

CAMPAIGN PACK 03

THE
AVENUE

A Central Avenue territory pack for Gang Squad

Edition 01 · Set in 1947–1953

GANG SQUAD // CAMPAIGN PACK // A5

The Squad does not have jurisdiction on Central Avenue. The 77th Street Division does, and the 77th Street Division is part of the problem. Cohen's Sunset operation is moving on the Avenue's Black-owned policy banks. Cleveland has authorized. The Squad's mandate is interdicting threats faction security can't acknowledge, and faction security here is the LAPD itself.

Local pressure rule. The Wrong Badge. D66 contacts. The Numbers War as the Combination arc. The Bookmaker's Last Stand as the Final Operation. Bloody Christmas of December 24, 1951 as the natural campaign endpoint.

Local pressure // The Wrong Badge // The Numbers War
For Gang Squad: A Solo Interdict Engine

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START HERE

Campaign procedures for Gang Squad. The case is still Gang Squad. The Avenue is what changes.

The Avenue is a campaign pack for Gang Squad. It gives Central Avenue and Black Los Angeles enough local pressure, contacts, faction memory, and arc material to carry a solo detective through a full campaign in a neighborhood the Squad does not have jurisdiction in but increasingly has cause to interdict.

Use the core Gang Squad rules for the case engine. This book tells you what those rules look like when the Squad is wrong-coloured for the Avenue, when the LAPD division that does have jurisdiction is part of the threat, and when Cohen's Sunset operation has decided to take over the Black-owned policy banks that have anchored Avenue economic life since the war.

WHAT YOU NEED AT THE DESK

- The Gang Squad core rules.
- One detective and their Code.
- One Job Index Card for the active case.
- One Campaign Record for everything that carries forward.
- This book open to whichever chapter has the table you need.

WHAT THIS BOOK ADDS

The Avenue adds local consequences to normal Gang Squad play. Three actions per session. Threat Clock ticks down. Heat rises. Interdict resolves in three beats.

Use local rules when the case needs a face, a cost, a location, or a consequence:

- Roll local sources when you need someone to LEAN.
- Roll contact complications when a source should cost more than a single roll.
- Use The Wrong Badge when a Squad action triggers Avenue distrust or 77th Street interference.
- Use faction clocks when the 77th Street Division, the policy operators, the California Eagle, or Cohen's Sunset operation begins remembering the detective.
- Use the Numbers War chapter when a case touches Cohen's takeover of the Avenue's Black-owned policy banks.

STARTING AN AVENUE CAMPAIGN

1. Build or choose a Gang Squad detective.
2. Write a Code that can be tested by a 77th Street captain on the take and by a Black bookmaker who knows the Squad will leave him to be eaten by Cohen if it serves the Squad's larger purpose.
3. Set Territory to Central Avenue instead of rolling Step 5.
4. Roll the rest of the Job Generator normally.
5. Start Familiarity at 0.
6. Write three faction clocks: LAPD 77th Street Division (the local LAPD is part of the obstacle), Cohen's Sunset operation (the Combination's local arm), and the Avenue's Black-owned policy banks. Add a fourth when the case touches the California Eagle, the NAACP, or the Bureau.
7. Set Combination stage to None unless the case shows one of the signs listed under When to Use the Combination Arc.

READING THE AVENUE

The territory has four operating zones, all within a fifteen-block stretch.

The Avenue itself is South Central, the spine, running from 12th Street south through 41st and beyond. Black-owned businesses, the Eagle, the Dunbar, the Lincoln, the Club Alabam.

The Side Streets are the residential blocks east and west of the Avenue. Restrictive covenants legally barred Black ownership elsewhere in the city until *Shelley v. Kraemer* (1948) and informal enforcement continued.

Watts is south. Industrial, working-class, the Watts Towers under construction by Sabato Rodia through this entire period.

The Stations are the two LAPD divisions whose territory touches the Avenue: 77th Street Division (south) and Newton Street Division (north). Both have known reputations for racial harassment, arrest, and worse. Reform-era Chief Parker (from August 1950) is more disciplined than his predecessors and no less openly racist; Bloody Christmas of December 24, 1951 happens at Central Jail, on his watch.

When an action crosses these zones — or when the Squad shows itself as not-77th-Street — the case should feel more exposed. That is what The Wrong Badge is for.

WHEN TO USE THE COMBINATION ARC

Do not start every Avenue case with the Numbers War. Let ordinary jobs exist: a Cohen lieutenant doing a hit on a Dragna man at the Club Alabam; a 77th Street raid on an after-hours place that needs to not happen tonight; a federal warrant on a numbers operator the Squad would like to interdict before the federal warrant lands; a sailor bar fight that crossed from the Pike onto the Avenue and produced a body.

Bring in the Numbers War when the case produces one of these signs:

- Cohen's people visiting an Avenue policy bank operator with an offer.
- A Black bookmaker's enforcer killed in a manner that suggests an out-of-town shooter.
- A 77th Street raid on a Black bookmaker that conveniently softens the bookmaker for a Cohen takeover.
- A Cleveland accent in a back booth at the Club Alabam.
- A federal informant inside Cohen's organization with information about the Avenue.
- A source who knows the phrase "the Avenue is being consolidated."

FIRST JOB ADVICE

Let the first Avenue job be local. A clean opener: a Cohen-side button man hitting a Black enforcer at 4 a.m. behind Brother's; a 77th Street raid scheduled for Tuesday on the Last Word that the Squad has been told to let happen; a federal warrant on Black Dot McGee that the Squad would like to delay; a witness to a Dragna-Cohen meeting who has just walked into the Eagle's office.

WHAT TO TRACK

At the end of every job, update the Campaign Record: close type, casualties, Heat reset, Strain, Code Crossed, faction clocks, contact statuses, Familiarity, Combination Intel.

Track casualties with extra care here. The Squad's casualty count includes Avenue residents who died because the Squad was working a Cohen case and not their case. The Squad's mandate does not include protecting the Avenue from the LAPD that polices it.

01/

THE AVENUE

The Squad does not police the Avenue. The 77th Street Division does. Both are wrong men in the wrong neighborhood.

