

LEX QUOD ORDO

ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | FALL 2010 VOLUME I ISSUE II

WELCOME TO THE SECOND EDITION OF LEX QUOD ORDO (LAW AND ORDER), THE ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' (APA) QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO THE FIELD OF COMMUNITY PROSECUTION. IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, APA'S COMMUNITY PROSECUTION DIVISION HAS CONTINUED TO OFFER TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PROSECUTORS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS WHO ARE SEEKING TO REDUCE CRIME AND CREATE SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS.

APA'S LEX QUOD ORDO IS COMMITTED TO KEEPING PROSECUTORS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY AGENCIES UP-TO-DATE ON THE PROMISING PRACTICES, AND IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNITY PROSECUTION, AS WELL AS OFFERING INFORMATION ON UPCOMING APA EVENTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES. THIS SEPTEMBER, APA, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA) AND THE CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION (CCI), LOOKS FORWARD TO HOSTING THE 6TH NATIONAL COMMUNITY PROSECUTION CONFERENCE: THE 21ST CENTURY PROSECUTOR IN WASHINGTON D.C. THE CONFERENCE WILL FEATURE SESSIONS FOCUSED ON PROVIDING ATTENDEES WITH THE REQUISITE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE TO IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES FOR CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES IN THEIR OWN JURISDICTIONS.

THE CONFERENCE WILL ASSIST PROSECUTORS AND THEIR CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERS IN FINDING LOW-COST/NO-COST WAYS TO FOCUS ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIME REDUCTION INITIATIVES EVEN DURING THESE TOUGH BUDGETARY TIMES. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.APAINC.ORG TO REGISTER NOW. THE CONFERENCE'S AGENDA IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.

THIS EDITION OF LEX QUOD ORDO AIMS TO HIGHLIGHT SPECIFIC CHALLENGES, AS WELL AS STRATEGIC ADVANCES TAKING PLACE IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNITY PROSECUTION. IN PARTICULAR, THIS NEWSLETTER ADDRESSES NEW DISTURBING TRENDS IN BURGLARY CRIME RATES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. WHILE RECENT FBI REPORTS HAVE CONTINUALLY HAILED THE OVERALL DECREASE IN NATIONWIDE VIOLENT CRIME, IN MANY AREAS BURGLARY RATES HAVE REMAINED RESISTANT.¹

RECOGNIZING THE PRESSING NATURE OF THIS ISSUE, PROSECUTORS NATIONWIDE HAVE BEEN DEVISING AND INSTIGATING NEW AND PROACTIVE COMMUNITY PROSECUTION EFFORTS TO COMBAT BURGLARY CRIME. THIS NEWSLETTER WILL FOCUS ON TWO OFFICES IN PARTICULAR—MARION COUNTY, IN AND DENVER, CO—THAT ARE SUCCESSFULLY UTILIZING INNOVATIVE FORMS OF COMMUNITY PROSECUTION TO REDUCE BURGLARY CRIME AND MAINTAIN SAFER COMMUNITIES.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK AND RECOGNIZE THE PROSECUTORS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS NEWSLETTER AND SO GRACIOUSLY SHARED THEIR WORK WITH THE FIELD.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE, CONNECT WITH US ON OUR FACEBOOK FAN PAGE AND FOLLOW US ON TWITTER. IN ADDITION, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME AT STEVEN.JANSEN@APAINC.ORG IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE, HAVE QUESTIONS,

OR SUGGESTIONS FOR ISSUES WE SHOULD ADDRESS IN FUTURE TRAININGS AND PUBLICATIONS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER!



REGISTER NOW!
THE 6TH NATIONAL COMMUNITY PROSECUTION CONFERENCE: THE 21ST CENTURY PROSECUTOR IN WASHINGTON D.C.

-Steven Jansen
Vice-President and COO

¹All four violent crime offenses—murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault—declined nationwide in 2009 when compared with 2008 data. FBI Releases Preliminary Annual Crime Statistics for 2009. 2009 Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report. <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/prelimsem2009/index.html> (May 24, 2010).

