

United States Attorney's Office
Northern District of Georgia

COMMUNITY OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
2016

Prevention, Enforcement, Reentry

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LETTER FROM THE U.S. ATTORNEY



The United States Attorney's Office is committed to aggressively prosecuting those who violate the law, and we successfully prosecute thousands of serious crimes each year. But while we focus on enforcement of the law, we also recognize that our investigations and prosecutions do not provide a complete solution to our public safety problems. As a result, we aspire for a broader role in the protection and well-being of our communities, supporting programs and development of policies that improve lives while also working directly with our constituents to lend a helping hand. We believe that these efforts further our mission in the same ways as arrests and convictions, by preventing future crimes and making our communities safer. And our community work makes us better prosecutors, because

as we interact more directly and frequently with our residents, we better understand the threats faced by and needs of the people we serve.

To accomplish this mission, the United States Attorney's Office's community outreach program seeks to learn about community needs by maintaining an active and ongoing relationship with the public we serve and to build safer communities by working collaboratively with residents, community leaders, community groups, non-governmental organizations, local governments, educators, and our most vulnerable citizens.

Our prevention-focused community outreach efforts seek to expand violence reduction and crime prevention by partnering with organizations, schools, and community leaders to reach those who are most at-risk. Our prevention programs include reading and mentoring programs, support of summer camps, youth symposiums, career days, job shadowing events, essay contests, legal and law related field trips, and donations for school supplies and holiday events. By actively engaging and supporting the communities we serve, we seek to prevent crime by being neighborhood problem solvers and not simply case processors.

Our reentry-focused community outreach seeks to support formerly incarcerated individuals who are striving to become productive and positive members of our communities. Our office partners with and supports organizations and initiatives that provide training and assistance for individuals who were formerly incarcerated. To raise awareness about the issues confronting formerly incarcerated individuals upon their return to the community, our office hosts and attends seminars, symposiums, and community events to share information and to garner support for reentry programs.

We hope that our outreach efforts accomplish all these goals, but also help to build bonds of trust between law enforcement and our community and increase our constituents' participation in the criminal justice system.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Horn".

John A. Horn
United States Attorney
Northern District of Georgia

PREVENTION

Through a variety of signature programs and community engagement initiatives, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia (USAO-NDGA) expanded its violence prevention strategy by partnering with community stakeholders to reach different at-risk populations of youth and young adults throughout 2016. According to a 2010 report by the National Institute of Justice, "prevention is considered the fourth pillar of crime reduction, alongside the institutions of police, courts, and corrections" (Welsh and Farrington, 2010).

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS. In 2013, the USAO-NDGA began to create various youth engagement programs aimed at preventing crime. Every year since 2013, the USAO has implemented the Street Law and Mock Trial Program and Youth Legal and Law Enforcement Symposium. In 2014, the USAO began to implement Real Talk About the Law and High-Five Fridays! These signature prevention programs have impacted nearly 6,000 young people since their inception.



U.S. Attorney John Horn and the Honorable Fulton County Juvenile Court Judge Renata Turner with Atlanta's John Marshall Law School and Booker T. Washington High School faculty and students following Mock Trial.

Street Law and Mock Trial. In partnership with Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, this year marked the 4th Annual Street Law and Mock Trial Program at Booker T. Washington High School in Atlanta, Georgia. Assistant U.S. Attorneys and John Marshall law students co-taught nine weekly sessions about various legal topics and conducted ten Mock Trial prep

sessions. In April 2016, ten Washington High School students presented the mock trial case of the State of Georgia v. Micky Finn at Washington High School. The Honorable Judge Renata Turner, of Fulton County Juvenile Court, presided over the mock trial, with USAO-NDGA staff serving as the jury.

