

Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office

2022 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

**District Attorney
Patsy Austin-Gatson**

Investigations

**Special Victims Unit
Child/Elderly Crimes**

Preparation & 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**



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.



Year to Date Recap: Accomplishments

- **New Administration and an inclusive and diverse staff who engaged in the first Implicit Bias training in the District Attorney's Office**
- **Commencement of jury and bench trials on April 19, 2021**
- **Entered a Memorandum of Understanding between DA's Office and a restorative justice program for 17 to 28-year-old defendants**
- **Established a pilot DA pre-trial intervention in Juvenile Court**



Year to Date Recap: Accomplishments

- Proclamation from Chairwoman Nicole Hendrickson and the Board of Commissioners honoring Victims Rights Week
- Earned GACP Use of Force Compliance Certification (One of only two District Attorney's Offices in Georgia)
- Launched Community Conversations on community safety and information
- Implementation of Cold Case & Conviction Integrity Units



Year to Date Recap: Challenges (Opportunities)

- Providing continued coverage of all areas in the office due to pay disparity and striving to retain skilled Assistant District Attorneys
- Clearing out pre-pandemic cases to resolution
- Clearing pandemic backlog in a timely fashion
- COVID-19 pandemic workflow restructuring

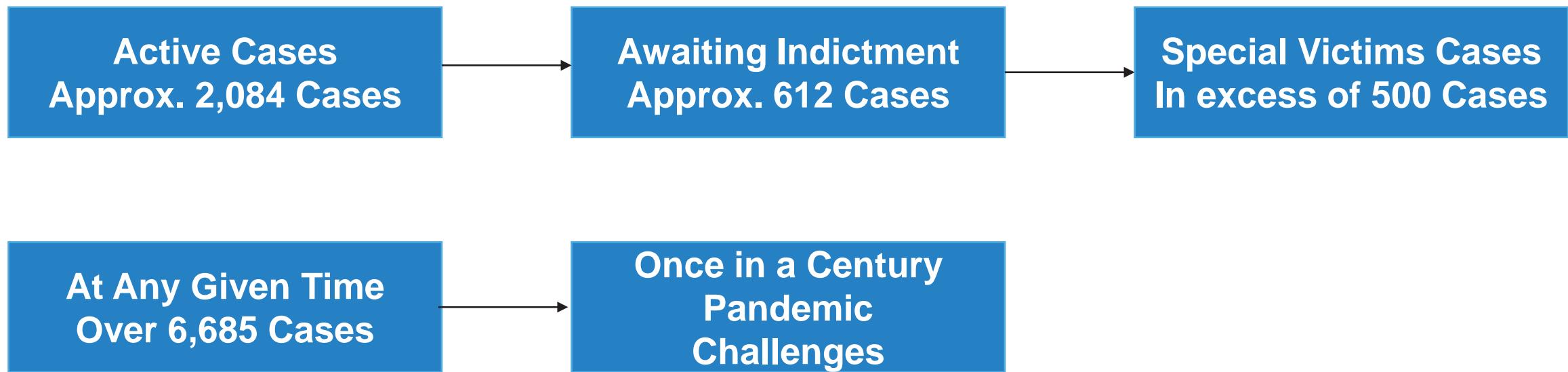


Year to Date Recap: Challenges (Opportunities)

- Adequately resourced department (Market Adjustment)
- Reset of office morale to reflect positive change and a new outlook to serve the citizens and residents of Gwinnett County
- Evolving technology in criminal cases



