



## Riverhead urges crime crackdown

BY MITCHELL FREEDMAN

[mitch.freedman@newsday.com](mailto:mitch.freedman@newsday.com)

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Sparked in part by two probable **gang**-related shootings in less than two months, Riverhead officials have asked the Suffolk district attorney's office and county police to help mount a coordinated law enforcement effort in its downtown business district.

A similar crime sweep in November 2005 resulted in 122 arrests, including 28 gang members who were picked up for various crimes, according to Riverhead Police Chief David Hegermiller.

Riverhead Supervisor Phil Cardinale, who called a news conference in town hall Tuesday to talk about the town's anti-gang initiatives, said gang activity in Riverhead probably isn't any different than in other parts of Long Island, but that everything is magnified in a smaller town.

Among the incidents, an 18-year-old was shot in the arm while he was walking in downtown Riverhead two weeks ago, and a 16-year-old was later arrested and charged with first-degree assault.

The town supervisor said a series of initiatives -- including an ongoing effort with county police, the Riverhead school district and the county sheriffs' office coordinated by the not-for-profit Council for Unity -- were all being aimed at reducing gang activity in the town. Cardinale said he hoped to get an answer in the next few weeks from the district attorney and county officials about a stepped up law enforcement effort.

Town police, for example, give a regular gang orientation program in public school classes, while the town is trying to form a Youth Advisory Board to help determine what it can do to create new youth programs.

Also Tuesday, Cardinale introduced Donna Lyczkowski, executive director of the newly created town youth bureau, and Beth Maccagli, who replaced her as a youth counselor with the Riverhead Police Juvenile Aid Bureau.