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Andrew H. Warren
State Attorney
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit



A MESSAGE FROM THE STATE ATTORNEY

Community Report

January 2018



Dear Friends,

2017 has come and gone, and I am pleased to report on the progress we have made in reforming our criminal justice system to increase public safety, reduce recidivism, and promote justice and fairness for everyone in our community. I ran for State Attorney to build a safer, stronger community for my daughters and every other family in Hillsborough—not just for tomorrow but for years to come. This is only year one, and there is a lot of work ahead. But we

are extremely proud of what we have already accomplished.

We implemented smart policies regarding how we prosecute cases: from our aggressive initiative to disarm domestic abusers to reforming the wasteful and counterproductive prosecution of poverty—people entangled in the system because of their inability to pay civil fines and fees. We have taken a more thoughtful and consistent approach to the death penalty, one that strictly follows Florida and federal law. We have expanded diversion programs—from helping launch Hillsborough's first mental health court to creating a pilot civil citation program for first-time adult offenders, to greatly expanding our juvenile civil citation program, which holds kids accountable for first-time offenses while steering them away from the downward spiral of the system. Beyond the courtroom, we proactively engaged with the community, from our Listening Tour to our Community Workshops to creating a Ride-Along program for Assistant State Attorneys to join law enforcement officers on their shifts in order to gain valuable insight about the community we serve. We believe in data driven policies, which is why we partnered with Measures for Justice and USF to more effectively collect and analyze our own data. On the legislative front, I have been to Tallahassee and Washington, fighting for laws that help make our neighborhoods safer and protect our law enforcement officers, while fighting against proposals that undermine public safety and waste taxpayer resources. Operationally, we restructured our organization chart, implemented a merit-based promotional system, and improved communication with law enforcement—which allows more time spent prosecuting cases to keep our community safe. These operational improvements also saved nearly \$400,000 in annual expenses. Although many of these new policies and initiatives made an immediate impact on our community, the true success of these changes will be measured in the years to come.

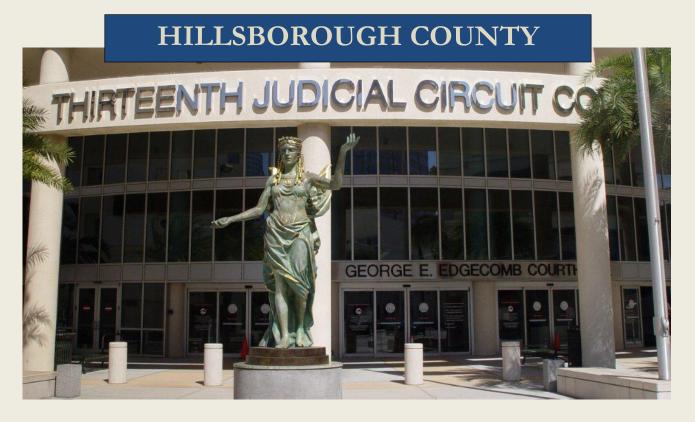
We had an exceptionally successful year. When I reflect on 2017, however, I think about more than these innovative reforms. I think of sitting in the courtroom holding hands to comfort a victim's next of kin. I think of the mother whose 13 year-old son received the counseling that helped him succeed rather than the arrest and conviction that would have undermined his success. I think of listening to my fellow citizens as we discussed our shared vision for a safer and more just community. Ultimately, I think of how honored I am to serve as your State Attorney.

Here's to an equally successful 2018. Thank you for your support and confidence.

Sincerely,

Andrew H. Warren

OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY



Our mission is to build a safer community while promoting justice and fairness for everyone in Hillsborough. We are committed to making our county a safer place to live, work, and raise a family. It is our privilege and honor to serve this community.

#SaferStrongerHillsborough

POLICIES & INITIATIVES

In 2017, we focused on implementing policies and initiatives that would further the mission of our office by promoting public safety, reducing recidivism, and supporting a fair and just criminal justice system here in Hillsborough County. We were ambitious and optimistic in the initiatives that we tackled, and we worked closely with criminal justice stakeholders, partners, and community members to accomplish significant and positive change. Highlighted below are a few of the significant initiatives that we implemented in 2017. We look forward to continued partnerships and progress in 2018.

