

## ➔ **Crash and Fire Investigation Unit**

In 2018, Crash and Fire Investigation Unit continued investigating all fatal crashes and fires, and all serious bodily injury motor vehicle crashes with a criminal element (i.e. all hit and runs, driving under the influence and unlicensed drivers where serious injury resulted). The Assistant Prosecutors then prosecuted all vehicular homicides and related offenses, as well as fatal and non-fatal arson cases. Non-fatal arson cases are investigated by local departments, with assistance from prosecutor's office personnel, and where appropriate, prosecution by the Assistant Prosecutors of the CFIU. CFIU continues to be staffed by three Assistant Prosecutors including one Assistant Prosecutor-Supervisor who carries a case load as well.

New in 2018, the trained crash and arson investigators of the Crash and Fire Investigation Unit were merged with the Crime Scene Unit to form the Crime Scene Investigation Bureau. In CSIB, all detectives are responsible for traditional crime scene processing of homicide and search warrant scenes and the expert analysis associated with that work, plus investigations of all fatal and serious bodily injury crashes and fatal fires. In 2018 and 2019, the investigators of CSIB are obtaining training with the goal of having more trained personnel to conduct these highly specialized investigations.

At all times, there is at least one Detective and one Assistant Prosecutor on-call with investigative and prosecutorial supervisors always available as well. In addition to the investigations described above, the on-call Assistant Prosecutors are additionally responsible to assist local police and the New Jersey State Police 24 hours a day seven days a week with obtaining telephonic warrants for the taking of bodily fluids in DUI cases.

### **2018 Accomplishments**

In 2018 CFIU/CSIB investigators investigated 39 fatal crashes, 23 serious injury crashes, and 11 arson cases. This does not include dozens of non-fatal crash and fire investigations and prosecutions aided and conducted by the Assistant Prosecutors of CFIU in conjunction with local agencies and the New Jersey State Police.

The Assistant Prosecutors and Investigators of CFIU also share the weighty responsibility of meeting with surviving family members of criminal and non-criminal fatal crashes and fires to explain the investigations and charging decisions of each investigation. Once the criminal prosecution concludes, or the decision to not prosecute an incident is made, the Assistant Prosecutors and Investigators also have roles in the subsequent and inevitable civil litigation that results from the incidents we are responsible for investigating.

In addition to the investigative and local support work in these specialized investigative areas, CFIU personnel successfully tried several cases obtaining convictions and lengthy prison sentences and obtained convictions by plea agreement in which heavy custodial consequences were imposed.

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In 2018 these included a trial of a driver of a carjacked vehicle that crashed and killed a passenger, cases in which drunk drivers killed or maimed other road users, and a case in which a suspect fleeing police killed a three-year-old boy walking with a family member. These trial victories and significant pleas are a testament to the thorough investigations, preparations and skilled prosecutions by the attorneys and investigators of the Crash and Fire Investigation Unit.



## ➔ Domestic Violence Unit

The Domestic Violence Unit, which was established in 1992, addresses domestic abuse between intimate partners and adults who reside in the same household. The Unit is comprised of seven attorneys, one director, one captain, one lieutenant, one sergeant, four detectives, two support staff and a victim/witness advocate. The Unit reviews cases with the goals of protecting the interests of the victims as well as prosecuting domestic violence incidents.

Domestic abuse is a self-perpetuating and escalating social phenomenon. It affects all people regardless of their race, culture, religion, economic strata and/or sexual orientation. Criminal sanctions are a key component of society's response to curtailing this abuse. When appropriate, the Domestic Violence Unit will seek to incarcerate violent and persistent offenders. In many cases, batterers are given the opportunity to rehabilitate themselves, with the hopes that this will end the cycle of violence. Additionally, the psychological impact of domestic abuse on the victims and their families is a major factor in our case analysis.



The Domestic Violence Unit, in collaboration with the Victim-Witness Advocacy Unit, offers support to victims with the goal of helping them regain a sense of personal safety and security. Referrals to shelters may also be a viable option when appropriate. This multifaceted approach in victim assistance is necessary because domestic violence victims are often unwilling to testify against their abusers because of safety and financial concerns, the impact on children and other family members, as well as the victim's own relationship dynamics with the abuser.

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It is the job of the Assistant Prosecutor to balance the need for deterrence, the level of cooperation of the victim as well as being a strong advocate for justice. The Domestic Violence Unit serves a pivotal function in the community in its zealous efforts to prosecute abusers and attend to the needs of the victims of abuse.

### 2018 Accomplishments

During 2018, the members of the Domestic Violence Unit processed 2,704 Domestic Violence cases. The Assistant Prosecutors assigned to the Unit presented 1,077 cases to the Grand Jury during this period. The following are examples of the spectrum of cases handled by the Domestic Violence Unit in 2018.

**State v. Haneef Taylor** -- Defendant Taylor pled guilty to 2nd degree aggravated assault. The defendant was dating the victim's mother. The victim was getting into her car when she saw the defendant on the street. He reached into his waistband and shot approximately 15 bullets towards her. She was not hit but her car, someone else's car, and a house were hit. Two bullets were found in the bedroom and bathroom of the home. He was sentenced to seven years in state prison. He must serve 85 percent of that sentence before he is eligible for five years of parole supervision.

