

# LEX QUOD ORDO

ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2013 VOLUME IV ISSUE I

WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF LEX QUOD ORDO (LAW AND ORDER), THE APA'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY PROSECUTION. IN THIS EDITION, WE REPORT ON THE 8TH NATIONAL COMMUNITY PROSECUTION SUMMIT COMING UP IN SEPTEMBER, HIGHLIGHT A NEW QUALITY OF LIFE PROGRAM OUT OF ST PAUL, MINNESOTA, EXAMINE THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DRUG MARKET INITIATIVE IN AUSTIN, TEXAS AND REVIEW THE EXPANDED COMMUNITY PROSECUTION PROGRAM IN DALLAS, TEXAS.

IT MAY BE THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER, BUT WE AT APA HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK COMPLETING FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE 8TH NATIONAL COMMUNITY PROSECUTION SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN PHILADELPHIA FROM SEPTEMBER 25- 27TH AT THE DOWNTOWN SHERATON HOTEL. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR PARTNERS AT THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE AND THE CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION, WE ARE BUILDING WHAT WE HOPE YOU FIND TO BE AN INTERESTING AND CHALLENGING PROGRAM.

THE SUMMIT INCLUDES EIGHT PLENARY SESSIONS ON TOPICS RANGING FROM MANAGING MASS SHOOTING EVENTS, PROGRAM EVALUATION, AND REDUCING VIOLENCE THROUGH PROCEDURAL JUSTICE, TO ZONE PROSECUTION AND ETHICS. ALSO BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, WILL BE AN "OPEN MIC" SESSION WHERE SUMMIT ATTENDEES WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT THEIR ONGOING INITIATIVES AND POSE "STUMP THE EXPERT" QUESTIONS TO LONG TIME MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY PROSECUTION FACULTY. THE SUMMIT ALSO INCLUDES SIX ALTERNATE BREAKOUT SESSIONS ON TOPICS RANGING FROM HATE CRIMES AND BRADY LISTS TO COMMUNITY PROSECUTION BASICS & PROBLEM SOLVING. AND THROUGHOUT, THERE ARE MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ATTENDEES TO NETWORK WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH FACULTY BOTH DURING SUMMIT SESSIONS AND WHILE WE ARE "OFF THE CLOCK".

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT ATTORNEY SETH WILLIAMS AND HIS STAFF ARE OUR HOST OFFICE FOR THIS SUMMIT. THEY ARE ALSO HARD AT WORK WITH US TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR VISIT TO THE HEART OF HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA WILL BE A PRODUCTIVE AND ENJOYABLE ONE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE DRAFT AGENDA, VISIT [WWW.APAINC.ORG](http://WWW.APAINC.ORG).



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TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE VISIT [WWW.APAINC.ORG](http://WWW.APAINC.ORG) OR [HTTP://WWW.APAINC.ORG/DEFAULT.ASPX?ACT=NEWSLETTER.ASPX&CATEGORY=APA+HIGHLIGHTS&NEWSLETTERID=2290&MENUGROUP=HOME](http://WWW.APAINC.ORG/DEFAULT.ASPX?ACT=NEWSLETTER.ASPX&CATEGORY=APA+HIGHLIGHTS&NEWSLETTERID=2290&MENUGROUP=HOME). THERE IS NO REGISTRATION FEE FOR THIS SUMMIT AND REGISTRATION IS BRISK, AS ARE RESERVATIONS FOR ROOMS UNDER APA'S SPECIAL RATE ROOM BLOCK AT THE PHILADELPHIA SHERATON DOWNTOWN HOTEL. PLEASE REGISTER EARLY TO AVOID MISSING OUT ON THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN WITH YOUR COMMUNITY PROSECUTION COLLEAGUES. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

AS ALWAYS, PLEASE FORWARD NEWS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY PROSECUTION EFFORTS TO US, SO THAT WE CAN SHARE IT WITH ALL OF OUR COLLEAGUES NATIONWIDE AND REMEMBER APA IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE PEER-TO-PEER SITE VISIT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AT NO COST TO YOUR JURISDICTION. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HELP WITH YOUR COMMUNITY PROSECUTION EFFORTS, PLEASE CONTACT US AT [INFO@APAINC.ORG](mailto:INFO@APAINC.ORG).