JUVENILE ARREST AVOIDANCE PROGRAM

New Juvenile Civil Citation Program Effective Aug. 1, 2017 Smart alternative to arrest and imprisonment for non-violent, first-time offenses New Juvenile Civil Citation Program Holds kids accountable for their actions with appropriate sanctions

Our office was honored to lead the effort to expand and make permanent in Hillsborough County the Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Program, commonly referred to as the juvenile civil citation program. Launched on August 1, 2017, this program is an evidenced-based, smart alternative to the arrest and detention of juveniles for first-time minor offenses, allowing for early intervention into delinquency, and holding youth accountable with targeted and immediate sanctions. We worked with our criminal justice partners to implement an innovative approach to juvenile justice reform. Data supports the use of civil citations as a smart policy for Hillsborough County. Studies have shown that a youth is up to fifty percent less likely to reoffend after completing a civil citation program, as it significantly reduces the likelihood of the youth escalating into the juvenile justice system. Plus, it is cost effective. The average cost to prosecute a juvenile is \$5000, and it costs approximately \$50,000 annually to incarcerate a juvenile. By contrast, the average cost to enroll a juvenile in a civil citation program is less than \$400. It not only saves taxpayer dollars but also allows law enforcement agencies and the State Attorney's Office to invest more resources in preventing and prosecuting the violent crimes that pose the greatest threat to community safety. Learn more about how the program works at the State Attorney's Office website, http://sao13th.com.

ADULT PRE-ARREST DIVERSION

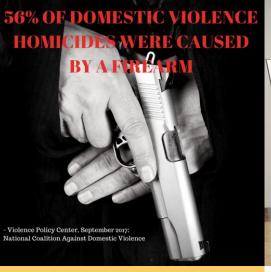
In an effort to steer low-level offenders away from downward spiral of conviction and incarceration, while also promoting community safety and judicial efficiency, our office partnered with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office to create a pilot adult pre-arrest diversion program ("APAD"). Much like the juvenile civil citation program, this program allows first-time misdemeanor offenders to take personal responsibility for their actions without formally entering

justice criminal system. Offenders tasked are with completing sanctions similar to those that they would receive on probation, including completion of community service hours, counseling or educational classes, and payment of restitution. The APAD pilot program started on July 1, 2017, with the Sheriff's and anticipate Office, we expanding it in early 2018 to other law enforcement partners throughout Hillsborough County.



Promoting justice and fairness for everyone in our community.

DISARMING DOMESTIC ABUSERS





DISARMING DOMESTIC ABUSERS

The presence of a gun in the home during a domestic violence incident increases the risk of homicide by at least 500%

500%

NCADV; Law Center to Prevent Gun Violenc

12 TIMES MORE LIKELY

Domestic violence assaults involving a firearm are 12 times more likely to result in death than those involving other weapons or bodily force.

NCADV; Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

#DISARMINGDOMESTICABUSERS

#SAO13TH #SAFERSTRONGERHILLSBOROUGH Domestic violence is a serious problem, and guns in the hands of domestic abusers are a deadly combination. Here in our community, we are doing something about it. On December 13, 2017, our office announced the "Disarming Domestic Abusers" initiative. This initiative has two goals: to remove guns from domestic abusers who legally should not have them; and to make sure that they cannot acquire new guns.

Pursuant to the new initiative, our office will aggressively seek the relinquishment of violence firearms from domestic defendants who are prohibited by law from possessing a firearm because of a prior criminal conviction. Additionally, we will seek to have defendants with no criminal history who have been charged with domestic violence based on a probable cause determination relinquish any guns where it's necessary to protect the victim from further harm. The office will work with law enforcement upon responding to a domestic violence incident to conduct an risk assessment and pertaining to the offender's access to a firearm. Prosecutors will utilize that

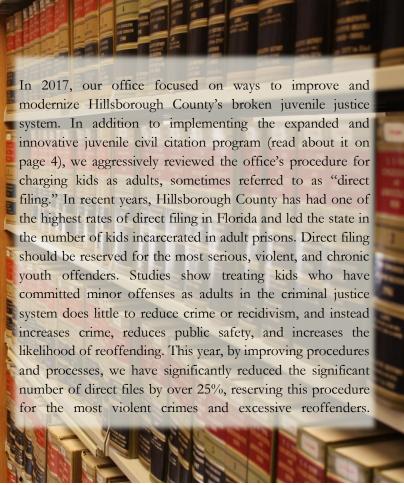
information and conduct a background check to determine whether the perpetrator is legally prohibited from possessing a gun. Then, at the defendant's first appearance or bond hearing, our office will seek relinquishment of firearms as a condition of pre-trial release, as well as part of plea agreements, entry into diversion programs, and probation in domestic violence cases.