**State v. Jocelyn Dhata** -- Defendant Dhata pled guilty to aggravated manslaughter for physically assaulting her boyfriend with her fists causing injury to his neck which resulted in his death. She was sentenced to twelve years in state prison. She will have to serve 85 percent of that sentence before she is eligible for five years of parole supervision.

Furthermore, the Domestic Violence Unit handles cases when defendants are charged with violating civil restraining orders issued to protect victims of domestic abuse. These violations or contempt charges are typically handled in the Family Part. The Assistant Prosecutors assigned to Family Court handled 211 cases in 2018.

Members of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, including personnel in the Domestic Violence Unit, continue to play a significant role in the Essex County Domestic Violence Working Group. These members also play an active role in the Law Enforcement Subcommittee which is comprised of law enforcement, the judiciary, victim service providers, probation officers and Family Part employees. The Domestic Violence Working Group addresses systemic problems in the domestic violence field and endeavors to coordinate the efforts of the various member organizations. The Group is instrumental in implementing the dictates of the New Jersey's Domestic Violence Procedures Manual as well as making strides in improving the service of Temporary Restraining Orders.

The Essex County Prosecutor's Office is one of the lead partners in the Essex County Family Justice Center, located at 60 Nelson Place, Newark. The Family Justice Center is recognized as a "best practice" in the field of domestic violence intervention and prevention by the U.S. Department of Justice on Violence Against Women. The Family

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Justice Center brings together, under one roof, domestic violence advocates, civil legal service providers and other community-based organizations to provide crisis intervention, safety planning, counseling, self-sufficiency services, as well as access to the criminal justice system through a liaison to the Essex County Prosecutor's Office.

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### ➔ Extradition Unit

The ECPO Extradition Unit facilitates the return of fugitives who have been accused or convicted of a crime. The Unit is responsible for providing the legal paperwork needed to return an offender to New Jersey. The Unit also arranges the return of fugitives to other jurisdictions where an offender is wanted by law enforcement for a crime committed in that location.

Those working in the Unit must have a familiarity and knowledge of the various legal mechanisms found in both state and federal statutes to compel the return of a fugitive wanted for a crime committed in New Jersey as well as an understanding of the proper procedures for returning a fugitive to another jurisdiction.

Among other things, it may involve securing a Governor's warrant if the accused fights extradition. It also involves working closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

### 2018 Accomplishments

In 2018 the extradition unit received 319 requests for extradition. Essex County coordinated the legal paperwork to extradite 245 fugitives to other jurisdictions and to return 107 fugitives back to Essex County.



## ➔ **Forensic Analysis and Cyber Technical Services**

The Forensic Analysis Cyber Technical Services Unit (FACTS Unit) is comprised of specially trained sworn law enforcement personnel who handle criminal investigations involving the internet and technology. Additionally, detectives in the FACTS Unit assist multiple agencies in criminal investigations that involve the use of mobile and computer devices. The FACTS Unit also has dedicated on-site mobile/computer forensic laboratory. The FACTS Unit also conducts complex CCTV video recovery to assist in criminal investigations.

### **2018 Accomplishments**

In 2018 the Forensic Analysis Cyber Tech Services Unit (FACTS Unit) continued to provide support for the ECPO and local police departments by performing searches and forensic examinations of cellular telephones and other digital media obtained during criminal investigations. In 2018, the FACTS Unit conducted over 1,000 cell phone extractions and analysis, 102 computer or external media extractions and 300 video downloads. Increasingly, this kind of technical assistance is essential to the investigation and prosecution of cases. It can provide call history, text messages, photos and other information that is crucial to the successful prosecution of a case.

Additionally, the Unit continues to provide legal and investigative assistance to municipal police departments on cyber and technology-facilitated crimes. Members of the Unit also provide training and engage in community outreach, including presenting information on internet safety and cyber bullying to students and teachers throughout the County.

In 2018, the Unit had 940 case assignments. The Unit did 672 cell phone extractions, 122 cell phone analysis, 106 computer external media extraction and 305 video downloads.

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### ➔ **Financial Crimes Unit**

The Financial Crimes Unit is dedicated to the detection and prosecution of cases involving the unlawful conversion of funds or property. Most of these cases involve fraudulent activities using checks, credit cards, bank accounts and mortgages. Victims of financial crimes are varied and include some of the most vulnerable victims, such as the elderly or infirm and some of the more affluent, such as private and professional corporations.

The Assistant Prosecutors in the Unit are supervised by a Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecutor; assigned detectives conduct the investigations, supervised by a Captain of Detectives. Presently, this Unit is staffed by a Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecutor, four Assistant Prosecutors, a Detective-Sergeant, four detectives, one legal assistant, and one clerical assistant.

The Financial Crimes Unit is a vertical prosecution unit, meaning it handles the cases from inception to prosecution. When the Financial Crimes Unit receives an allegation of criminal conduct, it must determine whether a criminal prosecution is warranted. If it is, a criminal charge and/or a presentation to a Grand Jury is conducted after a thorough investigation. If an indictment is returned, the Financial Crimes Unit is responsible for the case through a trial or plea agreement.

The Financial Crimes Unit fulfills the need to investigate serious financial crime cases at the county rather than municipal level. Municipal police departments are often not able to thoroughly investigate complicated economic crimes. Indeed, in many cases, governmental, bank, and financial records can only be obtained by grand jury subpoena, court order or search warrant, and therefore are beyond the reach of a municipal police department. Many “white collar” crimes are multi-jurisdictional in nature. Beyond this, such cases are far more complex than the “average” case. They usually require review of voluminous records by an experienced detective.