Youth Legal and Law Enforcement Symposium. In collaboration with state and federal law enforcement partners, the USAO-NDGA hosted two youth symposiums to increase exposure to various law enforcement careers. In doing so, the goals are to build trust among youth and young adults with the law enforcement community and to teach young people about the important roles of various agencies in keeping communities safe. Partnering agencies included the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Secret Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Federal Bureau of Prisons. Nearly 150 youth and young adults attended the symposia and had the opportunity to network with individual local, state, and federal law enforcement officers.

Real Talk About the Law. The 2016-2017 school year marked a turning point in the USAO-NDGA's Real Talk program. This year we were able to expand the program to reach 2,715 students in seven school districts by way of a new partnership with Communities in Schools (CIS), more students than the prior three years combined. The 90-minute Real Talk presentation covers topics such as decision-making, personal responsibility, felonies vs. misdemeanors, Georgia's 7 Deadly Sin law, interacting with law enforcement, the consequences of gang life, and more. USAO prosecutors partner with local law enforcement officers and formerly incarcerated individuals to present these topics in a uniquely intimate and impactful way. School teachers, counselors, and CIS Site Coordinators typically refer specific students to attend the Real Talk presentations, i.e., those who are gang-affiliated or otherwise involved in the criminal justice system, have



Community Outreach Specialist Dr. Danielle Sweat Whyllly pictured with DeKalb County School Police, DeKalb County Gang Unit, DeKalb DA's Office Investigator and a former gang member.

received multiple disciplinary referrals, or have a poor history of attendance/academic performance. Since 2014, 5,276 students total have been engaged through this program.

High Five Fridays! In 2014, the USAO-NDGA began High-Five Fridays! in one of the District's lowest performing elementary schools, Bethune Elementary School, during its final year of operation. This initiative was designed to recognize those students who improved their attendance, academic performance, and behavior as part of a larger prevention strategy to reward student improvement (rather than only addressing students who do not perform well). In collaboration with the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Coordinator at the school, USAO personnel hosted a celebration for students from each class per grade level on the first Friday of each month during the school year. Each month classroom teachers selected five students from their class to send to the celebration. USAO personnel contributed ice cream, cupcakes, pizza and prizes for the initiative, and provided a Certificate of Recognition to 25 students. Additionally, parents were invited to celebrate their child's accomplishments.

Real Talk About the Law Partners

Atlanta Police Department
Atlanta Public Schools
City of Atlanta Office of the City Solicitor
Clarke County Schools
Clayton County District Attorney's Office
Clayton County Schools
Clayton County Solicitor's Office
Communities in Schools of Athens
Communities in Schools of Atlanta
DeKalb County District Attorney's Office
DeKalb County Police Department
DeKalb County Schools
Dismas Charities-Atlanta
Douglas County Schools
Drug Enforcement Administration
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Fulton County District Attorney's Office
Fulton County Schools
Fulton County Sheriff's Office
Fulton County Solicitor General's Office
Greater Atlanta Black Prosecutors' Association
Henry County District Attorney's Office
Henry County Schools
Office of DeKalb County Solicitor-General
Urban League of Greater Atlanta

Art Powell, Egress Consultants and Services, LLC
Colleen Higgins, Neighbor 2 Neighbor, Inc.
Desiree Lee, DLee Inspires, LLC
Eric Girault
George Oliver, Jr.
Hugo Rocha
Keith Strickland, Making the Transition, Inc.
Omar Howard, Freedom is a Choice, Inc.

County/School District Total

7 Counties/School Districts

School Total

11 Middle Schools

21 High Schools

Student Total

1,722 Males & 993 Females



Assistant U.S. Attorneys and Support Staff give high-fives to students as they enter their celebration for improved attendance, behavior and academic performance.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS.

College and Career Motivation, Prepare and Share a Meal, Power Lunch, the Mayor's Summer Reading Club, and Mission to the World Afterschool Tutoring are a few of our youth empowerment programs highlighted in this report.