By taking and keeping guns away from abusers, we will reduce domestic violence, help victims overcome the overwhelming, paralyzing fear that comes with having an abusive, armed partner, and hopefully save lives. But there are additional benefits, including simplifying the prosecution of domestic abusers with additional potential charges for violation of bond or probation for illegal firearm possession, especially where a victim is reluctant to testify; removing illegal firearms from community; and alerting law enforcement to the possible presence of a firearm when responding to domestic violence incidents. We are proud to have partnered with local law enforcement, The Spring, the Crisis Center, Are You Safe, the League of Women Voters, the Sexual Violence Task Force of Tampa Bay, and Moms Demand Action to create this important initiative.

VIOLENCE IS NOT THE SOLUTION IT'S THE PROBLEM

HELP STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

DIRECT FILE REDUCTION





REDUCING THE CRIMINALIZATION OF POVERTY



Florida is the worst state in the country in terms of the number of poverty traps, such as driver's license revocations and the imposition of excessive fines and fees. For example, Florida has punitive laws that suspend driver's licenses for both driving-related and non-driving-related reasons. Many suspensions have nothing to do with traffic safety or public safety but instead result from failure to pay traffic fines, truancy, petty theft, or failure to appear for court proceedings, among other reasons. Many Floridians become trapped in a situation where they are driving with a suspended license in order to get to work to earn the money to have their license reinstated. Arresting and prosecuting them for driving with a suspended license only worsens the problem by imposing additional fines and threatening their job security. This vicious cycle puts otherwise law-abiding citizens into the criminal justice system because of financial hardship, which is counterproductive, wasteful, and undermines public safety.

As part of our office's efforts to stop this cycle, we have instituted a much better way to handle Driving with License Suspended (DWLS) cases. If the underlying suspension is not the result of a traffic or public safety issue, such as a DUI suspension, our office works with the drivers to get their licenses reinstated. When drivers successfully regain their licenses, our office dismisses the charges. We started this new approach in May, and it showed immediate benefits: more than 40% of all DWLS cases from May to December were dismissed because the driver obtained a license. That is more than 1800 citizens who we helped to regain their license, get back on their feet, and stay out of the criminal justice system. Not only does this approach increase traffic safety by ensuring that drivers on our roads are properly licensed and insured, but it saves taxpayer dollars and reduces the criminalization of poverty.

PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

In March of 2017, our office took the exciting step of elevating our Problem Solving Courts by creating a new supervisory position to oversee our Mental Health, Veteran's Treatment, and Drug Courts. The position represents an innovative approach to criminal justice that focuses on treatment rather than incarceration for community members suffering from substance abuse or mental illness. We know that many people who end up in the criminal justice system are not dangerous criminals; rather, they have committed crimes as a result of their addiction or mental illness. For these individuals, the outdated approach of prosecution, conviction, and incarceration only perpetuates the cycle of criminal behavior. If we want to stop these individuals from committing crimes and soaking up taxpayer resources, we need to treat the underlying problem. Our office has formed a close partnership with the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court, the defense bar, and a variety of community agencies to make these Problem Solving Courts as successful as possible.

Veteran's Treatment Court

Our Veteran's Treatment Court (VTC) is a problem-solving court that has become a national model for handling the unique issues facing veterans in our criminal justice system. VTC holds veterans accountable for their actions while simultaneously addressing underlying issues like PTSD, unemployment, homelessness, and drug and alcohol abuse. Working closely with the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, our office has implemented a phase-based system of treatment that matches the best practice model mandated by the Florida Supreme Court for problem solving courts. Because of its success, our VTC is expanding as more veterans are being identified as suitable candidates for this specialty court, and we are seeking additional funding from the Florida Legislature to continue to grow this program to meet the needs of the servicemen and women in our community.