INDIANAPOLIS COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS TACKLE REPEAT BURGLARS

By: MICHELLE WAYMIRE, CHIEF OF MARION COUNTY'S COMMUNITY PROSECUTION DIVISION

FROM 2004 TO 2008 MARION COUNTY (INDIANAPOLIS) EXPERIENCED AN ABNORMALLY LARGE SPIKE IN RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES. DURING THIS SAME TIME PERIOD THE UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS STATISTICS SHOWED A NATIONWIDE INCREASE IN RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES OF 10.9% COMPARED WITH A 30% INCREASE IN MARION COUNTY. IN 2008 ALONE, MARION COUNTY RESIDENTS WERE VICTIMS OF MORE THAN 12,000 RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES, WITH LESS THAN 1,300 OF THE CASES BEING SOLVED, AND EVEN FEWER ABLE TO BE PROSECUTED.

THESE STATISTICS LED COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS FROM THROUGHOUT THE CITY TO RECOGNIZE THEY HAD A BURGLARY PROBLEM IN EVERY DISTRICT. IN JANUARY 2009, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (IMPD) AND THE INDIANAPOLIS CRIME LAB, COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS BEGAN HAVING MONTHLY BURGLARY ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY MEETINGS TO DISCUSS THE GROWING BURGLARY PROBLEM. THE GROUP IDENTIFIED A VARIETY OF ISSUES THAT NEEDED TO BE ADDRESSED INCLUDING MORE THOROUGH INVESTIGATIONS, TRAINING, AND PUBLIC EDUCATION. THE GROUP ALSO DEVELOPED AND PRESENTED TRAINING FOR IMPD FIELD TRAINING OFFICERS (FTO'S) AND A BURGLARY CHECKLIST FOR PATROL OFFICERS. FURTHERMORE, THE COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS ENCOURAGED OFFICERS TO ATTEND SENTENCING HEARINGS ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY CASES AND IDENTIFIED EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING NEEDS FOR OFFICERS INVOLVED IN EVIDENCE COLLECTION AT CRIME SCENES.

FROM THESE DISCUSSIONS THE IMPD LATENT PRINT UNIT COMPILED AND MAINTAINED A MULTIPLE LATENT IDENTIFICATION LIST (LATENT PRINT LIST) WHICH IDENTIFIED ADULT AND JUVENILE SUSPECTS WHOSE PRINTS WERE COLLECTED AND SUBSEQUENTLY IDENTIFIED AT MULTIPLE CRIME SCENES. THIS LIST CONFIRMED THAT A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF OFFENDERS WERE INVOLVED IN A LARGE NUMBER OF BURGLARIES (TWO PARTICULAR OFFENDERS ON THE LIST WERE LINKED TO 42 SEPARATE BURGLARIES), AND HIGHLIGHTED THAT MANPOWER CONSTRAINTS FOR POLICE AND PROSECUTORS PREVENTED FOCUSING ON THIS GROUP OF OFFENDERS. BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE LATENT PRINT LIST, DETECTIVES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE CITY WERE ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATE CASES INVOLVING THE SAME OFFENDERS BUT DID NOT COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER ABOUT THEIR INVESTIGATIONS. THIS LED TO VARIOUS PROSECUTORS PROSECUTING SEPARATE CASES INVOLVING THE SAME OFFENDERS. NO ONE WAS LOOKING AT THE "BIG PICTURE" AND NO ONE WAS DEDICATED TO AGGRESSIVELY TARGETING, VERTICALLY PROSECUTING AND INCARCERATING THESE KNOWN BURGLARY SUSPECTS. THE COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS REALIZED THAT FOCUSING DEDICATED LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES ON KNOWN OFFENDERS WHO WERE STATISTICALLY MORE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO COMMIT CRIMES WAS CRITICAL TO REDUCING CRIME RATES AND BUILDING SAFE COMMUNITIES.

