I. Introduction
A. Justification for identifying crimes and other situations in which criminal gang members are involved is based on research that clearly indicates criminal gang members commit a disproportionately higher level of serious crimes than other persons. Accurate information regarding criminal gang involvement in criminal activities assists in investigating criminal acts and provides a realistic assessment of the severity of crime related to these groups.

B. The Strategic Response Bureau’s (SRB) Criminal Information Unit (CIU) investigates and compiles intelligence information on known criminal gangs and other groups who may be defined as a criminal gang.

C. The Terrorism Early Warning (TEW) Unit investigates and compiles intelligence information on terrorist groups.

II. Definitions
A. Criminal Gang, as defined by ORC Section 2923.41
1. A group of three or more persons to which all of the following apply:
   a. One of the primary activities is the commission of one or more of the following offenses:
      (1) Felony
      (2) Offense of violence
      (3) Sexual conduct with children
      (4) Criminal damaging or endangering
      (5) Aggravated trespassing
      (6) Failure to disperse
      (7) Interference with custody
      (8) Contributing to unruliness or delinquency
      (9) Intimidation of a crime victim or witness
      (10) Improper handling of a firearm
      (11) Drug trafficking offense
      (12) Ethnic intimidation
b. It has a common name or one or more common identifying signs, symbols or colors.

c. The persons involved individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity. A pattern of criminal gang activity exists if all of the following apply:
   (1) At least one of the two or more offenses is a felony.
   (2) At least one of those two or more offenses occurred on or after January 1, 1999.
   (3) The last of those two or more offenses occurred within five years after at least one of those offenses.
   (4) The two or more offenses are committed on separate occasions or by two or more persons.

B. Criminal Gang Member
1. The following criteria, listed in descending order of relative importance, identify an individual as a criminal gang member. At least two must apply. The establishing criteria must be verified within two years of the last date that such person was documented as a criminal gang member.
   b. Documented involvement in criminal activity with known criminal gang members.
   c. Tattoos, branding, or scarring of skin with symbols or signs associated with a criminal gang.
   d. Display of clothing, colors, symbols or signs associated with a criminal gang.
   e. Information received from an informant or other source corroborated by further investigation.
   f. Frequent, documented association with known criminal gang members.

C. Criminal Gang Associate
An individual who has had recurring interactions likely linked to criminal gang activity with documented criminal gang members of a recognized criminal gang, but has not completely met the needed criteria to become a fully documented criminal gang member.

D. Criminal Gang Coordinators
Sworn personnel assigned throughout the Division who have received specialized training on criminal gangs. They are responsible for identifying criminal gang members and related activity in their respective areas and facilitating a flow of information to and from SRB and TEW.
III. Policy Statements
A. If a situation dictates an immediate response, the initiating sworn personnel or a Criminal Gang Coordinator shall contact CIU or TEW, as appropriate. Personnel should make immediate contact with SRB in cases where the response of a Criminal Gang Coordinator may be desired. SRB will then decide if an immediate response is necessary.

B. Criminal Gang Coordinators may respond to situations where criminal gang activity has occurred to assist other sworn personnel with their investigations.

C. The list of Criminal Gang Coordinators shall be maintained by the CIU Sergeant.

IV. Procedures
A. Sworn personnel encountering criminal gang activity or identifying a potential criminal gang member or associate:
   1. Advise the individual of the reason for the stop. Complete the Criminal Gang Identifier, form U-10.165 and a NetRMS Field Interview Report.
   2. Forward the completed Criminal Gang Identifier form to CIU or TEW, as appropriate.
   3. Include a copy of the Arrest Information, form U-10.100, when a suspected criminal gang member or associate is arrested.

B. CIU/TEW:
   1. Review the Criminal Gang Identifier form and take appropriate action.
   2. Return the form to the originating personnel if additional information is requested.