Mental Health Court

For too long, our criminal justice system has failed those suffering from mental illness. Annually, an estimated 2 million people with mental illness are booked into jails in our country—many for non-violent offenses. Our office is firmly committed to reducing the number of incarcerated criminal defendants with serious mental illnesses. We worked with the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit to establish a Mental Health Court (MHC) to oversee cases with individuals who have mental health challenges. Launched in February 2017, MHC allows individuals charged with certain crimes to participate in a diversion program which incorporates a treatment plan into the sanctions. Defendants who are charged with third degree felony offenses and found incompetent to proceed are transferred to MHC, where a judge oversees their competency restoration training by various community agencies. In addition, defendants who have serious mental health illness now have the opportunity to receive extensive treatment and learn how to manage their illness with judicial oversight. MHC allows individuals for whom incarceration may be their only option to receive psychiatric treatment and extensive case management. The goal for these individuals is to identify, manage, and treat their mental illness so that they do not return to the criminal justice system. MHC is another example of how we are solving problems to reduce recidivism and improve community safety.

Problem solving courts provide innovative approaches to criminal justice reform by deferring appropriate individuals to treatment rather than incarceration.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We strive to have a significant presence in the dynamic community that we serve interacting with our residents so that they have a better understanding of who we are and what we do; partnering with stakeholders and organizations involved in the criminal justice educating system; neighborhood about new programs associations initiatives. Robust community engagement builds trust, gives us invaluable insight into how our prosecutorial decisions and policies impact community health, safety, and crime, and provides an avenue for communicating



with the community. That's why community engagement is a priority for our office. Whether through our Listening Tour, our Community Workshops, our serving on community task forces, our participation in community events, or simply being out in the community speaking with Hillsborough residents, we drastically increased engagement with the community that we serve.





COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS



We established Community Workshops to provide a forum for community members to directly communicate with our office. During the workshops, we provide information about the office, the criminal justice process, changes in the law, and various policies and initiatives. Communication is a two-way street, which is why the workshops allow residents to ask questions and provide feedback directly to the State Attorney. In 2017, we conducted five Community Workshops throughout Hillsborough County in Belmont Heights, Bloomingdale, University Area, Wimauma, and Plant City. We streamed each Community Workshop live via Facebook. During the workshops, we discussed such topics as the juvenile civil citation program, direct filing, the new stand your ground law, the disarming domestic abusers initiative, and an upcoming juvenile mentorship program.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TASKFORCE



SAO13th Community Service Award

To increase our presence and engagement with the community, our office implemented a new Community Engagement Task Force (CETF) made up of employee volunteers that collaborate in the development of outreach programs and initiatives throughout the year. Under the leadership of Chief of Policy and Communication, Rena Frazier, the taskforce is divided into four committees focused on school outreach, education and awareness, community partnerships, and an annual community service award that is presented to a colleague that has demonstrated active service and outstanding volunteerism in the community.



Assistant State Attorney Janae Thomas became the first recipient of the 2017 State Attorney's Office Community Service Award.

ASA Thomas serves in the reading program and in the kitchen at Metropolitan Ministries, and she volunteers at Just Elementary with their weekly reading and mentoring programs. She mentors first generation college bound students at Thomas Jefferson High School, volunteers for teen court, and has volunteered in numerous mock trials organized with the Public Defender's Office and Safe and Sound Hillsborough.

She enjoys working with youth from Grant Park, University Area, Plant City, Wimauma, North Tampa Alternative School, and Ferrell Middle Magnet School.

ASA Thomas organized a gift drive for local veterans through the Hillsborough County Bar Association and has served as a member of the Florida Bar Leadership Institute.

She excels as both a participant and ambassador for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay and provides support and guidance to her eight year old little sister through the program. In addition to all of her other community work, you may find her volunteering in the neonatal intensive care unit at Brandon Hospital holding babies, contributing to their growth and development.

It is an honor to have such a service-driven individual as a member of our office and community.