IN JANUARY 2010, THE COMMUNITY PROSECUTION DIVISION RECEIVED GRANT FUNDING FOR TWO DEPUTY PROSECUTORS AND A BILINGUAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT TO FOCUS FULL TIME ON THE UNCHARGED RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY SUSPECTS IDENTIFIED IN THE LATENT PRINT LIST AND TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS TO REDUCE THE RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY RATE. MOREOVER, THE POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMITTED TO DEDICATE A SMALL GROUP OF DETECTIVES TO WORK ON THIS PROJECT AND THE

CRIME LAB COMMITTED TO PROVIDE NECESSARY TRAINING FOR THE OFFICERS. DURING THIS COMING YEAR, THE INDIANAPOLIS COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS AND OFFICERS ON THE BURGLARY ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY TEAM (BEST) WILL CONDUCT THOROUGH INVESTIGATIONS AND GATHER COMPREHENSIVE INTELLIGENCE DATA ON RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY CASES AND SUSPECTS IDENTIFIED IN THE MULTIPLE LATENT PRINT LIST. THIS GROUP WILL NETWORK AND SHARE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION ON RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY CASES AND SUSPECTS WITH NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS TO JOINTLY TARGET BURGLARS WHO ARE CROSSING COUNTY LINES. ADDITIONALLY, THE INDIANAPOLIS CRIME LAB WILL TRAIN IMPD OFFICERS AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ON PROPER EVIDENCE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF CRIME SCENES, FOCUSING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FINGERPRINT AND DNA EVIDENCE.

SINCE LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSES ALONE ARE SELDOM EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING A CRIME PROBLEM, MARION COUNTY IS USING STRATEGIC AND DATA LED ENFORCEMENT METHODS COMBINED WITH EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION TO REDUCE RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY RATES. AS SUCH, THE INDIANAPOLIS COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS AND BEST WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO BECOME INVOLVED IN MONITORING COURT CASES OF SUSPECTS ON THE LATENT PRINT LIST AND ASSISTING WITH IDENTIFICATION OF REPEAT OFFENDERS. THE GROUP WILL ALSO PROVIDE FREE ENGRAVING/MARKING OF PERSONAL PROPERTY WILL BE OFFERED SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR WITH THE GOAL OF MAKING PROPERTY RECOVERY MORE SUCCESSFUL IN THE EVENT OF A BURGLARY AND RESIDENTS WHO GET THEIR PROPERTY MARKED WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH A WINDOW DECAL WARNING POTENTIAL BURGLARS THAT THEIR PROPERTY HAS BEEN MARKED. THESE EFFORTS SHOULD FURTHER BUILD THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS AND MARION COUNTY RESIDENTS AND ENHANCE THE ABILITY TO TACKLE THE GROWING PROBLEM OF RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.



source: www.dna.gov/training/evidence/

DENVER'S "COMMON THREAD" PERSPECTIVE LEADS TO INNOVATIVE PROSECUTION

By: DENVER DISTRICT ATTORNEY MITCH MORRISSEY*

DURING THE 1990S AND EARLY 2000S, THE DENVER DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HOUSED MULTIPLE PROGRAMS DEDICATED TO VICTIM'S SERVICES AND CRIME PREVENTION. IN 2004, I SAW THE NEED TO BRING THE PROGRAMS TOGETHER UNDER THE SPECIAL PROGRAMS UNIT (SPU) IN ORDER TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS WITH AND SERVICES TO THE DENVER COMMUNITY: "EACH PROGRAM BROUGHT SOMETHING UNIQUE TO THE TABLE AND CONNECTING THEM WITHIN THE SPECIAL PROGRAMS UNIT CREATED AN EXCEPTIONAL FORUM FOR OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION WITH OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY."