This chapter turns Central Avenue into local procedures for Gang Squad cases. Use it when the active job happens on the Avenue, on the Side Streets, in Watts, or at the LAPD divisions whose territory touches it.

Canon stance: Central Avenue is the spine of Black Los Angeles. The Black-owned policy banks (Stuff Crawford, Black Dot McGee, others) have anchored the community's informal economic life since before the war. Cohen's Sunset operation, with Cleveland's authorization, begins moving on those banks in 1948. The 77th Street Division of the LAPD polices the Avenue as an occupier, takes payoffs from the policy operators it can extort and from any Cohen lieutenant who arrives with cash, and is openly racist in a manner Chief Parker (from August 1950) modernizes without softening. The Squad has no jurisdiction here. The Squad has authority only because nobody else with authority is willing to interdict Cohen's takeover. The Squad's presence on the Avenue is itself an institutional intrusion that may produce as much harm as it interdicts.

HOW TO USE THIS CHAPTER

Use this chapter when Step 5 Territory is Central Avenue. It replaces the single territory texture line with local Heat variants, sources, contacts, faction clocks, Interdict rooms, and aftermath.

TERRITORY PREMISE

The Squad is the wrong unit for the Avenue. The Squad's mandate is interdicting threats faction security can't acknowledge. On the Avenue, faction security is the threat — the 77th Street Division is on the take, runs harassment campaigns, and protects whoever pays. Cohen's people are arriving. The Avenue's Black-owned operators are defending themselves with what they have, which is community standing and a small enforcement capacity.

The work here is reading whose authority matters when, in a neighborhood the Squad has no authority in. The detective who walks in expecting the Avenue to recognize a badge does badly. The detective who walks in expecting that being recognizably not-77th-Street is the most useful thing about being Squad closes cases.

LOCAL PRESSURE RULE: THE WRONG BADGE

The Squad is white men with badges in a neighborhood that knows white men with badges only as harm. The badge does not produce cooperation. The badge produces friction.

On the Avenue, every LEAN starts at +1 tier harder than the source's published threshold — the source has every reason to assume the Squad's questions are part of a 77th Street operation. This penalty is removed if the Squad detective is accompanied by a Loyal Avenue contact in the fiction, or if the Squad has demonstrably acted against 77th Street in the past three cases.

Additionally, the first failed action at any Avenue location each case marks +2 Heat instead of +1. The Avenue notices Squad presence; the Avenue talks; word reaches the Eagle, the operators, and the 77th Street Division within hours.

If the Squad's action would benefit Cohen at the expense of the Avenue's Black operators — even incidentally — mark +1 Strain regardless of close type.

TERRITORY FAMILIARITY

FAMILI- ARITY	EFFECT
1	Once per case, identify whether a source is Avenue-aligned, 77th Street-tied, Cohen-tied, or independent before LEAN. If the source is independent, LEAN is one tier easier.
3	You know one Avenue policy operator by name and what he owes you. Once per case, ignore The Wrong Badge penalty on a single LEAN.
5	Avenue Memory. Heat 3 triggers at Heat 4 here. Once per case, turn a failed STAKE on the Avenue into a mixed result: no Hard Fact, but gain a Lead and mark +1 Heat.

LOCAL HEAT VARIANTS

HEAT VARIANT

- 3** **The Avenue knows.** Word reaches the Eagle and the operators in a morning. First LEAN at any Avenue establishment +1 tier harder.
-
- 5** **77th Street takes interest.** The Division's captain wants to know what the Squad is doing in his territory. If you make any cross-zone action into the Side Streets or Watts, lose 1 Lead at session start.
-
- 7** **Direct confrontation.** A 77th Street unit arrives at the Squad's current location. The Threat Clock ticks once now and worsens one contact's status. At later session starts, the Avenue stays watching but the Clock does not tick again from this row.
-
- 9** **Captain's call.** A 77th Street captain calls the Squad's Sergeant. The Sergeant calls the detective. All LEAN thresholds increase one tier; cross-zone actions cost a Lead or +1 Suspicion.
-

D6 LOCAL SOURCE ARCHETYPES

D6 SOURCE

- 1 An Avenue policy bank operator who would prefer the Squad as a problem over Cohen as an owner. Knows what Cohen's people have offered. Wants his bank intact.
 - 2 A Black 77th Street patrolman who has watched the captains take envelopes for ten years. Knows whose envelopes go where. Wants a transfer to West Valley.
 - 3 An Eagle reporter who knows what the Squad is on the Avenue for and who has already filed a paragraph in case it goes wrong. Wants the column run before the LAPD writes the official version.
 - 4 A Cohen lieutenant working the Avenue. Knows the offers, the meeting locations, the pressure schedule. Wants Cohen to listen to him on a different matter.
 - 5 A Lincoln Theater stagehand who saw the Cleveland man arrive for a meeting at the Carousel. Knows the meeting details. Wants to keep his union scale.
 - 6 A church deacon at Second Baptist whose congregation includes both an operator and an operator's enforcer. Knows whose families are under pressure. Wants the community held together.
-

D6 LOCAL CONTACT COMPLICATIONS

D6 COMPLICATION

- 1** The contact arrives with a 77th Street patrolman shadow they did not call. LEAN normally; any failure marks +2 Heat.
 - 2** The contact will only talk while working: gathering numbers receipts, changing reels at the Lincoln, walking the Side Streets. Lose one action or take the information at +1 tier harder.
 - 3** The contact has a Cohen sponsor. Accepting their help marks +1 Cohen Leverage. Refusing makes the next Cohen-tied source unavailable.
 - 4** The contact wants Charlotta Bass to know what they told you. If you don't relay it before next session, worsen their status.
 - 5** The contact is testing whether you are Squad, 77th Street, FBI, or Cohen-side. Spend 1 Lead to answer convincingly or LEAN at Hard minimum.
 - 6** The contact is right but compromised. Gain the clue; mark +1 Suspicion with the faction that can burn them.
-

