

# Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office



## 2023 Business Plan Presentation

District Attorney Patsy Austin-Gatson

# Rule 3.8: Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor (Comment)

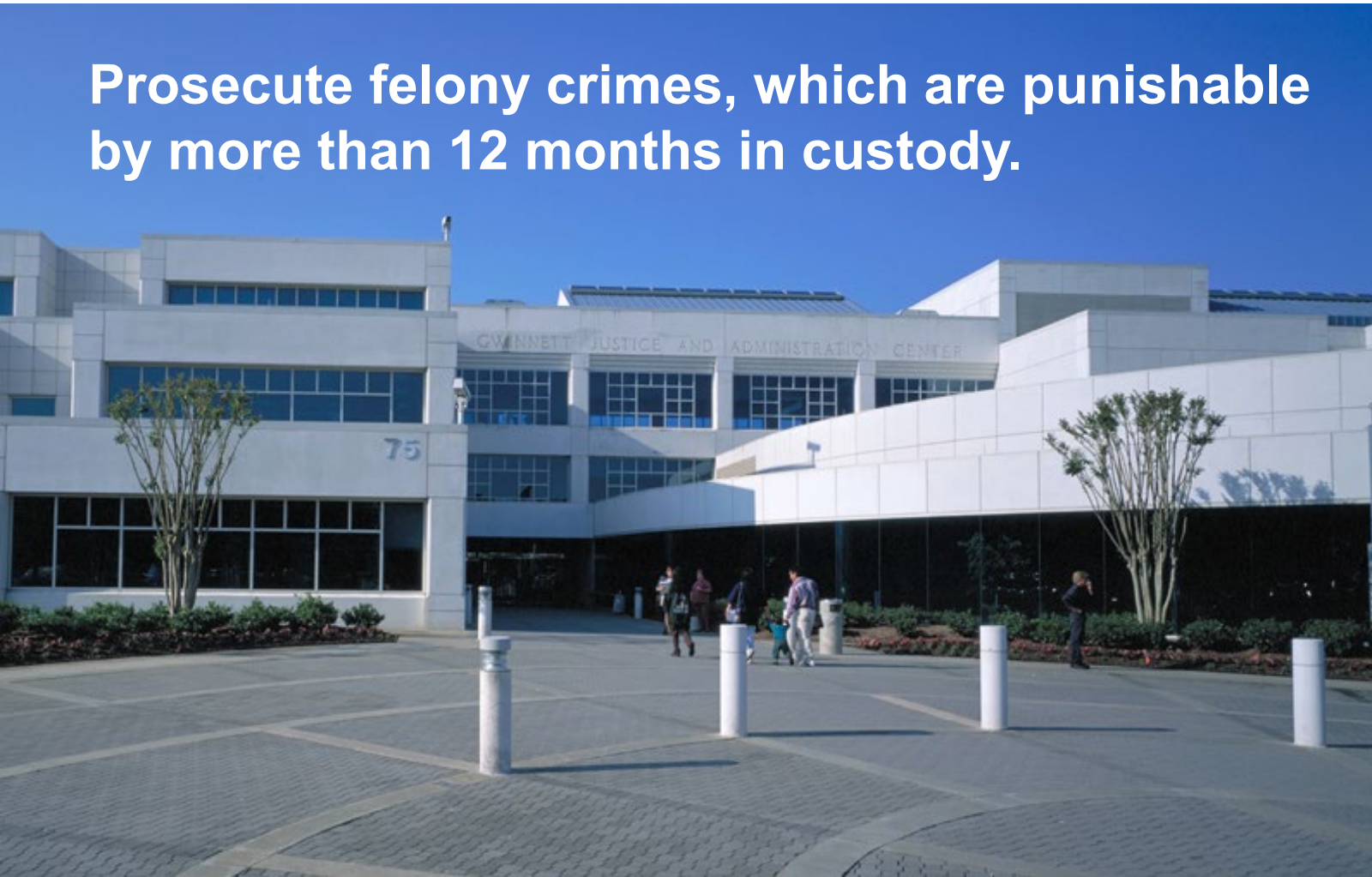
**“A prosecutor has the responsibility of a minister of justice and not simply that of an advocate. The responsibility carries with it specific obligations that the defendant is accorded procedural justice and that guilt is decided upon the basis of sufficient evidence.”**

**– State Bar of Georgia**



# District Attorney's Office: Key Functions

Prosecute felony crimes, which are punishable by more than 12 months in custody.



## TYPES OF CASES PROSECUTED

- Murder
- Rape
- Armed Robbery
- Aggravated Child Molestation
- Aggravated Sodomy
- Aggravated Sexual Battery
- Voluntary Manslaughter
- Bribery
- Public Corruption



# District Attorney's Office Overview

	<b>District Attorney Patsy Austin-Gatson</b>	
<b>Investigations</b>	<b>Special Victims Unit Child/Elderly Crimes</b>	<b>Preparation &amp; Trials</b>
<b>Accountability Courts</b>	<b>Drug/Gang Task Force</b>	<b>Juvenile Court</b>
<b>Victim/Witness Program</b>	<b>Forensics Lab Investigations</b>	<b>Sworn/Non-Sworn Administration</b>
<b>Justice/Community Initiatives</b>	<b>11 Prosecutorial Divisions</b>	<b>Pre-Trial Intervention Diversion Programs</b>