Great American Teach-In



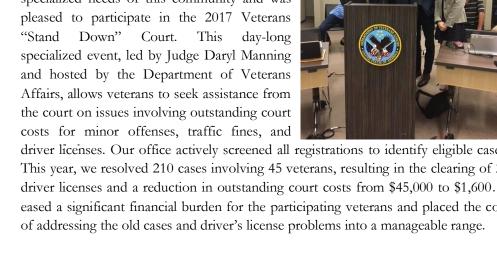
Our office had a blast participating in the 2017 Great American Teach-In. Employees engaged with students at various schools across Hillsborough County through fun and interactive mock trials, creative activities, and presentations that brought awareness to who we are and what we do at the State Attorney's Office. One of our goals is to proactively educate and increase awareness while leaving a lasting impression that inspires youth to grow up to do the same. Mission accomplished!

VETERANS "STAND DOWN" COURT

Hillsborough County is home to the highest population of veterans within the state. Unfortunately, this includes some veterans who are also a part of our homeless and low-income populations. Our office is sensitive to the specialized needs of this community and was "Stand Down" Court. This



driver licenses. Our office actively screened all registrations to identify eligible cases. This year, we resolved 210 cases involving 45 veterans, resulting in the clearing of 34 driver licenses and a reduction in outstanding court costs from \$45,000 to \$1,600. It eased a significant financial burden for the participating veterans and placed the cost





TAMPA BAY HOMELESS & COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY



SAO13TH LISTENING TOUR

As we emphasized in our First 100 Days Report to the Community, "building a safer community while promoting justice and fairness requires one thing in abundance: listening." Our first community engagement priority was to embark on a 60-day Listening Tour to hear from our community on what works and what can be improved in our criminal justice system. Even before having been sworn into office, State Attorney Warren began meeting with community leaders, law enforcement agencies, judges and Court personnel,

criminal defense attorneys, public defenders, and third party agencies, like the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, that work closely with our office. We listened to the feedback and implemented it in shaping our internal operations, resource allocation, policy initiatives, community engagement, and training, some of which you are reading about in this publication. The Listening Tour was a tremendous success, and we sincerely thank everyone who participated for their input and candor.



SAO13TH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



TRANSPARENCY, TRANSPARENCY,

TRANSPARENCY



Transparency goes hand-in-hand with robust community engagement. We prioritized both this year to effectively serve our community. While increasing our presence and participation in the community, we have simultaneously focused on being as transparent as possible by utilizing different avenues to provide up-to-date information to the public. We have added and increased our use of social media tools for communication, including Facebook and Twitter. (Follow us @SAO13TH!) We are actively working to upgrade our website to make the content and platform more user friendly and informative based on your feedback throughout the year. We have regularly issued press releases and held press conferences to provide information on important matters. We have been responsive to the media promptly answering information and public records requests, making State Attorney Warren available for interviews, appearing on radio shows—to ensure that our local TV, print,



STAY CONNECTED



Website http://sao13th.com



🦅 @sao13th



State Attorney's Office 13th Judicial Circuit



Editorial: Warren's smart approach on guns, domestic violence

Hillsborough State Attorney Andrew Warren joins other prosecutors in protesting Jeff Sessions' 'tough-on-crime' policy

and radio media has the information they need to keep the community informed. And we have partnered with research organizations, like Measures for Justice and the University of South Florida, to study case-related data to analyze case and discretionary decisions to help improve effectiveness, increase consistency, and identify implicit bias and other "blind spots" in our decision-making. We also worked with Measures for Justice in providing our local information for comprehensive nationwide database containing voluminous statistics between the years 2009 and 2013 for our criminal justice system. A link to the database can be accessed through our website at http://sao13th.com under the "Community" tab, or at https://measuresforjustice.org/. These are but a few of the actions we have taken this year to increase our office's transparency and provide information to the public. We look forward to continuing these efforts in 2018.



LEGISLATIVE

The legal landscape is constantly shifting. Decisions made in Tallahassee and Washington, DC have a direct and substantial impact on how our office operates, which affects the members of our community. To increase public safety, promote a fair and just criminal justice system, and ensure the efficient use of taxpayer resources, it is important to make our voice heard on legislative matters that affect criminal justice. In 2017, our office was active in meeting with state and federal legislators to discuss, support, and oppose legislation concerning our criminal justice system. Although we cannot control how our elected representatives vote, we will continue to make sure our voice is heard on behalf of Hillsborough County.

