

Neighborhood comments from 2016 blog on Detroit gangs after Detroit Gang Squad disbanded

- Having lived in Detroit, I never feared gang violence. I was more concerned about the drug dealers shooting it out on corners or getting a squad car to show up when you called them.
- The gang presence always seemed a bit more disorganized than other places. I never had any problems when I lived there, but they were around. It seemed like it was more based on drugs than anything else.
- I always saw gang graffiti and heard about gang violence but it was more of a high school, petty crime thing. The drug dealers were hard core crime.
- I had the fortunate or unfortunate experience of my neighbor being involved with the gang and drug squads. I never once saw him in a uniform, but I'd always see him leaving around 11PM wearing all black, badge around his neck, and his gun shoved into his waste. He'd always told me the gangs on the east side were more organized, but the gangs on the west side were a lot more violent. Any shooting, stabbing, or assault could always be tied back to drugs or money owed. You didn't really see territorial fights like what other cities have. My favorite advice he told me? "We don't stop murders, we investigate them. Get a gun and watch out for yourself." Kind of nuts but he was an interesting guy. Good neighbor to have too.
- We had three cops living on our street. Two patrol, and one that was my next door neighbor, who eventually made it to commander. I never heard of territory fights either living on the west side. Interesting that your neighbor would say that they don't stop murders, they investigate them. Leads me to think that the gang squad was kind of pointless, but I may be wrong there. It also reminds me of our neighbor telling us if someone is breaking into your house and you shoot them before they get in, drag them in and when the police investigate, it will stop there.
- Ha, that sounds like East English Village. It was literally all cops and fireman for a while. I think my neighbor's reference was more to the point that if someone wants to kill someone, they're going to kill someone. I'm also laughing about the "breaking into your house" comment: he told me literally the *exact same thing*.
- I was wondering how long it would take to turn into a Gun Right circlejerk. Shall we call that LeftDetroitThrowAway's law? .. jk
- Blame the Detroit Police.
- Not sure how I feel about this. I've seen the graffiti around and I've been the victim of crimes, but I have no way of knowing if it was gang-related. I have my suspicions that one was, but suspicion is all it is.
- This stood out to me, though: I ask him, once school is out and the squad is disbanded, what will it be like in this neighborhood this summer? "With no more gang squad? Ooh. It'll be hell. It will be hell. It's gonna be crazy," Tagg says.
- I thought all these guys really did was bust raves.
- Because the only gang left in Detroit is the police?
- I'm torn. The gang squad is actually *really* effective at what they do. However, they've operated in their own bubble for so long that they've essentially become separate from the DPD. You've basically got a peer group that's pretty quick to jump into police brutality mode, hence the fact that they're responsible for 30% of the complaints. Putting them back in with "normal" patrols for a while might be good for them.
- Having met a few of those guys, they're pretty fuckin' scary on a bad day.
- When I initially read the title I assumed it was about the city council.