College and Career Motivation. USAO-NDGA Assistant U.S. Attorneys and Support Staff participated in Career Days at Bethune Elementary School (Atlanta), L.P. Miles Intermediate School (Atlanta), Towers High School (DeKalb), and Columbia High School (DeKalb). Students were informed about work at the USAO, encouraged to begin planning the pathway to their desired career now, and reminded about the restricted employment opportunities that come along with a criminal record.

Prepare and Share a Meal. In our 3rd year of participation in this program, the USAO-NDGA partnered with Covenant House Georgia to host and prepare nine dinners for the young people (aged 18-21 years old) living at the crisis shelter. USAO personnel donated money and volunteered to prepare the hot meals for the homeless and at-risk youth population at Covenant House. After preparing the meal, we also ate dinner with the residents and engaged in conversation about their career aspirations, hobbies, and hopes for the future.



Preparing for residents of Covenant House Georgia to enter the cafeteria for dinner.

Power Lunch. This is our 4th year participating in the Everybody Wins! Atlanta "Power Lunch" Program. Power Lunch is a literacy mentoring initiative that is designed to improve students' reading skills and foster a love of reading. During the lunch hour, volunteer mentors from a variety of partnering agencies read to an assigned student who is reading below grade level. During the 2015-2016 school year, thirteen USAO-NDGA staff members served as reading mentors, contributing a total of 162 hours of service to 1st through 5th graders at Bethune Elementary School.

Mayor's Summer Reading Club (MSRC). The USAO-NDGA partnered with City of Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed and other local organizations to implement summer reading initiatives throughout Atlanta for the 3rd year in a row. The MSRC is designed to improve vocabulary and literacy skills for children from infancy to age eight, while engaging the community to encourage children to continue reading and learning during their summer break. Twenty-three staff members traveled to Pittman Park and Dunbar Recreation Centers (in one of our Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) communities) to read to more than 100 children (ages 5-8 years old) over the course of several days. At the end of each session, the children were provided with a free book sponsored by the program.

Mission to the World. Six staff members routinely participated in after-school homework help and tutoring for students from a variety of countries, such as Burma, Iraq, Eritrea, Nepal, Sudan, and Somalia. The program is based in a multicultural apartment complex clubhouse in Clarkston, Georgia, a city with a large immigrant and refugee population.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. In order to establish and continue dialogue with the communities that we serve, the USAO-NDGA regularly participates in a number of community programs and activities throughout the year.

33rd National Night Out. National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community engagement initiative designed to strengthen law enforcement and community relationships. Occurring on the first Tuesday in August each year, the USAO-NDGA has participated in NNO for the past four years. This year, several staff members, including USA Horn, joined the community and law enforcement partners in games and communal fellowship at thirteen different NNO events around the District.



Community Members and law enforcement officers gather with Assistant U.S. Attorney Buchanan at a local National Night Out.



Assistant U.S. Attorney and Community Outreach Coordinator Laurel Boatright, APD Officer Melissa Davis and Community Outreach Specialist Danielle Sweat Whyllly at an English Avenue Neighborhood Association meeting.

Westside Collaboratives. Since the Weed & Seed initiative was implemented in 2001, the USAO-NDGA has engaged on an ongoing basis with neighborhoods on the Westside of Atlanta. Over the past year, we continued to partner with the English Avenue Neighborhood Association for the maintenance phase of our Drug Market Intervention (DMI), discussed further herein. Community Outreach staff continued to participate in the Westside Future Fund's *Westside Problem Property/Community Retention Group* in order to communicate about and address the large number of blighted properties in the English Avenue neighborhood. The USAO also participated in the 2nd Annual *Westside Education Forum* that emphasized the importance of the cradle to career education pipeline. We also participated in the *Transform Westside Summits* aimed at bringing all stakeholders together to share ideas (including giving a presentation about the USAO's English Avenue DMI). We also attended significant community events with fellow stakeholders, such as the Atlanta Police Foundation's *Westside Officer Homes Ribbon-Cutting* in the Vine City community and the the *@Promise Center Groundbreaking* in the English Avenue neighborhood.