Because of the complexity of the allegations and investigations, close interaction between the Assistant Prosecutor and Detective is necessary throughout the investigation; especially since these investigations often involve assembling and reviewing complex financial and business records, preparing and obtaining court orders for in- and out-of-state records (such as bank records, handwriting, toll records).

In 2012, the Financial Crimes Unit expanded to include an Insurance Fraud Division. The Insurance Fraud Division is partially funded through a grant from the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor, and works closely with that Office in identifying, investigating and prosecuting appropriate cases.

In 2015, the Financial Crimes Unit expanded even further to include an Intellectual Property (Counterfeiting) Division. The Division is partially funded through a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and its goal is to investigate and prosecute this ever-growing crime.

## 2018 Accomplishments

In 2018, the Financial Crimes Unit concluded several notable cases, including the following:

**State v. Raymond Brock Murray** -- Defendant was a licensed marriage counselor, however, his license expired in 2013. It was alleged that the was overbilling insurance companies and billing for services not rendered. After a lengthy investigation, where the Financial Crimes Unit partnered with the New Jersey Transit Police Department, it was determined that the defendant received over \$500,000 in money from insurance companies as payment for fraudulent claims. The defendant was indicted for first degree money laundering, second degree health care fraud, second degree insurance fraud, third degree failure to pay tax, third degree failure to file tax. The defendant ultimately pled guilty to second degree health care claims fraud in exchange for a recommendation for a five-year prison sentence with court ordered restitution. The defendant also forfeited properties that he purchased with the stolen funds and money that was recovered that was product of the fraud.

**State v. Patricia Piccinno** -- Defendant is the wife of a municipal police detective who stole large sums of money from her mother-in-law and husband. She stole, hid and stopped mail so her husband would not discover the fraud. The defendant also redirected her mother-in-law's mail to facilitate the theft. She withdrew her mother-in-law's savings and money in checking accounts, as well as from her insurance and investment accounts. She created fake emails to cover her crimes. The defendant was indicted for 12 crimes, including first degree money laundering, second degree theft, second degree impersonation, second degree identity theft, third degree impersonation, second degree impersonation, third degree forgery, third degree forgery, third degree theft by deception, third degree credit card theft, fourth degree tampering with records, second degree theft, second degree theft, and fourth degree falsifying/tampering with records.

The defendant pled guilty to 10 out of 12 counts of the indictment in exchange for a recommendation of a four-year state prison sentence. She is also required to pay court ordered restitution of more than \$350,000 to both victims.

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### ➔ Homicide Unit

The Homicide Unit of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office functions as both an investigative and prosecutorial unit. The Unit is staffed full-time by Assistant Prosecutors and Detectives. Unit personnel respond to all homicides, suspicious deaths, certain non-fatal shootings, and motor vehicle fatalities in the county.

Assistant Prosecutors assigned to the Homicide Unit assist Detectives in obtaining search warrants and communications data warrants. Homicide Assistant Prosecutors are on-call 24 hours a day and can prepare warrant requests at any hour of the day or night. The ability to obtain warrants and other legal documents on an emergent basis is often crucial to ensuring that all relevant evidence is collected in a manner that will withstand legal challenges and will be admissible in subsequent legal proceedings.

As an investigation proceeds, case detectives in the Unit meet with an Assistant Prosecutor to determine if probable cause exists to bring criminal charges. Moving forward, the Assistant Prosecutor and case Detective then present an affidavit of probable cause to a magistrate. If the probable cause is accepted by the magistrate, an arrest warrant is issued for the suspect. The Assistant Prosecutor and case Detective then prepare the case for presentation to a Grand Jury. In most instances, the assigned Assistant Prosecutor will continue with the case through final disposition. Vertical prosecution of homicide cases provides continuity throughout the process. Having the same team involved with the case throughout the proceedings is also beneficial for the surviving family members.

In matters in which a juvenile is charged with a homicide offense, the Homicide Assistant Prosecutor will prosecute the matter in Family Court or, in appropriate cases, seek the juvenile prosecuted as an adult.

In matters involving motor vehicle fatalities, Homicide and Crime Scene Detectives specially trained in crash investigations and accident reconstruction, will investigate the incident and work with an Assistant Prosecutor to determine if the collision was the result of criminal conduct.

### **2018 Accomplishments**

In 2018, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office continued with the Homicide/Major Crimes Task Force. Detectives from the Newark, East Orange, Irvington and Orange police departments; the Essex County Sheriff, and the New Jersey State Police are assigned to the Homicide Unit pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and conduct investigations in the county. All homicides, death investigations and police shootings throughout the county are investigated by the Homicide Major Crimes Task Force. Having municipal detectives co-located in the Homicide Unit allows for continuity of investigations and eliminates duplicative efforts by county and local officers

During 2018, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office Homicide Unit investigated 104

homicides. Additionally, there were forty-seven special investigations that the Task Force oversaw.

The 104 homicides in 2018 represent a decrease from the 112 homicides that occurred in 2017. Assistant Prosecutors and Detectives assigned to the Homicide Unit prepared, reviewed and executed over 400 search warrants and 350 communications data warrants.