AT PRESENT THERE ARE SEVEN PROGRAMS IN THE SPU: VICTIMS SERVICES NETWORK (VSN), JUVENILE DIVERSION, SEX ASSAULT INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL (SAIC), WITNESS PROTECTION, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRIAGE/RESOURCES TEAM, COLD CASE UNIT (INCLUDING A JUSTICE REVIEW/INNOCENCE PROJECT) AND THE COMMUNITY AGAINST SENIOR EXPLOITATION (CASE) PROGRAM. ADDITIONALLY, THE UNIT HOUSES A SPECIALIZED SEXUAL ASSAULT PROSECUTION PROGRAM, OVERSEES ALL OFFICE GRANTS ADMINISTRATION, AND PROVIDES THE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE DENVER VICTIM ASSISTANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT BOARD (VALE). ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE BUILT FROM A CLIENT-CENTERED PERSPECTIVE BASED ON THE FEEDBACK AND NEEDS EXPRESSED BY THE COMMUNITY. THIS PERSPECTIVE CREATES A "COMMON THREAD" THAT TIES EACH PROGRAM TOGETHER AND FACILITATES AN ONGOING TRANSFERENCE OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE. CENTRAL TO THE "COMMON THREAD" PHILOSOPHY IS FINDING THE "INTEGRATION POINT" ON A SPECTRUM BETWEEN PROSECUTION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT THAT IS UNIQUE TO EACH PROGRAM. THIS POINT DICTATES WHO THE PROGRAM IS DESIGNED FOR AGENCIES, DIRECT SERVICES, ETC., - AND ENSURES THAT DIVERSE POPULATIONS ARE REACHED. CRITICAL TO ESTABLISHING THE INTEGRATION POINT IS RETAINING FLEXIBILITY SO THAT FEEDBACK CAN BE FULLY INCORPORATED. STEVE SIEGEL, DIRECTOR OF THE SPECIAL PROGRAMS UNIT SINCE 2004 NOTES THAT, "THE BREADTH OF OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY HAS EXPANDED EXPONENTIALLY BECAUSE OF THE SYNERGY OF THE PROGRAMS." BY CREATING AN INTERNAL STRUCTURE THAT IS ORIENTED AROUND THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENCOMPASSES PROGRAMS THAT TOUCH EVERY MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY, THE UNIT AS A WHOLE IS AWARE OF CHANGES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT INDICATE HOW SERVICES ARE RECEIVED. AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THIS PROGRAMMING, STAFF IN EACH PROGRAM IS CONSISTENTLY ABLE TO MAKE REFERRALS AND ANTICIPATE A POSITIVE OUTCOME.

IN EARLY 2000, THE DA'S OFFICE SURVEYED VARIOUS NEIGHBORHOODS AROUND DENVER TO LEARN ABOUT PERCEPTIONS OF THE OFFICE. THE DENVER COMMUNITY CLEARLY ARTICULATED THE NEED FOR A TRUSTED LIAISON SO, THE OFFICE CREATED THE COMMUNITY VICTIM ADVOCATE ("CVA") POSITION. THE CVA SPENDS THE MAJORITY OF THE IN THE COMMUNITY GIVING TRAININGS AND PROVIDING CRIME PREVENTION EDUCATION. THE CVA NETWORKS WITH TRUSTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS INCLUDING RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND PROMINENT BUSINESS LEADERS AMONG OTHERS, TO LEARN THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY. RECENTLY, THE CVA WAS GIVEN OFFICE SPACE AT A LOCAL CHURCH TO SPEND TIME SITTING AND TALKING WITH PEOPLE IN AN INFORMAL AND ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENT. THE CVA GIVES THE OFFICE A

FACE OF CONCERN AND EMPATHY (AND WHEN APPROPRIATE, A SENSE OF HUMOR), HELPING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO BECOME MORE WILLING TO LISTEN, LEARN, AND SPEAK, IN ORDER TO PREVENT AND REPORT CRIME. CONVERSELY, WHEN CITIZENS SPEAK TO A CVA ABOUT THEIR PARTICULAR CASE, THE CVA IS ABLE TO OFFER PERSONAL ASSURANCE THAT PROSECUTORS AND VICTIM ADVOCATES ARE GENUINELY COMMITTED TO THE CASE. THE COMMUNITY VICTIM ADVOCATE POSITION PROVIDES CRUCIAL SERVICES AND DIRECT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE DA'S OFFICE AND THE COMMUNITY, THEREBY ENHANCING PROSECUTION AND OTHER PROGRAMMING WITHIN THE OFFICE.