D6 POSTURE MANIFESTATIONS

D6 MANIFESTATION

- 1 **Underground.** The target moves into the 77th Street basement under protective custody. Threat Clock +1; next STAKE +1 tier (apply as die-roll modifier if at Extreme).
 - 2 **Accelerate.** The takeover meeting is moved up. Cohen's lieutenant arrives at the Carousel forty-eight hours sooner. Threat Clock -2.
 - 3 **Split.** Cohen splits the takeover across multiple operators simultaneously. The Asset anatomy resets face-down.
 - 4 **Fortify.** Cohen's Sunset lawyers arrive on the Avenue. Capability +1 tier; Outfit-Backed becomes Untouchable.
 - 5 **Set Up.** A 77th Street unit waits at the Squad's next session location. Heat +2.
 - 6 **Pull the Trigger.** An Avenue operator is shot at the Last Word at midnight. Threat Clock -2 and the Interdict room shifts to the Last Word.
-

D6 LOCAL CODE TESTS

D6 TEST

- 1 A Black operator offers a name from inside Cohen's organization in exchange for the Squad protecting his bank from Cohen. Accepting commits the Squad to a project larger than this case. Refusing costs the name.
 - 2 The fastest Interdict route runs through a Side Street home where children are in the front room. Sealing the door gives +2 to one roll. Refusing costs the approach advantage.
 - 3 The 77th Street captain offers a clean warrant if the Squad identifies its Avenue source. Accept +2 to one roll and burn the contact after the case.
 - 4 An Avenue resident who was beaten by 77th Street last month is also a witness to the Cohen meeting. Saving them from another beating costs one Tactical Token; ignoring them keeps the Interdict clean.
 - 5 The Cohen target is in a room with Black women working the night shift. Suppression is easier without discrimination. The Code says you do not work that way.
 - 6 Your Sergeant tells you the Squad prefers a Partial Stop because the Combination thread matters more than this case's casualties on the Avenue.
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D6 LOCAL INTERDICT ROOMS

D6 ROOM

- 1 The back room of an Avenue policy bank at 2 a.m., the operator at his desk, a Cohen lieutenant standing in the doorway.
- 2 The 77th Street Division captain's office at midnight, the captain pretending to be on a phone call.
- 3 The Last Word jazz club after closing, the chairs upside down, a body already on the floor.
- 4 A Side Street home's kitchen, the family in the next room.
- 5 The Club Alabam back booth at 4 a.m., the Cleveland man finishing his coffee and standing up to leave.
- 6 The Carousel haberdashery's Sunset back room, the meeting moved here because nobody on Cohen's side wanted to be on the Avenue when it happened.

FACTION PRESENCE

LAPD 77TH STREET DIVISION

Suspicion 3: 77th Street has the Squad's name on a memo. First WALK on the Avenue or Side Streets +1 tier harder.

Suspicion 5: A captain calls the Squad's Sergeant directly. Failed PULLs at city records mark +1 additional Heat.

Suspicion 6: An internal LAPD investigation opens. Mark +1 Strain. Reset Suspicion to 3.

Leverage 3: A 77th Street detective offers parallel intel.

Leverage 5: A captain wants the Squad to drop a case in exchange for a closed file.

Leverage 6: A captain calls in a favor before the next Interdict.

COHEN'S SUNSET OPERATION (AVENUE ARM)

Suspicion 3: A Cohen lieutenant working the Avenue knows the Squad is on him. First LEAN at any Cohen-tied source +1 tier harder.

Suspicion 5: Cohen calls his Avenue lieutenant home. Lose 1 Lead at session start in any Avenue scene.

Suspicion 6: Cohen sends a Cleveland man to deal with the Squad personally. Burn one Avenue contact.

Leverage 3: A Cohen man offers a name from inside Dragna's San Pedro crew in exchange for letting the Avenue takeover proceed.

Leverage 5: Cohen wants to identify the Squad's mole on the Avenue.

Leverage 6: Cohen demands the Squad leave the Avenue for a case.

THE AVENUE'S POLICY OPERATORS

Suspicion 3: The operators know the Squad is here. First LEAN at any policy operation +1 tier harder.

Suspicion 5: A bank closes for a session, citing maintenance. Lose access to one Avenue location.

Suspicion 6: The operators ask the Squad to leave the Avenue for a week.

Leverage 3: An operator offers a name from inside Cohen's operation.

Leverage 5: The operators want the Squad to interdict a specific Cohen meeting.

Leverage 6: The operators demand a guarantee the Squad will not let Cohen take their banks.

THE CALIFORNIA EAGLE (CHARLOTTA BASS)

Suspicion 3: Bass has questions about the Squad's presence. PRESS at any Eagle reporter +1 tier harder.

Suspicion 5: A column runs about the Squad on the Avenue.

Suspicion 6: Bass writes that the Squad is on the wrong side. Reset Suspicion to 3 and mark +1 Strain.

Leverage 3: An Eagle reporter offers parallel investigation on a Cohen meeting.

Leverage 5: Bass wants the case file when the Squad is done.

Leverage 6: Bass calls in a favor before the Interdict.

THE BUREAU (FBI LA OFFICE)

Suspicion 3: The Bureau has filed the Squad's Avenue work. First PULL on federal records +1 tier harder.

Suspicion 5: A Special Agent tails the Squad detective for two sessions.

Suspicion 6: Hoover's office writes a letter. Reset Suspicion to 3 and mark +1 Strain.

Leverage 3: A Special Agent offers parallel surveillance on Cohen's Avenue arm.

Leverage 5: The Bureau wants Cohen on tax evasion before the Squad gets him on anything else.

Leverage 6: The Bureau requires the Squad's mole's identity.

FINAL OPERATION SEED: THE BOOKMAKER'S LAST STAND

Use this when the Numbers War reaches Stage 5 and the player declares the campaign's last job. The natural campaign endpoint is December 24, 1951 — Bloody Christmas at Central Jail — with the Bookmaker's Last Stand running in the days before.

Title: The Bookmaker's Last Stand.

Job Type: Coordinated Attack (the Hit) or Crew Job (Network Operation).

