



# 2022 Business Plan Presentation

Solicitor General's Office  
Brian W. Whiteside



# Who We Are and What We Do

- State Court
- Jail Division
- Recorder's Court
- Appellate Division
- Investigations
- Intake Division
- Prosecute misdemeanor crimes, which are punishable by a maximum of 12 months in custody and/or a \$1,000 fine
- Prosecute high and aggravated misdemeanors
- Victim Witness Advocate

# Types of Cases

- Misdemeanor Vehicular Homicides
- Domestic Violence
- Shoplifting/Theft
- Simple Battery/Simple Assault
- Sexual Battery
- Prostitution/Pimping
- Child Abandonment
- Stalking
- Forgery Fourth Degree
- Interference with Child Custody
- Reckless Conduct
- Violation of Protective Order
- Minor In Possession of Alcohol
- Department of Natural Resources
- DUI
- Public Indecency
- Hit and Run
- Criminal Trespass
- Obstruction
- False Info to LEO
- Fleeing and Attempting to Elude
- Suspended/No License
- Animal Crimes
- Fire/Code Enforcement/P&D/Alcohol
- Traffic

# 2020-2021 Recap

## Accomplishments

- Jail division never closed
- Intake division never closed
- Recorder's Court division never closed
- Researched, investigated, and removed the Lawrenceville Square Confederate Monument

## Challenges

- Change in shoplifting laws
- Overflow in pandemic cases
- Increase in family violence cases
- Evidence storage collection and sharing with new technology
- Staffing during COVID-19 and overcoming our backlog



Gwinnett

# Department Snapshot

## External Dependencies

- County Departments
- State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies
- GCPS
- Hospitals
- Probation Office
- Defendants
- Defense Attorneys
- Judges
- Victims
- Witnesses
- Jurors

# 2022 Decision Packages

- Two (2) Intake Legal Assistants

Cost \$110,596

- Two (2) Assistant Solicitor-Generals

Cost \$196,664

- Five (5) Criminal Investigators

Cost \$687,113

# Intake Legal Assistants

## Duties/Responsibilities

- Receive cases from referring agencies
- Run criminal histories, build files
- Prepare and file case documents using attorney recommendations
- High level of attention to detail and organization

## Justification

- Increasing case volume requires more assistants
- Reduce/prevent backlog
- Intake absorbs turnover for entire office

# Intake Division ASG

## **Duties/Responsibilities:**

- Review evidence in every State Court case and determine appropriate charges
- Dismiss cases/charges if evidence is insufficient; prepare accusation for appropriate charges
- Identify high-risk cases, potential felony charges, and refer to District Attorney
- Support Law Enforcement and Division Attorneys on charging issues
- Monitor law changes and update charging language
- Review conflict cases referred by the Attorney General from other jurisdictions
- Represent Solicitor's Office on Gwinnett DUI Court Staff

# Intake Division ASG

## **Justification:**

- Increase in the volume of cases
- Reduce/prevent backlog – transition to Tracker and COVID-19
- Early identification of cases for DUI, Mental Health, and Veterans' Court
- Early identification and consolidation of defendants with multiple active cases or bond violations
- Safer community

# Investigators

## State Division Duties

- 7,700 cases assigned to State Court per year
- Provide real-time services to attorneys
- Partner with other LEOs to assist in special details
- Identify and locate witnesses and defendants; prepare, write, and execute court orders, subpoenas, and search warrants; serve subpoenas as required
- Interview witnesses and defendants and create detailed reports
- Respond to crime scenes, perform detailed investigations, and document those findings
- Upload hard copy paper evidence into a digital form for our databases

County	Judges	Investigators	Population
Gwinnett*	9	6	966,874
DeKalb*	11	13	768,079
Cobb*	12	7	768,283
Fulton	10	21	1,091,550
Clayton	5	5	298,374

\*Traffic Court Included

# Investigators

It is estimated that the Gwinnett County population has grown to 966,874.

- Approximately 2,400 officers
  - city and county police,
  - deputies, and
  - state agencies
- Six investigators
  - Ratio of 400+ officers per investigator

Year	Family Violence	DUI	Theft	Total Cases
2020	1,552	642	1,433	50,771
2021 (as of June)	1,028	735	531	25,318 <i>(3,100 backlogged)</i>

# Investigators

## Jail Division

- Provide Jail Unit services to defendants who remain in custody
- 2,283 State Court Cases were originated out of the jail
- One full-time onsite Investigator can expedite the cases
- Will reduce the Detention Center population
- Gather information prosecutor can use for court appearance

# Investigators

## Intake Division

- Investigate law enforcement and civilian warrants, Municipal, and Recorder's Court bind overs
- 5,381 cases originated in Intake Unit in 2019
- Ensure all reports and evidence are collected for each case
- Reduce time for case to appear on a court calendar
- Ensure efficient and speedy resolution of cases in court
- Investigate Fast Track cases
- Saves County money

# Total Budget

2021 Budget	\$7,746,429
Changes To Base	\$779,974
2022 Base	\$8,526,403
Decision Packages	\$994,373
Total 2022 Budget	\$9,520,776