ANOTHER PRIORITY WITHIN THE SPECIAL PROGRAMS UNIT IS TO ENSURE THAT VICTIMS OF CRIME HAVE AN ACCESSIBLE ENTRY POINT TO CRITICAL SERVICES. VICTIMS SERVICES NETWORK IS BUILT AROUND THE PREMISE THAT PARTNER AGENCIES HAVE ACCESS TO TRAININGS AND NETWORKING SO THAT THEY CAN OFFER THE MOST RELEVANT SERVICES TO ANY VICTIM THAT WALKS THROUGH THE DOOR. AGENCIES WITHIN THE NETWORK REGULARLY PROVIDE CROSS-TRAININGS TO THEIR PARTNERS IN ORDER TO INCREASE AWARENESS ABOUT SPECIFIC UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS, AND TO MAINTAIN FOCUS DIRECTLY ON VICTIM NEEDS. TRAININGS INCLUDE TOURS OF PARTNER AGENCY FACILITIES SO THAT IN THE REFERRAL PROCESS, AN ADVOCATE CAN TELL THE VICTIM EXACTLY WHAT TO EXPECT IN HIS OR HER EXPERIENCE AT THE REFERRAL AGENCY. PRIORITIZING CLIENT NEEDS AT THE CORE OF SERVICES IS WOVEN INTO THE PROFESSIONAL INTERACTION BETWEEN AGENCIES. THIS MODEL HAS BEEN REPLICATED IN UNIQUE FASHION IN OVER TWENTY JURISDICTIONS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES.¹

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



JUVENILE DIVERSION YOUTH WITH DISTRICT ATTORNEY MITCH MORRISSEY, DIRECTOR OF JUVENILE DIVERSION BENITA MARTIN AND STAFF AFTER COMPLETING AN ART PROJECT.

*Special thanks to Steve Siegel and Kate Finn.
¹"TTA Sites," Denver Victim Services 2000 History and Overview

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ALSO MAINTAINS AN INFORMATIONAL WEBSITE PROVIDING RESOURCES TO CITIZENS, COMMUNITY AGENCIES AND PROSECUTOR'S OFFICES NATIONWIDE. I ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN FACEBOOK AND TWITTER IN ORDER TO UNDERScore THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING MULTIPLE FORMS OF CONNECTION WITH THE COMMUNITY AND TO GIVE THOSE WHO WOULD NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE MAKING CONTACT THROUGH MORE TRADITIONAL MEANS A PLACE TO SEEK HELP.

THE SEXUAL ASSAULT INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL (SAIC) WEAVES THE "COMMON THREAD" PHILOSOPHY INTO OUTCOMES AS WELL AS PROCEDURE. SAIC IS A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR A COLLABORATIVE SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE PROTOCOL BY CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY AGENCIES (THE SECOND SUCH PROTOCOL EVER CREATED IN THE COUNTRY). SAIC HAS STREAMLINED PROCESSES THAT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE UNIQUE TRAUMA OF SEXUAL ASSAULT IN EVERY STAGE OF REPORTING, EVIDENCE COLLECTION, TESTIFYING AND HEALING. THIS PROTOCOL INCLUDES A PROCESS BY WHICH VICTIMS CAN BRING CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS FORWARD FOR FURTHER REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION. THESE POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS ARE THE NEW STANDARD FOR DENVER GOVERNMENTAL AND COMMUNITY BASED AGENCIES.