PROSECUTORS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE



State Attorney Warren participated in a two-day summit in Washington, D.C. with elected prosecutors from across the country to discuss the impact of pending federal gun legislation on community safety. Hosted by the bipartisan coalition Prosecutors Against Gun Violence (PAGV), the summit occurred on the 58th day after the Las Vegas mass shooting that claimed 58 innocent lives. As part of the summit, State Attorney Warren met with Florida Senator Bill Nelson and Tampa Bay area Representatives Kathy Castor, Dennis Ross, and Gus Bilirakis to discuss gun legislation, including strengthening background checks, limitations on concealed carry, restricting domestic abusers' access, and regulating silencers, armor-piercing bullets, and so-called "bump stocks" like the one used in the Las Vegas shooting. State Attorney Warren's message was clear; making it more difficult for dangerous people to obtain deadly weapons is critical to public safety. We need sensible, effective gun laws. He was honored to be a part of the unified voice of prosecutors and law enforcement officials dedicated to making our neighborhoods safer for everyone.

STAND YOUR GROUND

During the 2017 session, the Florida Legislature changed the legal requirements for defendants seeking self-defense immunity from criminal prosecution under the "Stand Your Ground" law. State Attorney Warren and his elected colleagues the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association ("FPAA") worked hard to oppose unnecessary changes to the law. Although the Legislature did ultimately amend Stand Your Ground, the changes to the law were far better than earlier proposals that the FPAA strenuously opposed. The new law shifted the burden to the state to prove at a preliminary hearing by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant did not act in self-defense. As predicted, the change has made it harder to convict violent criminals, moved law enforcement officers off the street and into courtrooms for additional legal hearings, and wasted taxpayer dollars by increasing the workload of prosecutors and law enforcement. We will continue to work with the Legislature to find sensible changes to the law to protect responsible gun owners without undermining public safety or disrupting the effective operation of our criminal justice system.



Opposed AG Sessions' Policy Requiring Prosecutors to Seek Maximum Sentences

We took a stand against U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' directive to federal prosecutors to seek the maximum, longest sentences possible under the sentencing guidelines for all crimes. AG Sessions' directive was a reversal of some of the smart on crime policies embraced by those across the political spectrum. Extensive research shows that a blanket and automatic implementation of maximum sentences does not decrease crime, reduce recidivism, or increase public safety; rather, it has the opposite effect. Although AG Sessions' directive is limited to federal prosecutors and therefore does not constrain the State Attorney's Office, we were honored to join prosecutors from the across the nation to voice our opposition to an outdated policy that undermines public safety and fairness while wasting taxpayer resources.

Opposed Concealed Carry Reciprocity

In 2017, State Attorney Warren authored multiple editorial opinions in the Tampa Bay Times newspaper on a variety of criminal justice related topics, including the significant matter of gun legislation. A December 2017 op-ed, which can be accessed here, http://bit.ly/2jhjAYS discusses the implications of the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017 ("CCRA") that was moving through Congress. He thoughtfully details how the national legislation would threaten public safety, damage responsible gun ownership, undermine law enforcement, and threaten the rights of all Floridians. It appears that the CCRA has stalled in Congress, but we will continue to monitor this legislation in 2018.



SAO Working Efficiently Through Severe Budget Cuts

Our office is funded primarily from state funds appropriated by the Governor and the Legislature. The Hillsborough County Commission provides additional funding, specifically for our victims' assistance program, as well as our technology and physical plant needs, and the Commission has continued to provide excellent funding support for these items. Our state funding, however, came under extensive pressure last legislative session. The state funds consist of an annual general revenue appropriation and from dedicated trust funds whose revenue comes from court fines, traffic tickets, etc. In 2017, Tallahassee cut our general revenue funding by 5% and swept our dedicated trust fund resources by nearly 20%. These cuts totaled more than \$2.5 million, which could have had a drastic effect on our operations. Despite these cuts, we have been able to maintain our staffing levels and our level of service to the community largely by creating operational efficiencies within the office. We anticipate that 2018 will be a challenging year from a budget standpoint. Although we stand ready to fight for resources needed to keep our community safe, we are dedicated to the principal that funding challenges will not limit our pursuit of justice.