Tempo: In Progress if the takeover meeting is already in motion; otherwise Fast.

Capability: Outfit-Backed (Extreme 6+); Untouchable (Sealed 7+) if the Combination clock is at Architect.

Trajectory: Imminent.

Territory: An Avenue policy bank's back room, with command routing through Cohen's Carousel and authorization key in Cleveland.

Posture: Fortify or Pull the Trigger.

Anatomy seeds: the Operator is a Cleveland-import button man hired to either kill the Avenue operator or witness his "voluntary" sale; the Asset is the operator's bank ledger; the Trigger is the signed transfer document the Cleveland man arrives with.

Interdict room: The back room of the policy bank, with the operator at his desk, the Cleveland man across from him, and the operator's enforcer at the door.

Code test: Saving the operator's life means the Squad is now committed to defending the Avenue's Black-owned banks against Cohen's continued takeover. Letting the takeover happen means the Squad has done its institutional job (interdicting a Combination operation) by allowing the local outcome to harm the Avenue.

Clean Stop: The Cleveland man is interdicted before signing. The operator survives. The Cleveland authorizer is named in the Squad's file. The Avenue policy banks survive Cohen's takeover for at least eighteen months.

Stop: The takeover is stopped, but the operator is wounded or his enforcer is killed. The Avenue policy banks survive in weakened form.

Partial Stop: The takeover is halted at this bank but Cohen's people return next quarter. The operator agrees to "partner" with Cohen.

Failed Intercept: The takeover succeeds. The operator either signs or dies; either way, Cohen's people own the bank within forty-eight hours. Casualty roll: 2d6 (the operator, his enforcer, the Cleveland man, civilians at the bank).

Failed, Hostile: Cohen retaliates against the Squad. The Squad's Avenue mole is killed. 77th Street files harassment paperwork. The Avenue's policy banks consolidate under Cohen within the year. Mark +2 Strain. End the campaign at Bloody Christmas.

CLOSE-TYPE AFTERMATH

CLOSE

AVENUE CHANGES

Clean Stop

An Avenue route or contact becomes reliable. Improve one local contact one status step. The Eagle prints a paragraph that may help or hurt.

Stop

The threat is stopped, but the Avenue notices the Squad's presence. Mark +1 Leverage with the faction whose route or source mattered most.

Partial Stop

A surviving element relocates. Next Avenue case starts at Heat 4 and one familiar source is unavailable.

Failed Intercept

The threat executes. A faction writes the official story. Heat resets to 6 next case; choose Cohen, 77th Street, or the Eagle to mark Suspicion +2.

Failed, Hostile

Counter-action hits the contact network. Burn one Avenue contact or drop Familiarity by 1. Add +1 Strain.

NAMED CANON CONTACTS FOR IMMEDIATE USE

CONTACT	WHAT THEY KNOW	WHAT THEY FEAR	WHAT THEY WANT	WHO CAN BURN THEM
Mickey Cohen	Strip operations, Avenue takeover plans, the LAPD captains on the take.	A federal indictment.	The Avenue policy banks under Cohen control by 1951.	Dragna or the FBI.
A 77th Street Division captain (no name on the file)	Every Avenue case the Division has buried since 1944.	Charlotta Bass naming him.	Three more years to retirement.	Bass.
"Stuff" Crawford, Avenue policy operator	Where the policy money is and what Cohen's people have offered.	Cohen's people taking the bank.	The bank in his hands.	Cohen.

CONTACT	WHAT THEY KNOW	WHAT THEY FEAR	WHAT THEY WANT	WHO CAN BURN THEM
<p>"Black Dot" McGee, policy operator</p>	<p>Operations west of the Avenue, the daily tally.</p>	<p>A 77th Street raid that takes the office.</p>	<p>His operation autonomous.</p>	<p>77th Street or Cohen</p>
<p>Charlotta Bass, California Eagle</p>	<p>Every unsolved Black-victim case since 1944, plus what the Squad is here for.</p>	<p>The Eagle being shuttered.</p>	<p>The Avenue protected from both Cohen and the LAPD.</p>	<p>The federal government.</p>
<p>Sgt. Jerry Wooters, Gangster Squad</p>	<p>What the Squad's wires have on Cohen's Avenue plans.</p>	<p>His partner getting hit during an Avenue operation.</p>	<p>The takeover stopped.</p>	<p>Sgt. O'Mar</p>

02/

THE NUMBERS WAR

Cohen wants the Black-owned policy banks. Cleveland authorized. The Squad has to decide whose autonomy is worth a body.

This chapter gives the Avenue a five-stage Combination arc tracking Cohen's takeover of the Avenue's Black-owned policy banks between 1948 and 1950. Use it when ordinary cases begin pointing above Cohen at the Cleveland authorization that is driving consolidation of Avenue numbers and policy operations into the Combination's national network.

Canon stance: Black-owned policy banks operated on the Avenue from the 1930s through the late 1940s as autonomous institutions of community finance, lending money where banks would not, providing employment, and remitting profits inside the community. Cohen's Sunset operation, with Cleveland's authorization, decides in 1948 to consolidate them. By 1950 several major operators have been killed, sold under duress, or driven out. The Squad's mandate to interdict threats faction security can't acknowledge applies here in a complicated way: faction security (the LAPD 77th Street Division) actively assists Cohen's takeover by raiding the operators when convenient. The Squad is the only LA institution that can interdict.

HOW TO USE THIS CHAPTER

Start the Numbers War arc after any Networked-or-higher case on the Avenue that involves a Cohen lieutenant approaching a Black operator, a 77th Street raid timed conveniently for Cohen's takeover schedule, a Cleveland accent on the Avenue, or a federal informant inside Cohen's operation with information about the Avenue.

THE ARC

Title: The Numbers War.

Core question: Can the Squad interdict Cohen's takeover of the Avenue's Black-owned policy banks before Cleveland reroutes the operation through 77th Street's continuing harassment?

What the player first sees: a Cohen lieutenant in a back booth at the Club Alabam meeting with someone who isn't a Cohen man and isn't Avenue. A 77th Street Vice raid on Stuff Crawford's policy bank that recovers nothing usable but produces a hospitalized enforcer. A Cleveland man at the Hotel Stillwater who is not registered as Cleveland.