CREATING INTENTIONAL COMMUNICATION WITH THE COMMUNITY IS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE SPECIAL PROGRAMS UNIT; DEPLOYING THE FULL FORCE OF ITS COLLABORATIVE EXPERTISE AND BEST PRACTICES IS THE OTHER. IN 2005, THE UNIT IMPLEMENTED THE DNA BURGLARY PROJECT BASED ON THE "BROKEN WINDOW" THEORY. THE "BROKEN WINDOW" THEORY MAINTAINS THAT TRADITIONALLY LOWER PRIORITY CRIMES — SUCH AS BURGLARY AND PROPERTY CRIMES — ARE THOSE THAT ARE MOST INTRUSIVE TO CITIZENS AND THAT FIGHTING THOSE CRIMES SEND A STRONG MESSAGE TO OFFENDERS THAT THEY WILL BE CAUGHT. THE DENVER DNA BURGLARY PROJECT HARNESSSES ADVANCED DNA TECHNOLOGY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL. GIVEN THE RECIDIVIST NATURE OF CRIMES LIKE SEXUAL ASSAULT AND BURGLARY, A STRONG LIKELIHOOD EXISTS THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WHO COMMITTED THE CRIME BEING INVESTIGATED HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED OF A SIMILAR CRIME AND IS ALREADY INCLUDED IN THE CODIS DNA DATABASE.²

THE DENVER BURGLARY PROJECT FOUND THAT DESPITE THE RELATIVE LOW OCCURRENCE OF BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE FOUND AT BURGLARY CRIME SCENES (~8%), BURGLARS ARE LIKELY TO REPEAT THEIR CRIMES, AND IN SOME CASES, THEY ESCALATE TO MORE SERIOUS CRIMES.³ OF THE DNA SAMPLES ENTERED INTO CODIS FROM THE DENVER BURGLARY PROJECT, 58% HAVE FOUND MATCHES IN CODIS, RESULTING IN MULTIPLE CRIMES BEING SOLVED. BY INITIATING AND SUSTAINING DNA PROJECTS, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SENDS A POWERFUL MESSAGE TO COMMUNITIES THAT JUSTICE WILL BE SERVED NOT ONLY IN THE ABSTRACT, BUT EXPLICITLY FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITY.

ALL OF THE PROGRAMS IN THE SPECIAL PROGRAMS UNIT BENEFIT FROM EACH OTHER IN EXPERTISE, BEST USE OF PRACTICES, AND EXPERIENCE. THE WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM RELIES ON VSN TO PROVIDE TIMELY REFERRALS TO VICTIMS WHO ARE IN THE MOST NEED OF STRATEGIC SAFETY PLANNING. THEN, AS AN INDIVIDUAL BECOMES INDEPENDENT FROM THE PROGRAM, THEY ARE ABLE TO ACCESS A VARIETY OF SERVICES IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD SAFELY WITH THEIR LIVES. THE JUVENILE DIVERSION UNIT REGULARLY SOLICITS PROJECTS FROM VSN AGENCIES SO THAT PARTICIPANTS ARE WORKING ON PROJECTS THAT BRING LIFE AND LIVELIHOOD TO DENVER. THE SPECIAL PROGRAMS UNIT ALSO HOSTS A PROSECUTOR DEDICATED TO ISSUES RELATING TO SEXUAL ASSAULT. NOT ONLY DOES SHE TRAIN OUTSIDE OF THE OFFICE, BUT SHE REGULARLY INFORMS OTHER DEPUTIES REGARDING MOTIONS, PLEAS AND INTRODUCING EVIDENCE INTO COURT. THE COLD CASE DEPUTIES PROVIDE THE SAME CRITICAL FUNCTION TO THE OFFICE.

OVERALL, THE SPECIAL PROGRAMS UNIT IMPROVES PROSECUTION IN THE OFFICE BY PROVIDING A FORUM FOR DIALOGUE REGARDING SPECIAL VICTIM ISSUES. THE "COMMON THREAD" THAT TIES EACH SPECIAL PROGRAMS UNIT TOGETHER ALLOWS FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE AND ONGOING TRANSFERENCE OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE. THE DENVER DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HAS CAREFULLY INTEGRATED A VICTIM-CENTERED PERSPECTIVE INTO EVERY ASPECT OF PROSECUTION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING AND NOW, IN 2010, THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO CANNOT BE SEPARATED.



DENVER DISTRICT ATTORNEY STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES PARTICIPATING IN THE 2009 WALK LIKE MADD EVENT.