### **Notable Cases**

While many cases have been handled by the Assistant Prosecutors assigned to the Unit in 2018, below is a description of a few of the more notable cases in 2018.

Members of the Homicide Unit continued to work on the case of **Ali Muhammad Brown**, who was charged with killing a college student in West Orange in 2014. The suspect was also implicated in three homicides in Washington State. In addition to homicide charges, this office charged Brown with committing an act of terrorism based on statements he made regarding the West Orange homicide. As the trial was set to begin, defendant pleaded guilty to all counts in the indictment and was sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole.

In **State v. Naim Jones, Hakeem Maloney and Rashan Jackson**, the three defendants were convicted of murder. All three are documented members of the Bloods street gang, with Jones and Maloney having high ranking status. The defendants received sentences ranging from 80 years to life.

In **State v. Jeffrey Holland**, defendant was charged with killing three people over a two-day period in 2016. In 2018, he was convicted of three counts of murder and sentenced to 190 years in prison.

In **State v. Akeem Thompson**, defendant was convicted of murder after a jury trial. He was sentenced to 60 years in prison.

In **State v. Jimmy Mays and Lavelle Davis**, defendants were charged with murdering three individuals in an apartment in Maplewood. Both defendants were convicted after a jury trial. Mays was sentenced to 153 years in prison and Davis was sentenced to 138 years in prison.

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### ➔ **Narcotics Task Force**

The Narcotics Task Force is comprised of a Captain, a Lieutenant, a Sergeant and 20 detectives; which include Task Force detectives from Newark PD, NJIT and Rutgers PD. The Narcotics Task Force is the major narcotics and gang investigation unit of the Essex County Prosecutor's Office. Its mission is to investigate and prosecute crimes involving gangs, guns and violence. The Narcotics Task Force actively targets mid-to upper-level narcotics distributors (those generally dealing in quantities of second-degree weight or higher) operating in Essex County. In addition to initiating investigations and prosecuting those cases, the Narcotics Task Force assists federal, state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies with their investigations.

Also, the Narcotics Task Force is staffed full-time with one Chief Assistant Prosecutor, two Assistant Prosecutor Supervisors and five Assistant Prosecutors who vertically prosecute all cases initiated by the Narcotics Task Force. One Supervisor is responsible for prosecuting all cases involving gangs, guns and narcotics. The second Supervisor is responsible for prosecuting cases utilizing social media and social network analysis to enhance investigations and prosecutions into gun violence and organized criminal enterprises, specifically through online investigations. In addition, the Narcotics Task Force Assistant Prosecutors also review all narcotics and gang-related search warrants generated by all the Municipalities within the County. The Assistant Prosecutors also provide legal advice to outside law enforcement agencies on narcotics and gang related issues.

### **Intelligence Unit**

The Intelligence section of the Narcotics Task Force is comprised of a Captain, a Sergeant, two Detectives, three Investigative Aides, a Legal Assistant and an Analyst who is on loan from the National Guard. This section serves as an independent unit. The function of the Intelligence Unit is to gather data, analyze that data and disseminate the information derived from the data. Data is received from various law enforcement agencies (Municipal, County, State and Federal), other Intelligence units and open sources. The Intelligence Unit provides support to all investigative and legal personnel within the Essex County Prosecutor's Office. The Intelligence Unit also provides support to outside agencies that seek our help and assistance.

One detective, from the Intelligence Unit, is currently assigned to the New Jersey State Police Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC) and one detective is assigned to the Newark Real Time Crime Center (RTCC). The ROIC is New Jersey's fusion center and the RTCC is one of the three mini fusion centers throughout New Jersey (which is a subsidiary of the ROIC), that have partnerships with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the country. Both detectives are working in conjunction with the New Jersey State Police, local, state and federal agencies, to provide support and real time intelligence for events as they occur.

The Intelligence Unit also provides support by offering information and support for the following: round-up of suspects, debriefing of suspects, comparative analyses, license plate checks, gang identification and classification, full and modified profile reports on persons, places and businesses. The Intel Unit tracks and maintains a database for heroin seizures, Naloxone Deployments and overdoses within Essex County. The Intelligence Unit also disseminates a bi-monthly newsletter that encompasses, a crime overview, gun recoveries, homicides, aggravated assaults, robberies, carjackings, burglaries, thefts, vehicular incidents, arrests, Megan's Law Offenders, sensitive crimes, wanted persons, police safety & awareness and training.

### **2018 Accomplishments**

The following cases of interest were pursued in 2018:

**State v. AITariq Wager** -- a successful confidential source narcotics operation that resulted in the recovery of 33 grams of cocaine, 43 grams of heroin, and \$115,706 in cash.

**State v. Darrel Dancy** -- a successful narcotics operation where 13 firearms were recovered (five assault weapons, eight handguns, including two s were handmade guns with no serial numbers, three silencers, two bump stocks) 380 grams of heroin was also recovered along with \$22,000 in cash.

**State v. Andre Mims** -- a successful narcotics investigation operation in the City of Newark, Irvington, and East Orange where 54 grams of Cocaine, 63 grams of heroin, 512 grams of marijuana, three firearms and \$9,595 in cash were recovered. Andre Mims and his co-conspirators were charged federally.