St. Mark A.M.E. Church Clean-Up. In partnership with the English Avenue Neighborhood Association, USAO-NDGA staff participated in a street clean-up and community beautification project with residents.



Residents, law enforcement, service providers, and an Assistant U.S. Attorney pose after a Saturday morning clean-up and community beautification project.

LGBT Town Hall. The USAO-NDGA hosted a roundtable event at the Phillip Rush Center to discuss the USAO's civil rights programs and LGBT community safety issues. by the Anti-Defamation League on Anti-Muslim Extremism. The U.S. Attorney facilitated a two-hour discussion among the more than 30 attendees who included leaders in the LGBT community, as well as clergy, non-profit and civil rights organizations, APD and USAO personnel.

Arab, Sikh and Muslim Communities. The USAO-NDGA hosted a one-hour presentation by the Anti-Defamation League on Anti-Muslim Extremism. We participated in a community listening session at the Roswell Masjid and continued to engage leaders in the Clarkston community, through referrals to community resources and funding opportunities when available. AUSA Kim Dammers participated in a site visit and training for a delegation of women prosecutors from Pakistan, hosted by the Department of Justice and the Department of State. Following the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, the USAO participated in an Interfaith Multicultural Roundtable hosted by the Al-Farooq Masjid of Atlanta and talked with leaders and students at the Atlanta Masjid.



ENFORCEMENT

In partnership with our law enforcement partners, the USAO-NDGA has strengthened enforcement efforts by addressing public safety concerns and developing community trust.



Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates with U.S. Attorney John Horn and various community and law enforcement leaders at Atlanta Justice Summit.

Atlanta Justice Summit. The USAO-NDGA brought approximately 50 community leaders together for a discussion on police and community relationships in the metro Atlanta region. Attendees included college students, community activists, local and federal law enforcement, elected officials and numerous civil rights leaders, including Dr. C.T. Vivian and Ambassador Andrew Young. The Summit was one of many on a national tour of Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates, who was present to hear from local leaders in the Atlanta community.

Human Trafficking. Several AUSAs held training sessions, participated in panel discussions, and hosted workshops on human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of minors in 2016. AUSAs Richard Moultrie, Phyllis Clerk, Paul Jones, Kathy Hoffer, and Yonette Buchanan, along with Victim-Witness Manager Christie Jones, have collectively participated in 16 such events with over 800 participants, at City of Refuge, the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, the National Organization for

Victims Assistance, as well as the Judges' Summit on Human Trafficking and Organized Crime at the Vatican.

English Avenue Drug Market Intervention (DMI). Starting in 2014, the USAO-NDGA began to implement a Drug Market Intervention (DMI) in the historic English Avenue neighborhood, commonly referred to as “The Bluff,” on the Westside of Atlanta, Georgia. The goals of the English Avenue DMI were (1) partnering with local police and residents to dismantle the open air drug market in English Avenue; (2) reducing violence and restoring neighborhood trust; and (3) federally prosecuting the most substantial and violent drug dealers (Tier 1 offenders), while providing dealers with a lesser criminal history or who sold drugs to feed their own addiction with a “second chance” and support (Tier 2 offenders). Throughout 2015, AUSA Laurel Boatright and other USAO staff implemented the English Avenue DMI by partnering with local, state and federal law enforcement to prosecute Tier 1 offenders and engage with Tier 2 offenders. Since the inception of DMI, the English Avenue neighborhood has experienced an almost 40% drop in drug-related and violent crime. In 2016, the USAO continued to maintain that progress through ongoing semimonthly laws enforcement meetings that resulted in the shut-down of 3 ongoing drug trafficking “hot spots” in the neighborhood and more than 30 additional federal prosecutions.