STAGE 1: SOLDIER

Pressure. A Cohen lieutenant works the Avenue. He's not from Cohen's usual crew. He's been tasked with one thing.

Source. A Lincoln Theater stagehand, an Avenue policy bank runner, a 77th Street patrolman who is Black, an Eagle reporter.

Clue. The lieutenant is making offers. Cash plus partnership with the Sunset Strip operation in exchange for transferring a bank's customer book.

Complication. The first operator approached has already refused once. Cohen's people don't take refusal as final.

STAGE 2: CREW

Pressure. Cohen's Avenue arm now includes more than one lieutenant. There is a coordination room. There is a list of operators ranked by which is most pressureable.

Source. A Cohen lawyer who has just figured out the project's scale, a federal informant inside the Sunset operation, a Black operator who has accepted partnership and now regrets it.

Clue. The list of operators is in chronological order: who Cohen wants this quarter, next quarter, and the quarter after. The list ends with Stuff Crawford.

Complication. The Squad's mole is at the bottom of the list. Pressure to consolidate accelerates the timetable on the mole's exposure.

STAGE 3: JOB

Pressure. The next takeover meeting has a date. Cohen's people will arrive at a specified Avenue policy bank's back room with a Cleveland-authorized signature card.

Source. A Cohen lieutenant who has been excluded from the meeting (this is suspicious; Cohen is preparing to replace him), a 77th Street Vice captain who has been told the meeting is happening and has been told to stay off the Avenue that night, a Cleveland man at the Hotel Stillwater whose name is not Cleveland.

Clue. The Cleveland authorization is real. The Combination has decided that the Avenue's banks are an asset they want absorbed into the national policy network.

Complication. The Squad learning means the Squad acting. Acting on the Avenue means the 77th Street Division learning. The 77th Street Division learning means a hostile faction inside the LAPD itself.

STAGE 4: FAMILY

Pressure. Cohen takes orders from Cleveland on this. Cleveland is operating from a national plan: consolidate Black-owned policy operations under the Combination by 1953 across the country. Cohen is the western executor. The plan was authored by a Cleveland captain whose name appears in the Brentwood Bombing intelligence the Squad already has.

Source. A retired Combination accountant, a Bureau Special Agent with audio surveillance from Cleveland, a Cohen lawyer who knows what the bigger picture means for his own family.

Clue. The same Cleveland authorization line that drives the Brentwood Bombing also drives the Avenue takeover. The Squad's Cohen Takedown campaign and the Avenue campaign share an authorizing party.

Complication. Stopping the Avenue takeover does not stop the national plan. It only delays the LA leg.

STAGE 5: COMBINATION

Pressure. The national wire is a real thing. The Squad cannot prosecute Cleveland from Los Angeles. The Bureau will not. The Final Operation is a partial close at best on the larger structure.

Source. A Bureau intelligence officer with authority above the LA office's clearance, a captured Cleveland man who will name names, a retired Combination figure on the witness-protection equivalent of the era.

Clue. The Final Operation must decide what closes: the immediate takeover, the Cleveland authorizer, or the institution within the LAPD that has been assisting Cohen on the Avenue.

Complication. The LAPD will not police itself. The Squad cannot prosecute the LAPD. The Final Operation either preserves the Avenue's autonomous institutions for one more cycle or it does not. It will not solve the structural problem.

D6 NUMBERS WAR-TAGGED SOURCES

D6 SOURCE

- 1 A Cleveland man at the Hotel Stillwater on a thirty-day clock.
 - 2 A Cohen lieutenant who has been excluded from the takeover briefings.
 - 3 A federal Special Agent with parallel authority and a different ending in mind.
 - 4 An Avenue policy bank runner who has watched the pressure schedule for months.
 - 5 A Cohen lawyer who has just figured out what consolidation means for him.
 - 6 A captured Cleveland button man who will name his authorizer in exchange for his family's safety.
-

D6 FALSE NUMBERS WAR LEADS

D6 FALSE LEAD

- 1 The Dragna lead. Dragna is hostile to Cohen but does not coordinate with Cleveland on Avenue operations.
 - 2 The 77th Street alone theory. 77th Street is corrupt but is not authoring the takeover; they are riding it.
 - 3 The Bureau setup theory. The Bureau is watching, not driving.
 - 4 The Cohen-himself theory. Cohen is greedy, but he is taking orders, not giving them on this corridor.
 - 5 The Detroit angle. Real Detroit interest in policy consolidation, but Cleveland authorized.
 - 6 The New York theory. New York approved, but Cleveland authorized.
-

D6 NUMBERS WAR ESCALATION

D6 ESCALATION

- 1 A Cleveland import arrives at the Hotel Stillwater. Next case starts with a tagged source available and Heat +1.
- 2 A federal informant names the Squad's mole inside Cohen's organization. Gain +1 Web Intel; mark +1 Strain.
- 3 An Avenue policy bank operator is wounded in a 77th Street raid that produces no charges. The operator is hospitalized.
- 4 The Bureau moves a covert unit onto the Avenue. One route becomes safer; one Avenue contact becomes watched.
- 5 Charlotta Bass writes a column naming "the Squad's interest" in Avenue numbers operations. Mark +1 Strain.
- 6 An Outfit captain arrives in town. Add a new faction clock at Suspicion 2 and Leverage 0.

D6 NUMBERS WAR AFTERMATH

D6 AFTERMATH

- 1 A Combination ledger fragment survives. Gain +1 Web Intel if you can keep it off the Bureau's desk for one case.
- 2 A contact dreams someone else's memory: a Cleveland street name, a phrase. Mark them Compromised or gain a tagged source.
- 3 The Avenue's pulse changes. Familiarity +1 if you ask the right church deacon what changed.
- 4 Cohen offers to buy silence. Accept Leverage +2 or refuse for Suspicion +1 and +1 Web Intel.
- 5 An operator survives clean and becomes a cooperating witness for one case.
- 6 The Pipeline, or something using its access, survives in another arrangement (Vegas, Tampa). The next related case starts Networked minimum.

