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Stanton Lions

Press Release

District Attorney Tony Rackauckas Visits the Stanton Lions Club

Lions Bi-Monthly Lunch Meeting

Stanton, CA March 9, 2011: Orange County's District Attorney Tony Rackauckas visited the Stanton Lions Club. He talked about his priorities. He focuses on gang activity and getting gang members off the street is one of his top priorities. When there is a gang member who is doing crime, the DA's office focuses their efforts to get him off the street. They do not give any breaks to gang members who are on parole or probation.

The DA also talked about keeping younger kids out of the gang lifestyle. His new program GRIP (Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership) works with kids before they enter high school. Although there is a sever gang problem in South Orange County, this program has been established in North Orange County to keep gang activity from growing. The GRIP program was started by the Anaheim Police Department and has been sponsored by the District Attorney's Office. The partnership consists of school teachers, the Orange County Sheriff's Department, the Orange County Probation Department, Orange County District Attorney's Office, and police departments of Anaheim, Buena Park and Orange. The program provides a framework for *partners* to work together and funding to do outreach to "at-risk" kids.

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The DA's assistant Tracy Rinauro, senior deputy district attorney, explained how they are targeting "at-risk" elementary school children. If a child is having problems, the team will discuss the child's activities with parents and teachers. Many children are assigned an academic mentor, big brother or sister, and encouraged to join the Boys and Girls Club. Once a year, the children are rewarded for their good behavior by taking them to a California Angels game. She explained that many parents work full time and are unaware that local gang members are recruiting their kids. School truancy and wearing gang attire--which is modeled after prison garb--are early warning signs that a child has begun the process of joining a gang.

For more information about the Stanton Lions Club, see www.stantonlions.org

