

Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office

2024 Business Plan Presentation

**District Attorney
Patsy Austin-Gatson**



Rule 3.8: Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor (Comment)

“A prosecutor has the responsibility of a minister of justice and not simply that of an advocate. The responsibility carries with it specific obligations that the defendant is accorded procedural justice and that guilt is decided upon the basis of sufficient evidence.” beyond a reasonable doubt

– State Bar of Georgia



District Attorney's Office Overview

**District Attorney
Patsy Austin-Gatson**

Investigations

**Special Victims Unit
Child/Elderly Crimes**

Preparation and Trials

Accountability Courts

**Drug/Gang
Task Force**

Juvenile Court

**Victim/Witness
Program**

**Forensics Lab
Investigations**

**Sworn/Non-Sworn
Administration**

**Justice/Community
Initiatives**

**11 Prosecutorial
Divisions**

**Pre-Trial Intervention
Diversion Programs**



2023 YTD Recap

Accomplishments

- 53 jury trials resulting in an 80% conviction rate.
- 96% of our cases were affirmed on appeal, meaning the Appellate Court ruled in our favor.
- Junior District Attorney/Investigator Mentorship Program grew from 12 students to 49, which is an increase of 308%.
- Prosecuted four Fentanyl cases, which resulted in murder and voluntary manslaughter convictions. Ten cases are still pending.



2023 YTD Recap

Challenges

- Office space not sufficient for the needed number of employees
 - Even considering future office moves, the space is insufficient as the office will still be in multiple locations
- In the 11 court divisions that we service, several periodically run double courtrooms
- Not having the adequate amount of ADA positions to service Gwinnett's growing population in 2024, which is estimated to be 1,008,402

COUNTIES	# OF ADA'S	POPULATION 2022
Fulton	180	1.074 Million
Gwinnett	58	975,353
Dekalb	90	762,820



External Influences

- Community and nonprofits
- State and federal legislation
- Superior Court
- Law enforcement agencies
- County government



Notable Metrics/Statistics

2023 Crimes	2023 January – August
Homicide	22
Rape	103
Burglary	867
Theft	3,471
Gang-related incidents	123

2023 Deaths by Drugs

99 confirmed drug deaths/36 awaiting toxicology reports



Notable Metrics/Statistics

	Opened Cases
Superior Court	3,133
Juvenile Court	1,083
Total	4,216

	Closed Cases
Superior Court	2,644
Juvenile Court	1,047
Total	3,691

- Drug and Gang Task Force (DGTF) has opened 84 cases in 2023
- Special Victim Unit (SVU) has opened 91 cases in 2023



Operational Decisions

- Obtain Assistant District Attorneys to aid with the high volume of incoming cases and various court calendars
- Increase the Investigation Unit to sufficiently review cases received from various law enforcement agencies
- Expand our Community Outreach department to collaborate with local agencies and educate our community



2024 Operational Budget Changes

Decision Packages

- 2 Assistant District Attorney positions to assist in holding preliminary hearings as required

Cost – \$235,182



2024 Operational Budget Changes

Decision Packages

- 1 District Attorney Investigator position to enhance the safety of county citizens and ensure justice

Cost – \$169,208



2024 Operational Budget Changes

Decision Packages

- 1 Community Outreach Coordinator position to promote criminal justice system awareness and education

Cost – \$115,532



Office Initiatives

- Facilitating our second Restorative Justice Program class for Rehabilitation Enables Dreams (RED)
- Continued our Junior DA/INV Mentorship program
- Held two cohorts for our Ryzer Program, trial intervention in Juvenile Court
- Proceeded with our virtual homicide victims support group
- Reintroducing Community Conversations to help shed light on essential topics
- Developing a Citizens Academy to help create a better understanding of the criminal justice system in our community



Planning for the Future

- Educate our community
- Increase staff in line with county population
- Expansion of office space/building needs to adequately serve the community



Total Budget

Total Requested Budget

\$25,240,187

Decision Packages

\$519,922