THE FINAL OPERATION: THE BOOKMAKER'S LAST STAND

Run the Bookmaker's Last Stand per CH.01's seed. Capability is Outfit-Backed at minimum, Untouchable if the Combination clock is at Stage 5. The natural campaign endpoint is December 24, 1951 — Bloody Christmas.

Code test: You can stop the takeover by sealing the operator's bank against Cohen's people, but only if the Squad has at least 4 Tactical Tokens. Trying to save the operator's enforcer without spending 2 Tactical Tokens takes -1 to Resolve.

Clean Stop: The Cleveland man is interdicted. The operator survives with his bank. The Cleveland authorizer is named in the Squad's file. The Avenue policy banks survive Cohen's takeover for at least eighteen months.

Stop: The takeover is stopped, but the operator is wounded. Cohen's lieutenant escapes. The Avenue policy banks survive in weakened form.

Partial Stop: The takeover is halted at this bank but Cohen's people return next quarter. The operator agrees to "partner" with Cohen.

Failed Intercept: The takeover succeeds. The operator either signs or dies. Cohen's people own the bank within forty-eight hours. The other Avenue operators consolidate under Cohen by 1953.

Failed, Hostile: Cohen retaliates against the Squad. The Squad's Avenue mole is killed. 77th Street files harassment paperwork. Bloody Christmas of December 24, 1951 follows within the campaign year. Mark +2 Strain.

CONTINUING WITH A NEW DETECTIVE

A replacement detective inherits the open Combination stage, one burned or missing contact, one institutional Suspicion clock at 3, and one physical artifact: a Cleveland matchbook, a list of operators in chronological pressure order, an Eagle reporter's notebook page. They do not inherit the prior detective's Familiarity unless a surviving Avenue contact briefs them; if so, start Familiarity 1 and mark that contact Afraid.

The casualty count from the prior detective stays on the prior file. The new detective starts at 0. The Combination does not. Bloody Christmas comes whether the Squad is ready or not.

03/

AVENUE CONTACTS

Sixty-six names. Some at the Eagle. Some at the Carousel. Some on both watch lists.

Reusable contact material for Central Avenue and Black Los Angeles, from the Squad's perspective. Roll D66 when you need a named contact, a contact replacement, or a source with local obligations.

D66 CONTACTS

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
11	Mickey Cohen	The Avenue takeover plan and the Cleveland authorization.	A federal indictment.	The Avenue policy banks under Cohen control by 1951.	Dragna or the FBI.
12	Johnny Stompanato	Cohen's Avenue lieutenant rotation.	Lana Turner's mother.	A studio contract.	Cohen.
13	Cohen's Avenue lieutenant (composite)	The takeover schedule and which operators are next.	Cohen replacing him.	To not be the one who delivers bad news to Cleveland.	Cohen.
14	A Cleveland man at the Hotel Stillwater	The Combination's national policy plan.	His thirty-day clock running out before the takeover closes.	The signature card signed and a flight home.	The Combination.
15	An Outfit accountant in Pasadena (retired)	The Combination's books from 1946 to '48.	Anyone from the old crew finding him.	Quiet.	The Combination.
16	Mike Howard, Cohen's lawyer	Every Avenue contract Cohen has had drafted.	His name in the federal file.	An LA practice without criminal work.	The DA.

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
21	A 77th Street Division captain	Every Avenue case the Division has buried since 1944, and every payoff schedule.	Charlotta Bass naming him.	Three more years to retirement.	Bass or Chief Parker.
22	A 77th Street Division Vice captain	Which Avenue operators pay for which protection.	An audit reaching the chief.	His operation undisturbed.	Chief Parker.
23	A 77th Street Division detective (not yet a problem)	What the captains are signing off on.	His captain finding out he talked.	A transfer to West Valley.	His captain.
24	A 77th Street Division patrolman (Black)	What the white officers say in the locker room.	His own department.	A pension that lasts.	Any of his colleagues.
25	Sgt. Jack O'Mara, Gangster Squad	What the Squad has on Cohen's Avenue plans.	An internal investigation.	Cohen out of LA.	Chief Parker.
26	Sgt. Jerry Wooters, Gangster Squad	The Squad's wires on Cohen's house.	His partner getting hit on the Avenue.	The takeover stopped.	O'Mara.

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
31	"Stuff" Crawford, Avenue policy operator	Where the policy money is and what Cohen's people have offered.	Cohen's people taking the bank.	The bank in his hands.	Cohen.
32	"Black Dot" McGee, policy operator	Operations west of the Avenue.	A 77th Street raid that takes the office.	His operation autonomous.	77th Street or Cohen.
33	An Avenue policy bank runner	Whose number paid this week and whose didn't.	The runner who replaced him last month getting hurt.	His own job back.	Whichever operator he runs for.
34	A policy operator's enforcer	Who's been pressured this month and how.	Cohen's button man arriving while he's home with his family.	A guarantee his wife won't be visited.	Cohen.
35	An operator's book-keeper	The operator's actual numbers, not the ones the LAPD is allowed to see.	The operator selling and her job ending.	The operation continuing.	The operator.
36	An operator who has already sold to Cohen	The pressure pattern Cohen used to make the sale.	His former enforcers seeing him at the Lincoln.	His payment guaranteed.	Cohen or the former crew.

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
41	Charlotta Bass, California Eagle	Every unsolved Black-victim case since 1944, and what the Squad is on the Avenue for.	The Eagle being shuttered.	The Avenue protected from both Cohen and the LAPD.	The federal government.
42	An Eagle reporter (general assignment)	The Avenue's news the white press won't cover.	Bass losing the paper.	A byline.	Bass.
43	An Eagle reporter (court beat)	Every covenant case Loren Miller is trying.	Being asked to testify in one.	The next column.	Bass or the State Bar.
44	Loren Miller, NAACP attorney	Restrictive covenant law and the federal civil-rights cases coming next.	Federal civil-rights enforcement collapsing.	The covenants legally and practically dismantled.	The State Bar.
45	Reverend H.H. Brookins, Second Baptist	Every Avenue family asking for help.	His congregation losing faith.	The community held together.	The denomination.
46	An NAACP investigator (volunteer)	Side Street incidents nobody filed.	His own job being threatened.	The branch staffed.	His employer.