² Using DNA to Solve Cold Cases: Special Report. National Institute of Justice, July 2002.
³ NIJ Grant# 2005DNR095

COMMUNITY CORNER



PERFORMERS AT THE "STOMPING OUT VIOLENCE AND STEPPING TOWARDS SUCCESS" EVENT HOSTED BY THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE HOSTS STEP SHOW TO STRESS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN WASHINGTON D.C.

ON AUGUST 19TH OF THIS SUMMER, MORE THAN 300 PEOPLE FROM THE WASHINGTON D.C. AREA CHEERED ON A STEP SHOW HOSTED BY THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. THE PROGRAM - CALLED STOMPING OUT VIOLENCE AND STEPPING TOWARDS SUCCESS - TOOK PLACE AT HALFTIME OF A PLAYOFF GAME IN THE BARRY FARM GOODMAN BASKETBALL LEAGUE. IT WAS PART OF A SERIES OF COMMUNITY EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT LED BY U.S. ATTORNEY RONALD C. MACHEN JR.

MACHEN, WHO SPOKE TO THE CROWD BEFORE THE PERFORMANCES, STATED HIS GOAL IS TO "BUILD A BRIDGE" THROUGH FORUMS, COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS, AND TEAMWORK WITH THE DISTRICT'S MANY NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS. FOR THIS EVENT, HE AND PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY VINCENT H. COHEN JR. HELPED ENLIST PERFORMERS FROM THEIR OWN FRATERNITY, OMEGA PSI PHI. MACHEN PRAISED THE YOUNG MEN IN THE FRATERNITY AS STRONG ROLE MODELS WHO DEMONSTRATE THE POWER OF EDUCATION. THE FRATERNITY'S STEP TEAM - INCLUDING STUDENTS FROM GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, AND BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY - DELIVERED AN ENTHUSIASTIC ROUTINE. AS DID A TEAM OF YOUTHS FROM THE NEARBY MATTHEWS MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH WHO ALSO PERFORMED THAT EVENING. THE CHURCH HAS BEEN A STRONG PARTNER IN THE OFFICE'S EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY TIES. THE BARRY FARM GOODMAN BASKETBALL LEAGUE SHOWCASES SOME OF D.C.'S BEST PLAYERS, AND MACHEN'S COMMUNITY PROSECUTION TEAM VIEWED IT AS AN IDEAL PLACE TO DELIVER A POWERFUL MESSAGE. THE CHIEF OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND DIGNITARIES ALSO ATTENDED THE EVENT. IT MARKED THE SECOND TIME IN JUST A FEW WEEKS THAT THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SPONSORED A PROGRAM IN THE BARRY FARM NEIGHBORHOOD. THEY EARLIER ORGANIZED A SCREENING OF A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT BARRY FARM THAT DETAILED THE HISTORY OF THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED IN WASHINGTON AFTER EMANCIPATION.

MACHEN AND THE COMMUNITY PROSECUTION TEAM ARE "COMMITTED TO GOING OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY TO BUILD A PARTNERSHIP AND TO BUILD TRUST." MACHEN EMPHASIZED, "TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE THIS A SAFER PLACE."

"Community Corner" highlights programs designed to connect prosecutor's offices with their communities and enhances community relations. If you would like to be featured in future issues, please contact Gena Gonzales at Gena.Gonzales@apainc.org.



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MISSION

SUPPORT AND ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PROSECUTORS IN
THEIR EFFORTS TO CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES.

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6TH NATIONAL COMMUNITY PROSECUTION CONFERENCE

"The 21st Century Prosecutor"

REGISTER NOW

The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' 6th National Community Prosecution Conference is rapidly approaching!

All participants must book by SEPTEMBER 6th, 2010 to receive the APA hotel rate.

The conference will be held September 27-29, 2010 at the Capital Hilton, 1001 16th St NW, Washington D.C. 20036. Call 1-800-HILTONS or (202) 393-1000 for reservations. To register for the conference, please visit our website at www.APAInc.org.

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