**State v. Lavander Wade** -- a successful confidential source narcotics operation that resulted in the recovery of 40 grams of cocaine, 212 grams of heroin, and \$10,020 in cash.

**State v. Orville Powell** -- a search warrant investigation where the ECNTF recovered 2700 grams of heroin, 1900 grams of cocaine, 7.5 grams of marijuana, and five firearms (1AK 47, 1Tec 9, 3 Handguns) and \$8,000 in cash.

**State v. Mark Mells** -- a successful confidential source narcotics operation that resulted in the recovery of 5 Firearms (1 AK47, 1 Shotgun, 1 AR15, 1 Tech 9, and 1 handgun) 16.288 grams of heroin, and \$195.00 in cash.

**State v. Leonard Barron** -- a search warrant investigation where the ECNTF recovered 150 grams of heroin, 15.5 grams of cocaine, 115 grams of Marijuana, and one firearm and \$1,444.00 in cash.

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### ➔ Professional Standards Bureau

The Professional Standards Bureau (PSB) consists of two branches. The prosecution branch is led by a Director, along with two additional Assistant Prosecutors. The investigative branch is led by the Captain of Prosecutor's Detectives, who has overall command of the Bureau and reports directly to the Chief of Detectives. The investigative branch is presently staffed by one lieutenant, one sergeant and one detective.

The PSB is primarily responsible for the investigation and prosecution of all criminal misconduct involving police in Essex County and all Prosecutor's Office employees. It also conducts activities to improve the administration and delivery of Police Internal Affairs services on a countywide basis, including Internal Affairs training. Two clericals oversee all office operations and manage the records system and paralegal functions of the PSB. One of those employees also manages the clerical needs of the separate Corruption Unit.

When the PSB receives an allegation of criminal conduct committed by a sworn law enforcement officer, a decision is made about whether a criminal prosecution is warranted. When a criminal prosecution is required, the case is charged and resolved pre-indictment or presented to a Grand Jury. If an indictment is returned, the PSB is responsible for the case through the plea agreement or trial. In addition, PSB personnel investigate all police shootings and pursuits to determine whether they comply with the guidelines and directives set forth by the New Jersey Attorney General. If there is a material, factual issue regarding a police shooting, it is presented to a Grand Jury. Internal responsibilities for the PSB include, but are not limited to, random drug screening, investigation of violations of rules and regulations, risk analysis management and integrity testing.

### **2018 Accomplishments**

In 2018, the PSB received 392 new cases. An additional 73 cases were still pending from the prior calendar year. The PSB completed 391 investigations. Of the open cases, four resulted in criminal charges. The PSB also investigated eleven officer-involved shootings.

There were also several noteworthy criminal cases in 2018. A veteran Newark police detective was charged with multiple crimes including narcotics distribution after a lengthy investigation. This officer is currently being prosecuted. Another veteran Newark officer pleaded guilty in a sexual contact case and forfeited present and future public employment as part of the plea agreement. A Northern State Correctional Officer pleaded guilty to assaulting an inmate and forfeited present and future public employment. Finally, another Northern State Correctional Officer was charged with sexual assault and is currently being prosecuted.

The Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT), consisting of an Assistant Prosecutor and numerous PSB and ECPO investigative personnel, responded to the scene of every

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officer-involved shooting. The CIRT also responded to all police pursuits resulting in serious injury. In addition, the PSB conducted a two-day county-wide training regarding all Attorney General Policies and Directives applicable to internal affairs investigators.

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### ➔ Special Prosecutions Unit

The Special Prosecution Unit consists of a Sergeant, a Captain and five detectives. The Special Prosecutions section of the Narcotics Task Force serves as an independent unit. The unit is tasked with a wide-range of investigatory and prosecutorial responsibilities. The Assistant Prosecutors handle all county-wide carjacking investigations and prosecutions, cybercrimes, animal cruelty investigations, as well as all non-fatal Newark shootings. In addition, they provide police legal advice to agencies county-wide on a 24-7 basis, including guidance on investigative steps, assistance with subpoenas, search warrants, communications data warrants, and other First, Fourth and Fifth Amendment issues. On a case-by-case basis, the Unit also aids local agencies in need of specialized guidance on complex, sensitive, and high-profile cases, as well as county and state-wide auto theft investigations. The Social Media branch also assists local agencies with false public alarm cases which typically involve threats to schools, public facilities and infrastructure.

### **2018 Accomplishments**

In June 2018, the Special Prosecution Detectives received information that an inmate, Qadir Cross at the Essex County Correctional Facility was communicating with an unknown male (later identified as Cleveland Bostwick) regarding a drug distribution network. During the investigation, detectives learned Bostwick was involved in establishing a heroin distribution location in Belleville, NJ, and arranging the murder of Anthony Davis AKA "Tone." As a result, during the month of October 2018 detectives executed search warrants at the following location(s) and vehicle(s):

1. 120 Rutgers Street, Apt E3, Belleville
2. 172 S. 10th Street, 2nd Fl, Newark
3. 73 Girard Ave, 2nd Fl, East Orange
4. 73 Girard Ave, 3rd Fl, East Orange
5. 2018 Gray Chrysler 300, bearing Massachusetts registration: 6BJ276
6. 2003 silver Infiniti G35, bearing New Jersey registration: B57JZU
7. 2014 black Infiniti Q50, bearing New Jersey registration: P35JSJ
8. 2013 white Hyundai Sonata, bearing New Jersey registration: P83GME
9. 2017 gray Jeep Grand Cherokee, bearing New Jersey registration: U74JZV

