the emotional pain, death, and destruction of the black experience in America's inner city ghettos. Its expressions and rhythmic lyrical cadence are reflective of a distinct subculture with its own style and social values. That subculture--gangs--and, in particular, the world of the black hustler, revolved around a variety of activities--most of which were socially disapproved. These activities; pimping, prostitution, drug usage/dealing, alcohol abuse, burglary, robbery, assaults, etc; constitute "THE LIFE" for the black and/or other minority underclass. Although not all members of the minority underclass are active or even willing participants in THE LIFE, they are all, in one form or another, impacted by it.