The USAO also hosted another “call-in” event in March 2016 to provide all English Avenue residents with access to the same support and social services that were provided to Tier 2 offenders the year before. Throughout 2016, USAO staff participated in panel discussions about DMI’s impact and continued to host monthly DMI Community Update meetings at Lindsay Street Baptist Church where residents, clergy, service providers and other stakeholders were updated about the DMI initiative. In addition, we continued to attend neighborhood

events, including clean-ups, movie nights, church picnics, and festivals. AUSA Boatright also joined the Atlanta Police Foundation's Westside Advisory Council to assist in ongoing community/police public safety collaboration, and attended the Friends of English Avenue Town Hall meeting on Crime Prevention held to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of Kathryn Johnston's death.

In 2016, the English Avenue DMI received extensive media coverage, including articles in Atlanta Magazine and Creative Loafing. In addition, AUSA Boatright spoke to the Georgia Municipal Association about DMI and coordinated a 2-day site visit by the The Center for Court Innovation which included the English Avenue DMI in its annual report about community policing.



APD Officer Melissa Davis in the English Avenue Community with Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Brown

Heroin Working Group (HWG). In 2016, the USAO-NDGA continued to spearhead 12 meetings of the HWG in partnership with drug treatment professionals, education and health care providers, law enforcement, prevention specialists, and public health officials. HWG members shared information and collaborated on various initiatives, including the creation of an overdose database. The HWG also created a "You Have OD'd" card for medical personnel to give overdose survivors that provides contact information for treatment and recovery services.

Police and Community Relations. The USAO-NDGA participated in three forums focused on strengthening police and community relationships. Community Outreach staff participated in *Armed with Knowledge: A Civil Rights Symposium* and two panel discussions under the *Equal Justice in Law Enforcement Initiative* as a focused collaborative effort to help reduce and prevent law enforcement shootings and/or use of excessive force.

NPU-V Community Safety Initiative. The USAO-NDGA served on a Community Safety Committee for Neighborhood Planning Unit V (NPU-V) at the invitation of The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Atlanta Civic Site. The Community Safety Committee held monthly meetings with other community stakeholders to advise the Foundation on the design and implementation of new safety interventions that complement community efforts, address gaps and essential needs, while building capacity in NPU-V neighborhoods.



U.S. Attorney John Horn on panel following community screening of *Chasing the Dragon*, with Cobb County District Attorney Vic Reynolds, DEA-Special Agent in Charge Dan Salter, as well as local service providers and recovering addicts.

Chasing the Dragon. The USAO-NDGA hosted two screenings of *Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opiate Addict* at the Cobb Galleria Mall and City of Refuge. *Chasing the Dragon* was produced by the FBI and DEA. Film screenings were followed by a panel discussion about heroin and opioid abuse and addiction.

REENTRY

In 2016, the reentry efforts of the USAO-NDGA significantly expanded. As set forth below, in addition to supporting a job training reentry program and a local reentry coalition, we have joined several regional reentry collaboratives and now partner directly with returning citizens to impact young people as part of a dual crime prevention/reentry strategy.

New Beginnings. In partnership with the Urban League of Greater Atlanta, Dismas Charities-Atlanta, and U.S. Probation, we have continued the PSN initiative, *New Beginnings*. The program was designed to help formerly incarcerated individuals become productive members of society by providing access to job training, soft skills development, and education opportunities that further their chances of successful reintegration. 2016 marked the first year that the *New Beginnings* program was implemented with residents at Dismas Charities (the federal transitional center for metro Atlanta). The USAO-NDGA continues to collect and donate several boxes of business attire to program participants as well.



U.S. Attorney Horn with former Assistant U.S. Attorney and Community Outreach Coordinator Loranzo Fleming, prior to business attire donation to the New Beginnings program.

Re-Entry Coalition of Carroll County. We continued our partnership with the Re-Entry Coalition, Inc., which holds a series of reentry classes at the Carroll County Correctional Institution. These classes prepare male inmates within one year of release for successful reintegration into their home communities.