SINCERELY,  
BOB HOOD  
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY PROSECUTION & VIOLENT CRIME DIVISION  
ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

## THE CITY OF DALLAS COMMUNITY PROSECUTION PROGRAM

BY: MAUREEN MILLIGAN,  
DALLAS CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The City of Dallas Community Prosecution Team, now in its twelfth year, utilizes strategic code enforcement to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods throughout the City of Dallas. The Team is staffed by two equally-important types of team members: (1) Assistant City Attorneys who have dual authority to prosecute criminal municipal ordinance violations and file civil lawsuits enforcing minimum housing standards and (2) state-certified code enforcement officers. Serving as the city's go-to strategic problem solvers, Community Prosecutors partner with neighborhood leaders, police officers, city staff and local non-profits to target substandard properties and illegal businesses that are sources of crime and blight. The Team is also a leader in developing innovative and effective education and enforcement initiatives.

In fiscal year 2011-2012, during an especially lean budget cycle, city leaders called upon the Community Prosecution Team to make an unprecedented expansion from working in targeted neighborhoods to serving the entire City of Dallas, but with two less staff members and no increase in budget. With technical assistance from the APA's Steven Jansen and Robert Hood, the Community Prosecution Team not only accepted this daunting task, but achieved extraordinary success in reducing blight and crime throughout the City of Dallas.

During fiscal year 2011-2012, the Community Prosecution Team worked proactively to identify substandard and crime-ridden properties and respond to over 300 referrals from public citizens, council members and other city staff. Community Prosecutors were able to obtain voluntary compliance from property owners in 250 instances and filed several lawsuits against non-complaint owners. Specifically, in response to the efforts of the Team, property owners

demolished entire substandard apartment complexes, closed illegal businesses, and invested millions of dollars to rehabilitate commercial and residential property.

Furthermore, Community Prosecutors concentrated a portion of their code enforcement and crime reduction efforts in targeted "Proactive Focus Areas" where their



Maureen Milligan, Interim Chief Community Prosecutor

efforts helped lead to a 13.7 percent reduction in Part 1 crime, including a 27 percent drop in burglaries and a 15.4 percent drop in homicides.

During the past year, the Community Prosecution Team also continued to create and lead innovative crime fighting and education programs and to partner with local, state and federal agencies. Community Prosecutors successfully partnered with the Texas National Guard to bring Operation Crackdown to Dallas, which led to the demolition of 32 substandard, drug-involved homes at no cost to the owner.

Furthermore, the Team worked with the National Crime Prevention Council to offer training and problem-solving techniques to various city departments and crime watch groups across the North Texas region. After years of identifying problems surrounding conditions and care provided to residents in group homes in the City of Dallas, Community Prosecutors lead in the research, preparation, and drafting of a boarding home licensing ordinance that has become a model for municipalities across the state of Texas, as well as the nation.

A final, exciting update relates to the Dallas Community Prosecution Team's innovative partnership with the Dallas District Attorney's Office. Starting last year, Community Prosecutors are now cross-designated and cross-trained as Assistant District Attorneys. This partnership adds another tool to the Community Prosecutors' enforcement toolbox, thereby allowing them to prosecute habitual criminal offenders in the local municipal courts, file civil lawsuits against them in the county and district courts, and to participate in the prosecution of misdemeanor and felony offenders in the Dallas County criminal courts.



From left to right: City Attorney Tom Perkins, Municipal Court Judge and Former Community Prosecutor Daniel Ryan and Community Prosecutors Yulise Waters and Vana Hammond-Powell

*Maureen Milligan is the Interim Chief of Community Prosecution & Community Courts at the Dallas City Attorney's Office.*

## ST. PAUL CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE WORKS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE IN COLLEGE NEIGHBORHOODS

By: Ivars Krievans,  
Saint Paul City Attorney's Office

During the summer of 2012 neighbors residing near St. Paul's five major colleges increasingly complained to the Mayor's office, City Council, neighborhood organizations and the police. For over a decade, the St. Paul Police Department (SPPD) has run the "Zero Adult Providers (ZAP)" detail that focuses resources on underage drinkers and their adult

providers during seven week-ends every fall and spring. Despite years of police and prosecutors addressing the problem of college the fall of 2012, the CP identified several areas where efforts could be more effective:

Continued on next page.