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
51	A Lincoln Theater stagehand	What goes on after the curtain comes down.	A Vice raid on a Saturday show.	His union scale.	LB Vice or 77th Street.
52	The Dunbar Hotel night manager	Every musician who's stayed there and which sidemen passed envelopes to whom.	The Dunbar losing its lease.	The Avenue protected from Cohen.	The Dunbar's owners.
53	The Club Alabam maître d'	Which booth holds which conversation.	A noise complaint.	The Alabam to outlast the season.	The owner.
54	The Last Word bartender	What musicians say between sets.	A 77th Street raid.	His after-hours license.	77th Street.
55	A Pullman porter on the Sunset Limited	Who's traveling east and why.	His union local being broken.	His daughter in nursing school.	The Pullman company.
56	A Pacific Electric conductor	What happens at midnight at the 41st Street stop.	The Red Cars being shut down.	His route assignment.	Pacific Electric.
61	A Side Street family elder	Every family on her block since 1928.	Outliving her grandchildren.	One specific 1946 case reopened.	Time.

D66	CONTACT	KNOWS	FEARS	WANTS	CAN BURN THEM
62	A Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company shop steward	Industrial accidents at the South LA plant.	His brother's name being attached.	The plant's safety record corrected.	The plant.
63	A retired LAPD officer (quit '47)	The 1947 closure he refused to sign.	His pension.	The captain named before he dies.	The Department.
64	A coroner's clerk (Black)	Autopsy contradictions since 1944.	The coroner finding his copies.	His copies surviving.	The coroner's office.
65	A Civil Rights Section attorney (DOJ, by phone from DC)	The federal interest in LA's racial cases.	The Section being defunded.	A pattern complaint.	Hoover.
66	A captured Cleveland button man	The man who paid him in Cleveland.	His family in Ohio.	A guarantee his wife isn't visited.	The Combination.

STATUS CHANGES

Loyal. LEAN one tier easier once per case; if burned, gain +1 Strain.

Useful. Standard contact state.

Afraid. Will help only if you first lower Heat, spend a Lead, or accept Leverage.

Compromised. Information accurate; using it marks +1 Heat or +1 Suspicion.

Missing. Unavailable until a case action finds them.

Burned. Triggers a Burned Contact consequence.

D6 FAVORS CONTACTS ASK

D6 FAVOR

- 1 Get a name off a 77th Street watch list.
- 2 Walk a Side Street family through a covenant question without LAPD seeing.
- 3 Recover a piece of evidence from a 77th Street locker.
- 4 Delay a Vice raid long enough for an after-hours license to clear.
- 5 Prove an Avenue fire was arson.
- 6 Carry a message to Charlotta Bass without 77th Street learning.

D6 WAYS CONTACTS BETRAY THE DETECTIVE

D6 BETRAYAL

- 1 They sell the meeting location to 77th Street. Mark +1 Heat.
- 2 They give true intel with one missing zone-crossing detail. Next zone-cross is Hard minimum.
- 3 They route you through an LAPD-friendly church. Mark +1 LAPD Leverage.
- 4 They identify your Sergeant as the real prize. The Sergeant is at risk at Heat 7.
- 5 They warn the target to preserve their own family. Posture activates one stage early.
- 6 They hand over your source network after the case. Worsen two contacts one step.

D6 WAYS CONTACTS SAVE THE CASE

D6 SAVE

- 1 They identify the right zone of the Interdict room. Gain 1 Tactical Token.
- 2 They hide you during a 77th Street sweep. Reduce Heat by 1, minimum 0.
- 3 They confirm a false anatomy target before you spend an action. Gain 1 Lead.
- 4 They open a route between the Avenue and a Side Street home. Ignore one Wrong Badge trigger.
- 5 They produce a witness who knows the trigger timing. Generate 1 Hard Fact.
- 6 They arrive at the Interdict room with a piece, a code, or a car. Add +1 to Approach.

D6 MISSING CONTACT RETURNS

D6 RETURN

- 1 With a 77th Street escort and a rehearsed story. Treat as Compromised.
- 2 Injured, carrying one true clue. Gain a clue; mark +1 Strain.
- 3 Upwardly mobile now, with a Side Street home and a Realtor's threat letter.
- 4 Changed by a hospital stay, repeating a phrase that is also a Numbers War clue.
- 5 Afraid of you, not 77th Street. LEAN starts Hard minimum.
- 6 With another missing contact. Choose which one can still be saved.

D6 BURNED CONTACT CONSEQUENCES

D6 CONSEQUENCE

- 1** The contact disappears permanently; mark +1 Strain.
 - 2** 77th Street uses the relationship to identify your route. Heat +2.
 - 3** Their family asks for help during the next Tail. Refusal marks Code Crossed.
 - 4** They provide one last clue, then become evidence against you. Suspicion +2 with the Eagle.
 - 5** The Combination preserved their data. Gain +1 Combination Intel and worsen one contact.
 - 6** They survive hostile. Next time they appear, they are tied to the captain's anatomy.
-

GLOSSARY

Fast language for returning detectives.

Use this glossary when a term appears in the campaign pack and you want the table-facing meaning without reopening the core book.