At the conclusion of the execution of the search warrants, the following was seized:

- Approximately \$18,000.00 in US currency
- One Smith and Wesson .38 revolver bearing S/N-BKR9276
- One master Piece arms 9MM bearing serial # F12427 loaded with a total of 25 rounds with an extended magazine
- One .45 Caliber Springfield XPS automatic pistol bearing serial # XS565867 loaded with 6 rounds

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- One box of ammunition with sixteen .38 Caliber rounds, twenty 9MM hollow points, one spent 9mm shell casing
- Approximately 900g of cocaine
- Approximately 276g of heroin
- Approximately 20g of marijuana
- Approximately 40g of mushrooms
- Approximately 43g of bath salts, 32 Xanax tablets, large amounts of drug paraphernalia
- Several cellular devices
- The 2017 gray Jeep Grand Cherokee, bearing New Jersey registration: U74JZV was seized.
- The individuals arrested during the operation were as follow(s): Cleveland Bostwick, Yahnay North, Qadir Cross, Shameekah Hines, Kadeem Reddick, and Khimarri Simpson

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### ➔ **Special Victims Unit**

The Essex County Prosecutor's Office's Special Victims Unit investigates and prosecutes cases involving crimes against the most vulnerable members of our community. The Unit is comprised of the Child Abuse Unit (CAU), the Sexual Assault Rape Analysis Unit, the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program, Megan's Law Unit, Bias Crimes Unit, an Elder Abuse Team, an Internet Crimes Against Children Team and a Human Trafficking Team.

The above units and teams were merged into the Special Victims Unit in order to better serve the victims through the most comprehensive investigations possible. All but the Megan's Law Unit are-located at the Wynona M. Lipman Child Advocacy Center at 185 Washington Street in Newark. This allows for sharing of resources, information and experience between the units. The functions within the Special Victims Unit now operate under the command of a Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecutor who is assisted by a Supervising Assistant Prosecutor and a Captain of Detectives. The units and teams are overseen by a Chief Assistant Prosecutor and Deputy Chief of Detectives. Also available to the victims are on-site Victim Witness Counselors who work closely with the staff to ensure that the needs of the victim are met during the investigative and legal process. The goal of this holistic approach is to ensure that victims, witnesses and their families are provided with services and guidance and that their questions and concerns are addressed.

The SVU staff receives specialized training in the most advanced best practice standards to ensure that the victims' legal rights and emotional well-being are the primary consideration. SVU Assistant Prosecutors and Detectives are assisted by allied professionals such as forensic interviewers, forensic pediatricians, therapists and others in specialized fields. SVU also works with advocates representing child abuse, sex crimes, elder abuse and intellectually-impaired victims. By working with allied professionals, prosecutions are enhanced and further trauma to victims is minimized.

### **CHILD ABUSE UNIT**

The Child Abuse Unit (CAU) was established by the Essex County Prosecutor's Office (ECPO) in 1983 in recognition of an urgent need to protect abused children and prosecute those who harm them. ECPO placed specialized law enforcement personnel with the desire, training and experience to serve abused children. Unlike most child abuse units throughout the country, the ECPO CAU serves all children up to the age of 18. The CAU is also staffed by various SVU Assistant Prosecutors, detectives and support staff. The CAU maintains a 24-hour on-call service for all county municipal detectives and New Jersey Department of Children and Families (NJDCF) caseworkers (Division of Child Protection and Permanency).

The children of Essex County are our greatest resource, and the CAU is committed to their protection. To accomplish this mission, the CAU uses the most advanced methods to successfully identify, apprehend and prosecute those who commit crimes against

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children. When crimes against children occur, the CAU diligently pursues the arrest, indictment and conviction of those responsible. At the same time, the Constitutional rights of the accused are respected.

By their very nature, child abuse investigations and prosecutions are extremely difficult. The CAU uses a multi-disciplinary team approach to investigations and victim services. In conjunction with Wynona's House, a non-profit organization, and the NJDCF, the CAU is an integral part of the Wynona M. Lipman Child Advocacy Center in Newark. The Lipman Center is only one of a few child advocacy centers in the country to have a full-time Prosecutor's Office unit, child protective service caseworkers, juvenile trauma therapists, forensic pediatricians and multi-disciplinary coordinators all under one roof.

The philosophy of the Center is the "Child Comes First," and a multi-disciplinary approach is used to protect child victims from unnecessary trauma during the investigative stages of a case. Under this approach, a single interview of all victims of sexual abuse under the age of 12 years old is conducted by a highly-skilled primary interviewer, while professionals from other agencies view the recorded interview. The technique prevents multiple interviews by law enforcement officials and reduces trauma suffered by the victim. In addition, victim family members receive a wide range of services.

The Forensic Video Interview (FVI) of all children under the age of 12 who have been sexually abused was established in 2000. A specially-trained forensic interviewer conducts the interviews, while members from NJDCF and the Child Advocacy Center manager (Wynona's House) sit in a monitoring room nearby. In 2018 there were 197 forensic interviews conducted by ECPO and CAC personnel.