1. Since domestic assaults and DWI's are on the same court calendars as Social Host cases, these cases do not typically take priority and sometimes are not heard for several months – hindering the swift and certain justice that is effective in dealing with quality of life offenses. In response, the CP initiated a process that puts Social Host cases in court within 72 hours of the offense. The CP was able to negotiate this with the local bench by demonstrating that these cases are seasonal, thus not regularly demanding this unique court scheduling, and by reiterating the serious impact this offense has on St. Paul's neighborhoods and police resources. Additionally, the CP designed a specific Order to Report that officers provide offenders at the scene which indicates the precise date of their court appearance within the next 72 hours. As a result, court delays no longer dilute the impact these offenders have had on area residents.

2. Through a series of meetings and discussions on their mutual interests, the CP, police and college leadership improved their relationships and agreed to go further in their partnership to combat underage consumption. In order to further involve the colleges, the CP worked out an arrangement whereby every week of ZAP operation, police send out an e-mail to all the school security heads informing them of any Social Host citations issued. School representatives then pick up the public portion of the police reports at the records department to determine whether those cited were their students, and are then able to respond to their students' conduct promptly.

3. Finally, based on the ongoing concerns of neighbors, the CP sought out a more creative approach to the question of consequences. The CP, in collaboration with neighborhood organizations, initiated an ad hoc panel discussion between students and neighbors. Participation in the discussion is now a mandatory condition for resolution of the student's court case. Additionally, offenders pay \$150 in fees and complete 16 hours of community service. The community panel has been a great success, where the affected neighbors, landlords, police and the community prosecutor

attend and address the violators. The CP has introduced other topics to the panel discussions as well and has invited law students to give presentations on exactly how difficult the expungement process is in Minnesota. Several students commented that the expungement talk gave them a new awareness of the seriousness of a Social Host citation and the reality of having a criminal record. Many promised to take the message back to next year's freshmen.



Ivars Krievans, Community Prosecutor, Saint Paul City Attorney's Office

In the fall of 2012, there were 31 students cited for Social Host, and 227 for underage consumption. However, in the spring of 2013 there were only 9 social host citations and 55 underage consumption citations issued. It is difficult to say this early, whether or not the systematized ZAP and the Social Host initiatives have resulted in the improvements stated. But the CP hopes that this past year's student body will help to educate the incoming freshmen in the fall of 2013.

Here's to next year's statistics!

**For further questions, contact [ivars.krievans@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:ivars.krievans@ci.stpaul.mn.us)**

## AUSTIN MARKS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF A DRUG MARKET INITIATIVE CALLIN

By: Robert Hood,  
Association of Prosecuting Attorneys

Austin, Texas marks yet another successful implementation of the Drug Market Initiative model when they completed a DMI callin of eligible offenders on May 7. The DMI initiative is a USDOJ supported program designed to take down overt, open-air, neighborhood-based drug markets and reduce their associated violence. The Austin effort, spearheaded by Assistant District Attorney Dayna Blazey and Community Prosecutor Jason English, was born when the two learned about the initiative at APA's Innovations in Criminal Justice Summit I in Chicago and at a previous national community prosecution conference. APA working in partnership with the national DMI technical assistance team from the Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice provided training for the Austin team back in 2012. With support and encouragement from Travis County District Attorney Rosemary Lehmberg, Austin built a collaborative team and an excellent initiative with fidelity to the DMI model. The Austin team focused on one of the top open air drug markets in Austin at 12th & Chicon, a drug dealing hotspot that has operated for decades. Early reports following the Austin callin once again show promising results. To see a great KBTC Fox 7 news video on the story, see <http://www.myfoxaustin.com/story/22554406/crimewatch-initiative-targets-drug-market>.

Our congratulations to District Attorney Lemberg, and ADA's Blazey and English for a great implementation. Austin police are already considering expansion of the approach to other drug markets in the city. This is just yet another example of how what is learned at our



Rosemary Lehmberg, Travis County District Attorney

national trainings can be implemented to improve public safety and neighborhood livability in our communities. For more information on the Drug Market Initiative, see <https://www.bja.gov/Publications/DMIGuide.pdf>.

### Technical Assistance

The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys provides 24/7 technical assistance and professional case consultation to prosecutors. Please submit requests to [info@apainc.org](mailto:info@apainc.org).



# UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## MISSION

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

**Association of Prosecuting Attorneys**

*The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Center for Court Innovation, present :*

## THE 8TH NATIONAL COMMUNITY PROSECUTION SUMMIT

**SEPTEMBER 25TH-27TH, 2013**

**SHERATON PHILADELPHIA HOTEL  
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