CORE GANG SQUAD TERMS

TERM	MEANING
Action	One of three things per session: WALK, LEAN, PULL, STAKE. HIT happens at the Interdict.
Anatomy	Three hidden case targets: Operator, Asset, Trigger.
Capability	Defensive tier at the Interdict.
Casualties	Permanent. Never reset.
Code	One sentence the war taught the detective not to do.
Code Cross	Violating the Code for +2 to one Interdict roll.
Combination	Campaign-level conspiracy track: Soldier, Crew, Job, Family, Combination.
Contact	Named source. Statuses: Loyal, Useful, Afraid, Compromised, Missing, Burned.
Familiarity	0–5 territory score.
Final Operation	Closing case of a Combination arc.
Hard Fact	Two in pool advance the Threat Chain one stage.
Heat	Exposure. Failed actions raise it. Thresholds 3, 5, 7, 9.
Interdict	The climax. Three beats: Approach, Engage, Resolve.
Lead	+1 to one investigation roll.
Leverage	Faction clock for what they can make you do.
Posture	What the target does once it notices the detective closing in.
Sergeant	The Squad handler for a case.
Strain	Campaign pressure on the detective.
Suspicion	Faction clock for how clearly the faction reads the detective's methods.
Tactical Token	Interdict positioning. From anatomy hits.
Threat Chain	Five stages: Signal, Vector, Cell, Window, Intercept.

TERM	MEANING
Threat Clock	Countdown until execution.

ACTION VERBS

VERB	MEANING
WALK	Scene work, on-site evidence. LEGS or EYE.
LEAN	Question, pressure, negotiate a source. NERVE.
PULL	Records pulled off-site. EYE.
STAKE	Active surveillance, vehicle pursuit, foot tail. LEGS.
HIT	Interdict's Engage beat. FGT, SHT, NERVE, or specialty.

THE AVENUE TERMS

TERM	MEANING
The Avenue	South Central Avenue from 12th Street south. Spine of Black Los Angeles.
The Side Streets	Residential blocks east and west of the Avenue.
Watts	South of Central, separate town until 1926. The Watts Towers under construction.
The Stations	LAPD 77th Street Division and Newton Street Division.
The Wrong Badge	Local pressure rule. Squad LEAN starts +1 tier harder; first failed action marks +2 Heat; benefiting Cohen at the Avenue's expense marks +1 Strain.
The Numbers War	The Combination arc: Cohen's Cleveland-authorized takeover of the Avenue's Black-owned policy banks, 1948–1950.
The Policy Banks	Black-owned numbers and lottery operations on the Avenue. Stuff Crawford, Black Dot McGee, others. Targets of Cohen's takeover.
The Bookmaker's Last Stand	The Final Operation: an Interdict at an Avenue policy bank's back room. Decides whether the Avenue's autonomous economic infrastructure survives Cohen's takeover.
Bloody Christmas	December 24, 1951. LAPD officers beat seven Mexican-American men at Central Jail. The natural campaign endpoint; the Squad reorganizes into Intelligence Division afterward.
The Eagle	The California Eagle, owned and edited by Charlotta Bass.
Shelley v. Kraemer	1948 Supreme Court ruling that ended legal enforcement of restrictive covenants.
The Combination	The national mob wire.
The Outfit	The Chicago organization. The Pipeline's authorizer for both this arc and the Docks arc.

CAMPAIGN RECORD

What survives the case goes here. The casualties never reset.

Use one Campaign Record per detective's career. The cumulative casualty total never resets.

DETECTIVE HEADER

Name: _____

Badge: _____

Specialization: _____

War Detail: _____

Code: _____ "I _____ don't
" _____

Clearance tier: Patrol Detective Squad

Current Heat: ___ Current Strain: ___ Active wounds: _____

Cases closed: ___ Clean Stop: ___ Stop: ___ Partial Stop: ___ Failed Intercept: ___ Failed, Hostile: ___

Code Crossed entries: ___

Cumulative casualties: ___ (this number does not reset)

COMBINATION TRACKER (THE NUMBERS WAR)

Current Stage: None Soldier Crew Job Family Combination

Combination Intel: ___

Final Operation available: Yes No

Final Operation outcome: _____

Cleveland authorizer named in file: Yes No

Avenue policy banks surviving Cohen's takeover:

Inherited from prior detective: _____

FACTION CLOCKS

FACTION	ROLE	SUSPICION 0-6	LEVERAGE 0-6	CURRENT DEMAND OR THREAT	KEY CONTACT ROUTE
-----	LAPD 77th Street Division	----	----	-----	-----
-----	Cohen's Sunset opera- tion	----	----	-----	-----
-----	The Avenue's policy operat- ors	----	----	-----	-----
-----	Optional fourth (Eagle / NAACP / Bureau / City Hall)	----	----	-----	-----

CLEARANCE AND EVOLUTIONS

Current clearance: _____

Next clearance requirement: _____

Evolutions earned: _____

TERRITORY FAMILIARITY

TERRITORY	FAMILI- ARITY 0-5	RELIABLE ROUTE	KNOWN SOURCE	LOCAL HEAT NOTES
The Avenue	----	-----	-----	-----
-----	----	-----	-----	-----
-----	----	-----	-----	-----
-----	----	-----	-----	-----

CONTACTS

CONTACT	TERRITORY / FAC- TION	STATUS	KNOWS	WANTS
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M / B	-----	-----
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M / B	-----	-----
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M / B	-----	-----
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M / B	-----	-----
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M / B	-----	-----
-----	-----	L / U / A / C / M / B	-----	-----

CASE LOG

CASE	TER- RITORY	THREAT TYPE	TEMPO	CAP- ABIL- ITY	CLOSE	CAS- UAL- TIES	HEAT RESET	STRAIN	CODE X
1	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
2	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
3	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
4	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
5	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
6	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
7	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
8	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
9	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
10	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
11	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----
12	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

CURRENT CASE CARRY-IN

Heat starts at: ____ Leads carried: ____ Tactical carry-in:

Contacts unavailable: _____

Active wounds / penalties: _____

Faction clock effects active: _____

Territory effects active: _____

Numbers War stage pressures active: _____

Requisition chosen: _____

Sergeant notes: _____

AFTER-CASE CHECKLIST

1. Record close type and casualties.
2. Reset Heat by close type.
3. Add casualties to cumulative total. The total never resets.
4. Add Code Crossed entries and Strain.
5. Update clearance progress and evolutions.
6. Update faction Suspicion and Leverage.
7. Update contact statuses.
8. Update Territory Familiarity.
9. Apply Strain changes and relief.
10. Add Combination Intel and check current stage.
11. Choose requisition or note why it is unavailable.
12. Write one field note. Not a summary.