

# Gang War Erupts On West Side

By Ed Brown

A real massive gang war broke out on the Westside Sunday bringing armed violence to an otherwise quiet community.

The "war" was the end result of four gangs involved with each seeking domination of PCP trade through the use of fear. Neighborhood children were being duped into assisting by creating

large scale disturbances when police would appear.

The chosen battleground was a 10-square block section around the Gerson Park area bounded by Highland, Lake Mead, Comstock and Balzar, where the alleged "drug warehouses" were located by each of the gangs.

Jere Vanek, assistant sheriff in charge of

Metro's specialized operations said at a Monday afternoon news conference that the "war" was being fought by 45 persons belonging to the Shelby Gang, the Graves Brothers, the Williams Gang and the Maxey Faction.

Shortly after 8 p.m. Sunday, an unmarked Metro unit responded to a burglary call near Gerson Park and was ambushed by several per-

sons wielding rifles & shotguns. Officers Alexander Siciano and John Nicholson were not injured. However, one of the blasts ripped a foot-wide hole through the car's rear window.

"Around 10:45 p.m.," Vanek said, "a Metro patrol unit responding to a vehicle fire at 1500 McGuire Drive became the target as Officers Wayne Christ and Alfredo Cervantes at-

tempted to escort an arrested person to their car. During the heavy volley of gunfire, the handcuffed prisoner escaped."

A few minutes later, Samuel Watson, 27, and 23 year old Melvin Watson checked into Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital's emergency room with gunshot wounds they claimed were sustained as they were walking

past the Gerson Apartments on McGuire Drive.

Metro Police and North Las Vegas law enforcement officials pooled their resources Monday to help quell the violence.

A Metro command post set up nearby was lifted at about 3:15 a.m. Monday.

Shortly after noon Monday, activity resumed with bullets  
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