Community Outreach staff participated in two of the classes this year, focusing on overcoming barriers by establishing a support system and reconnecting with children during their period of incarceration.



Community Outreach staff sorting winter clothing for Dismas clothing drive.

Dismas Charities - Atlanta Community Relations Board (CRB). The USAO-NDGA continued quarterly participation on the CRB, assisting us with leveraging resources, announcing programs, and providing support to current inmates transitioning back into the community. Dismas Charities hosted a winter clothing drive in which the USAO was able to provide a large donation. Staff also participated in a Mother's Day Brunch for residents and their families.

Greater Gwinnett Reentry Alliance (GGRA). GGRA mobilizes community resources to assist individuals and organizations serving the reentry population in Gwinnett County. Community Outreach staff began attending GGRA monthly meetings to connect with reentry resources in Gwinnett County. In light of the success of GGRA's reentry coalition model, the USAO-NDGA has invited GGRA to partner in forming the Metro Atlanta Regional Coalition (MARC).

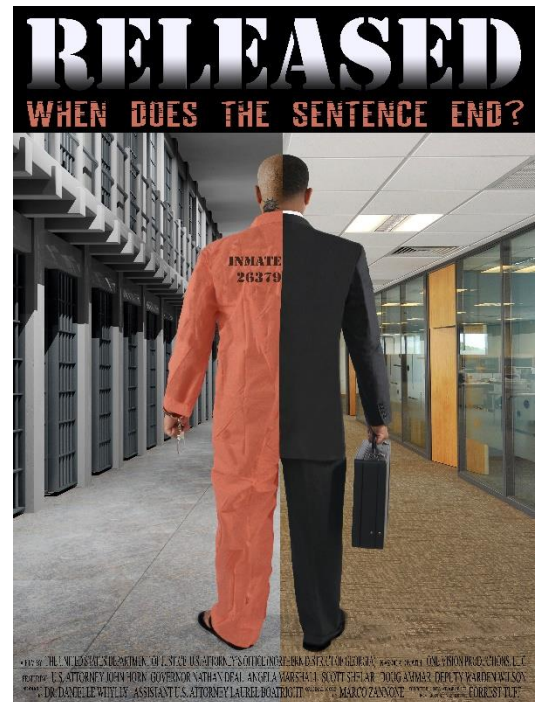


Formerly incarcerated individuals meet with the U.S. Attorney's Office regarding contract regulations.

Contracting with Returning Citizens. For the first time, the USAO-NDGA received funding to engage certain formerly incarcerated individuals as independent contractors who had previously partnered as volunteer speakers for the Real Talk program and various reentry forums. Initially, the USAO secured approval to provide five of these speakers with a small reimbursement stipend for speaking and mileage. By the end of the year, eight formerly incarcerated individuals were engaged as independent contractors.

Metro Atlanta Reentry Coalition (MARC). In 2016, the USAO-NDGA began working with the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office, the Georgia Department of Community Supervision, Kennesaw State University to create a Metro Atlanta Reentry Coalition (MARC) that works to expand employment opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals across the region. We are looking to include ten counties within metropolitan Atlanta as part of MARC and visited various city/county reentry coalitions to determine need, capacity, and interest in joining MARC. One primary goal of MARC is the implementation of the "30-2+2 Reentry Collaborative," an initiative that engages specific local employers with the goal of supporting stable employment to increase the overall success of a returning citizen.

Released, a Reentry Documentary. The USAO-NDGA partnered with a local filmmaker, One Vision Productions, LLC, to begin filming our reentry documentary, aimed at exposing the obstacles to employment after incarceration. *Released* will be a 45-minute documentary that will confront how people released from prison nevertheless continue to pay for the mistakes of their past through the difficulties they face in finding a job. The film will also highlight some of the employment training programs available to someone coming home from prison.



www.releasedthemovie.com

2016 COMMUNITY OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT

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