Cases are investigated either solely by the CAU or through joint investigations with municipal Detectives or staff of NJDCF. The Assistant Prosecutors assigned to the Unit handle a significant number of cases from the inception of the investigation to the case's ultimate disposition. The Unit is responsible for investigating or co-investigating cases involving children under the age of 18 who were victims of crimes which include sexual abuse, child endangerment (abuse, neglect, cruelty, and abandonment), child pornography, interference with custody/kidnapping, and luring.

Depending upon the results of the initial interview with the child, he or she may require a medical examination and assessment by medical staff located at the Lipman Center. The Lipman Center collaborates with Metropolitan Regional Diagnostic and Treatment Center (RDTC) of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, whose physicians have extensive training in both pediatrics and issues related to child abuse. Through the compilation of the child's medical history and the examination, evidence may be obtained and stored for the potential prosecution of the alleged perpetrator. The physicians also provide basic, preventative healthcare services to ensure the complete recovery of victims of child abuse.

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The Lipman Center has implemented a 24-hour, 7-day a week on-call schedule for its investigative staff, thereby ensuring that all child abuse victims will be treated with the best care and concern, regardless of when they are victimized or choose to disclose.

### **2018 Accomplishments**

In 2018, the Child Abuse Unit received 1,128 referrals for investigation of which 114 resulted in adult criminal charges and 8 juveniles were charged in 2018.

### **Notable Cases:**

**State v. Desiree Joyner** -- The defendant was charged with performing a botched circumcision of her infant son inside an abandoned home. Following the circumcision in Irvington, the defendant abandoned the child outside of the Newark Police Department's Fifth Precinct. The defendant alleged that her religious convictions compelled her to perform the circumcision. The defendant was charged with second degree aggravated assault; second degree endangering the welfare of a child; third degree unlawful practice of medicine and surgery as well as additional charges, including the fourth degree unlawful possession of a weapon, a scalpel; and third degree possession of a weapon for unlawful purpose. Assistant Prosecutor Jeffrey Conrad is handling the case and the case is pending trial.

**State v. Francis Nicole Williams** -- The defendant was braiding her 6-year-old cousin's hair and while doing so, spilled scalding water onto the child's back causing serious burns covering 16% of the child's body. The child was hospitalized for 12 days. The defendant was charged with fourth degree abuse and neglect of a child.

**State v. Manuel Paredes** -- The juvenile victim J.P., age eight, disclosed that the family's landlord, Manuel Paredes, had called the victim into his apartment and sexually assaulted her while J.P.'s mother was outside of the building. Accordingly, the defendant was charged with second degree sexual assault by contact and 3rd degree endangering the welfare of a child. The case is pending trial.

**State v. Diego Ayala** -- The grandmother of an 8-year-old child was looking through the pictures in her phone which are stored in the phone's cloud memory and saw a video she did not recognize. She played the video and the video showed her granddaughter being sexually assaulted by the defendant. There were multiple videos which showed multiple acts of sexual penetration upon the child. The defendant was charged with multiple counts of first degree aggravated sexual assault and one count of second degree endangering the welfare of a child.

**State v. Jose Portillo** -- An 8-year-old girl reported that the defendant had sexually assaulted her over a period of time by penetrating her vagina with his penis on multiple occasions. The defendant was charged with multiple counts of first-degree sexual assault and second degree endangering the welfare of the child. The defendant is awaiting trial. The defendant has first degree charges pending in California wherein he

is charged with sexually assaulting and impregnating a child. The matter is being handled by Assistant Prosecutor Michael Morris and it is scheduled for trial.

**State v. Domingo Azcona** -- The defendant sexually assaulted a child relative of his over a period of time causing her to become pregnant with his child. Once the child was born, DNA testing confirmed that the defendant was the child's father. The defendant pled guilty and is awaiting sentencing. His sentence will include Parole Supervision for Life and Megan's Law. The case was handled by Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Kate Lyons-Boswick.

**State v. Gerry Destra** -- The six-year-old victim was at her babysitter's home. While there, she was permitted to visit the home of another child in a downstairs apartment. The defendant lived downstairs in her friend's home. While alone with the victim, the defendant sexually assaulted the child who later disclosed to her mother. The child was discovered to have a sexually transmitted disease. At trial, the defendant was convicted of 1st degree aggravated sexual assault and endangering the welfare of a child. He was sentenced New Jersey State Prison for 27 years with 25 years parole ineligibility.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT RAPE ANALYSIS UNIT

The Sexual Assault and Rape Analysis (SARA) Unit is one of the oldest investigative units in the Essex County Prosecutor's Office. It originated in the 1970s after the Newark Police Department became one of the first police departments in the nation to establish a sex crimes unit. The SARA Unit was developed to provide legal guidance and investigative support for all municipal police departments in Essex Country.

The SARA Unit originally prosecuted all cases of sexual abuse in the Essex County Prosecutor's Office. As the field of sex crime investigation became more specialized in the early 1980's, a separate Child Abuse Unit was developed. By 2001, after the opening of the Wynona M. Lipman Child Advocacy Center, all cases involving juvenile victims of abuse (under the age of 18) were solely prosecuted by the Child Abuse Unit.

Today, the SARA Unit exclusively handles cases involving adult victims of sex crime. Unit staff consists of experienced Assistant Prosecutors, Detectives, and clerical support employees. The SARA Unit cooperates closely with members of the onsite registered nursing staff who manage the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program (SANE).