Supported Unanimity Requirement for Death Penalty

The first law passed during the 2017 legislative session was a requirement that juries unanimously agree on the death penalty for a defendant convicted of a capital offense. State Attorney Warren supported the change to bring Florida in line with U.S. Supreme Court law and the majority of other states across the country. The unanimity requirement was the culmination of a multi-year battle over the constitutionality of Florida's death penalty laws. In fact, this was the Legislature's second attempt at fixing the jury requirements for imposing the death penalty. The Florida Supreme Court previously struck down a law that did not require unanimous jury recommendations in order to impose the death sentence. State Attorney Warren believes the death penalty should be used fairly, consistently, and rarely, and the current state of the law requiring a jury's recommendation of death to be unanimous helps to ensure the appropriate use of capital punishment.



PARTNERSHIPS



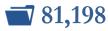
OFFICE UPDATES



Assistant State Attorneys



Investigators, case managers, clerical, and support staff



Cases Handled in 2017

We are committed to making the State Attorney's Office the pinnacle of professionalism. To that end, we started 2017 by putting our own internal operations under the microscope by implementing an office-wide review of policies, procedures, and programs. As a result, we have identified many ways to operate our office more efficiently and make better use of the investment taxpayers make in our office. For example, we have reorganized our case intake department to better utilize both technology and personnel. Our office has instituted cross-training programs to allow our team to better support one another. The best example of this came during Hurricane Irma, when our team was able to cover all essential operations despite office and court closures. Another example was the lack of a training facility for our attorneys and staff. With our partners in the criminal justice system, we were able to secure funding to build a state-of-the-art auditorium and mock trial courtroom. This facility will be housed in our current office building and is currently in the design stage. We anticipate completion in late 2018 or early 2019. Although this facility had been part of budget discussions for the past decade, under the leadership of Chief of Staff Gary Weisman, it is now becoming a reality. The auditorium will not only provide a place for our team to continue essential professional training and for collaboration with our criminal justice partners, but there will also be additional space available to other local agencies and the entire community. We are excited to have the County's support and for the wonderful enhancement that this facility will provide.

LAW ENFORCEMENT RIDE-ALONGS

In July of 2017, we implemented a program requiring Assistant State Attorneys to participate in ride-alongs with local law enforcement agencies. Ride-alongs allow prosecutors to witness first-hand what officers experience during their shifts. It provides valuable insight into the various roles that officers serve: as peacekeepers, investigators, mental health providers, guidance counselors, and mentors. Ride-alongs also help prosecutors to understand the community, including neighborhoods that they serve. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Tampa Police Department, Temple Terrace Police Department, Florida Highway Patrol, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission graciously agreed to participate in the ridealong program.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

We are creating a robust continuing legal education program for our prosecutors. As a special event, in October 2017 we were honored to have Professor Charles Ehrhardt from Florida State University and author of *Ehrhardt's Florida Evidence* teach a class to our Assistant State Attorneys.



We are State winning Circuit award in The Flot the Thir

We are proud of our Chief Assistant State Attorney Chris Moody for winning the **2017 Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Award.** The award is presented to a member of The Florida Bar who has practiced in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit for at

least fifteen years; who has consistently demonstrated honesty, integrity, fairness, courtesy, and an abiding sense of responsibility to comply with the standards and rules of professionalism in the practice of law; and who has earned the highest respect among local lawyers and judges for his or her commitment to professionalism.

Chief ASA Moody has been with the office over 22 years having previously served as a Felony Bureau Chief, Felony Division Chief, Chief of SOD, and Juvenile Division Chief, as well as in the homicide division. Previous non-legal working experience includes more than 7 years in the United States Marine Corps as an artillery officer, a division budget officer, and as race director for the Marine Corps Marathon. Taking a break from prosecuting, he taught high school for 4 years in Virginia. A graduate of the University of Florida with BA and JD degrees, his post baccalaureate work includes business/finance and education.

SAFER STRONGER HILLSBOROUGH



STAY ENGAGED

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