District Attorney's Office: Caseload Snapshot



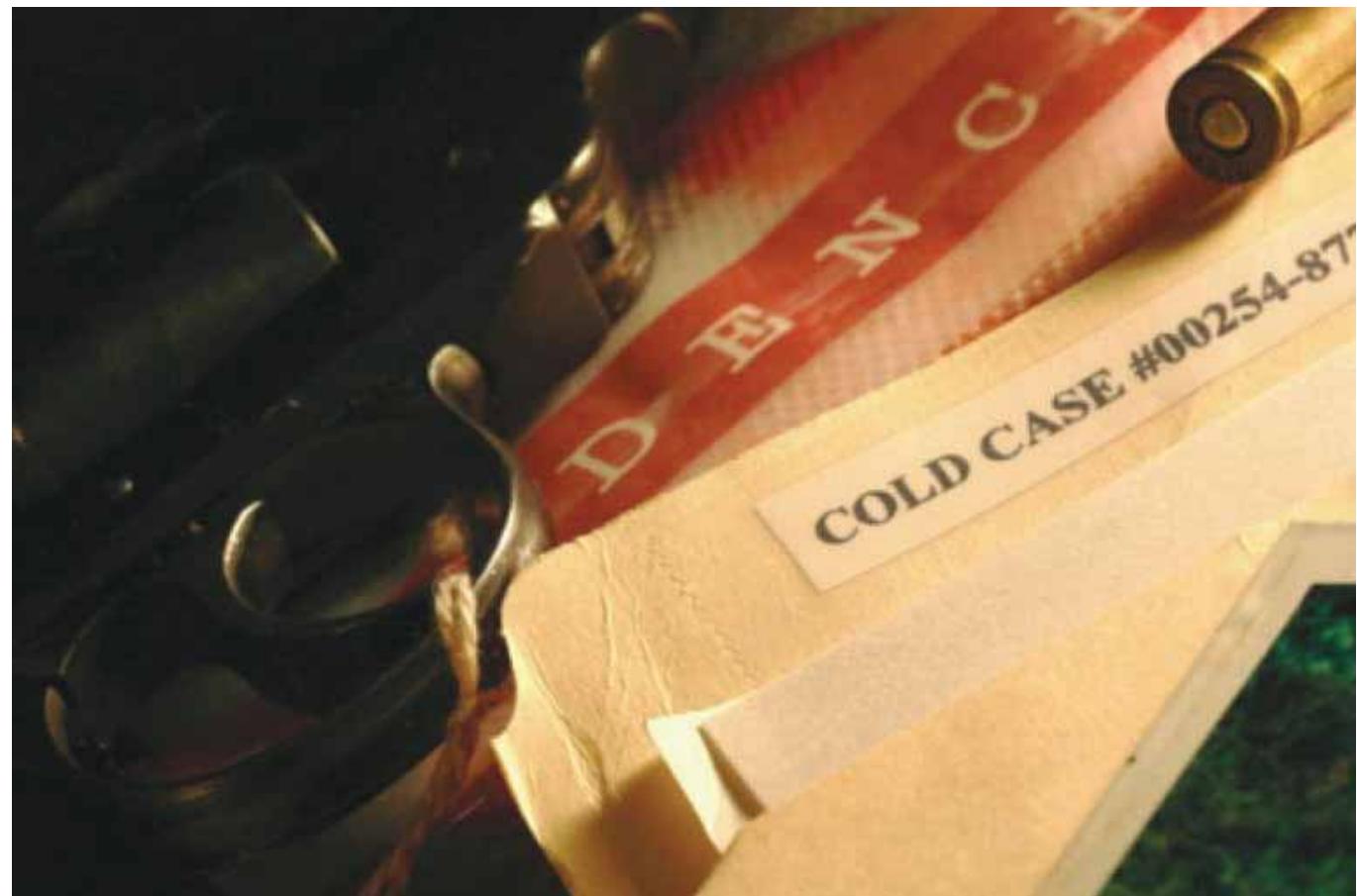
Trends & Future Impact

- **Justice and safety is not just a local issue**
- **The law is not stagnant, and we are challenging legal parameters and prosecuting drug dealers who have caused deaths in Gwinnett**
- **Getting to the root of crime will help us prevent crime**
- **850 drug overdoses in 2020**
- **117 drug overdose deaths in 2020**



Internal Strategic Decisions

- Conviction Integrity and Sentence Review Unit
- Cold Case Investigations Unit
- Assistant District Attorney pay disparity



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.





Decision Packages

Title	Special Victims Unit
Outcome	Increase SVU Unit
Primary BOC Priority	Safe, Livable, and Healthy Community

Summary

Requesting Two Positions:

- 1 - Assistant District Attorney
- 1 - Investigator

Vehicles for Investigator:

- 1 - Vehicle

Total Cost:

- \$227,424





Decision Packages

Title	Drug & Gang Task Force
Outcome	Increase Drug & Gang Task Force size
Primary BOC Priority	Safe, Livable, and Healthy Community

Summary

Requesting Two Positions:

- 1 - Assistant District Attorney
- 1 - Investigator

Vehicles for Investigator:

- 1 - Vehicle

Total Cost:

- \$227,424





Decision Packages

Title	Market Salary Adjustments for Assistant District Attorneys
Outcome	Better Stewardship of Employees and Resources
Primary BOC Priority	Organizational Excellence and Accountability

Summary

Requesting Market Salary Adjustments:

- 53 - Assistant District Attorneys

Total Cost:

- \$1,025,550

Full Year Impact:

- \$1,066,572



Total Budget

	General Fund	HIDTA	Crime Victim Fund	DA Federal Justice Asset Share Fund
2021 Adopted Budget	\$18,790,917	\$456,837	\$450,261	\$175,000
Changes to Base	\$153,732	\$12,450	(\$46,641)	-
2022 Base	\$18,944,649	\$469,287	\$403,620	\$175,000
Decision Packages	\$1,540,717	-	-	-
Total 2022 Budget	\$20,485,366	\$469,287	\$403,620	\$175,000



QUESTIONS?