# Intra-Departmental Partnerships



- Our Office is critical to assure the safety of our citizens and residents
- This means working with various policing agencies throughout the region, state, and country
- This includes collaboration with Law Enforcement and Gwinnett County Schools





# Year to Date Recap: Accomplishments

- Inclusive and diverse staff that reflects the diversity of Gwinnett County's residents
- Launched Inaugural Class of Jr. DA/ INV Mentorship Program 2022
- Launched Restorative Justice Program [R.E.D.] for 17 to 28-year-old defendants
- Continued DA Ryzer Program, trial intervention in Juvenile Court



# Year to Date Recap: Accomplishments

- **Earned GACP Use of Force Compliance Certification (One of only two District Attorney's Offices in Georgia)**
- **Implemented NARCAN training for our Investigators to prevent drug overdoses**
- **Implementation of Cold Case & Conviction Integrity Units**
- **Our Cold Case Unit coordinated new evidence to directly indict a 2015 homicide which is currently pending trial**





# Year to Date Recap: Accomplishments

- **August 2021 to present, Trials and pleas – 5890**
- **August 2021 to present, Indicted Cases – 3769**
- **Launched Community Conversations on safety and continued District Attorney Townhalls**
- **Proclamation from Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson and the Board of Commissioners honoring Victims Rights Week**





# Year to Date Recap: Challenges (Opportunities)

- Clearing out pre-pandemic cases to resolution
- Clearing pandemic backlog in a timely fashion
- Proper victim/witness contacts due to age of cases



# Year to Date Recap: Challenges (Opportunities)

- Adequately resourced department (Market Adjustment)
- Evolving technology in criminal cases
- Providing continued coverage of all areas in the office due to pay disparity and striving to retain skilled Assistant District Attorneys in a competitive Metro Atlanta market



# Trends & Future Impact

- **Curtailing fentanyl and methamphetamine drug trade in Gwinnett County**
- **Prosecuting drug dealers who have caused deaths in Gwinnett County**
- **First conviction in the state of drug dealer for murder in fentanyl overdose**
- **2021: 196 drug overdose deaths in Gwinnett County**
- **2022: 48 confirmed drug deaths/38 awaiting toxicology reports**





# Decision Package 1

## Diversion Initiatives

[RED] Rehabilitation Enables Dreams  
\$125,000/ \$185,500 [12-month program]

Ryzer – Juvenile Court  
\$40,000



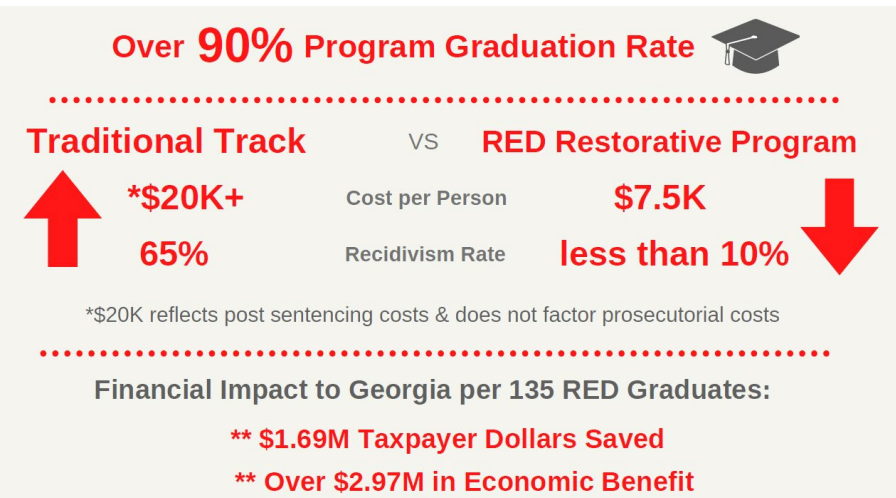
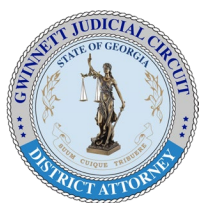
Title	Diversion Initiatives
Outcome	Stop Recidivism
Primary BOC Priority	Safe, Livable and Healthy Community



# Diversion Initiatives



RED and Ryzer are dedicated to keeping people out of the criminal justice system – permanently – through programs that support the **Social, Civic, Financial, and Digital** literacy of individuals referred to court.



**Our Restorative Justice Programs**

Over 12 months, participants develop life skills through an evidence-based digital curriculum, task-oriented learning, engaging workshops, & guidance from mentors that treat them as **students**, not **criminals**.



Marsy's Law seeks to give crime victims meaningful and enforceable constitutional rights equal to the rights of the accused. Some examples of the types of rights to which we believe all victims are entitled are: To be treated with dignity and respect throughout criminal justice proceedings.

## Decision Package 2

Title	Victim Witness Advocate
Outcome	Increase Victim Witness Unit
Primary BOC Priority	Safe, Livable and Healthy Community

**Requesting One Position: 1 Victim Witness Advocate**

**Full Year Impact: \$40,537.50**

**Total Cost: \$63,460**



# County Initiatives

## Key Initiatives

**Promoting equity, inclusivity, and innovation in service to Gwinnett citizens and residents to maintain the Gwinnett Standard of expectations.**

**Work hand in hand with other elected officials and community organizations to ensure that Gwinnett County is safe, inclusive, and diversity is our unifying quality.**



# Total Budget

Total Requested Budget	\$22,962,552
Decision Packages	\$228,460





# QUESTIONS?