Members of the legal and investigative staff are available 24 hours a day to assist local law enforcement with their investigations. The SARA Unit has also adopted a vertical prosecution approach, whereby prosecutors assigned to a case will handle it from start through trial. This allows for a more victim-centered approach. A victim will be given the stability of having to deal with a single investigative and prosecution team, thereby sparing the victim the need to endlessly repeat the details of the sexually abusive act to countless people. This approach protects the victim from the need to continually relive the abusive act.

## INVESTIGATION UNITS

The SARA Unit was involved in many cutting-edge legal issues, including the use of DNA evidence and Internet-related crimes. With the establishment of a national DNA data bank by the FBI, Essex County was the first county prosecutor's office in New Jersey to have a positive match on a previously unidentified offender, as well as the first county prosecutor's office in the state to have a positive match on multiple cases committed by a serial sex offender.

### 2018 Accomplishments

In 2018, the SARA Unit received 380 referrals for investigation. Of the 380 cases investigated in 2018, twenty-five cases resulted in criminal charges.

Notable cases from 2018 include:

**State v. Oscar Lamont Bryant** -- The victim, a 50-year-old woman reported to the East Orange Police Department that she and the suspect, together with other members of her family had gone to a club in Newark and were drinking. According to her, she was served several drinks and believed that she had been drugged because she could not recall relevant parts of the night. She indicated that she believed that she had been sexually assaulted by the suspect because he took her home entered her bedroom, and she was thereafter found by her daughter, naked and behaving erratically. EMS was contacted, and she was transported to the hospital where a SANE kit was performed. The victim provided a statement to police. A statement was also taken of the suspect, who adamantly denied having had any sexual contact with the victim at any time. A buccal sample was taken of the suspect. The DNA lab report revealed that the suspect was the major source of DNA found on the victim's body. The defendant is an active duty East Orange Fireman. The defendant was charged with second degree sexual Assault. The case is pending trial and is being handled by Assistant Prosecutor Jenna Gouck.

**State v. Brian McPherson** -- The victim was walking through a park in Maplewood when the defendant grabbed her from behind and dragged her into nearby bushes where he sexually assaulted her. During the investigation, surveillance video was discovered showing the defendant following the victim through the park. Simultaneously, another investigation into the sexual assault of a young girl was ongoing with the Maplewood Police Department. The minor child identified the defendant as her assailant. Additional investigation led to the identification of the defendant as the adult victim's assailant. The defendant pled guilty to 1st degree aggravated sexual assault during a kidnapping and was sentenced to 20 years NJSP with 85% parole ineligibility as well as Parole Supervision for Life and Megan's Law. The case was handled by Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Kate Lyons-Boswick.

**State v. Keenan Granger** -- The defendant met a woman on social media (BackPage) and on the pretext of exchanging sex for money, he invited her into his home. Once there, the defendant beat the woman, strangled her and sexually assaulted her. The

woman was able to escape and reported the incident to authorities. The defendant was charged in an additional case wherein the victim alleged that she met the defendant online as well, and he lured her to his apartment under the pretext that he would pay her for sex. Once there, he also beat and strangled her and sexually assaulted her. The cases are pending trial and are being handled by Deputy Chief Assistant Prosecutor Celeste M. Montesino.

### **SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINER PROGRAM**

On May 4, 2001, Assembly Bill 2083 was signed into law, providing for the establishment of a statewide Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program. By doing so, New Jersey became one of the first states in the nation to develop a comprehensive statewide program to address the needs of sexual assault victims. The law required each County Prosecutor to appoint or designate a certified sexual assault nurse examiner to serve as program coordinator for that county. The legislation also established a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) program, which provides a team approach to assisting assault victims. The SART members include specially-trained local police officers, nurse and/or physician examiners and victim advocates. These programs are now being implemented in Essex County. Their overall goals are:

- To ensure timely and accurate collection of forensic evidence, thereby allowing for just determinations in sexual assault cases.
- To enhance the assessment and documentation of any medical trauma sustained by the sexual assault victim.
- To create compassionate and sensitive ways to address the physical, emotional and psychological needs of sexual assault victims.
- To coordinate the efforts of local police, hospitals, prosecutors, rape crisis centers and service providers to improve the quality of care and services offered to sexual assault victims in Essex County.

The SANE/SART Program utilizes a victim-centered approach to sexual assault cases. The overall program, which dramatically improves community response to sexual assault, offers immediate and effective attention to rape victims by nurses and /or physicians who have been specially trained to provide a compassionate, culturally sensitive, and comprehensive forensic evaluation and medical treatment. A SANE examiner will perform a forensic examination following standardized procedures to collect and preserve relevant evidence once the victim's immediate medical needs have been addressed. Additional support is provided by the SART members to address the legal, medical, psychological and emotional needs of the victim. Similar programs in the State have been proven to provide highly-reliable evidence to maintain aggressive prosecution of sexual assault cases.

Currently, the Essex County SANE/SART program services six county hospital sites,

## **INVESTIGATION UNITS**

and forensic examiners are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to respond to the medical/forensic needs of sexual assault survivors. Essex County hospitals that have agreed to participate in the SART program are: Newark Beth Israel Medical Center (Newark), Mountainside Hospital (Montclair/Glen Ridge), Saint Barnabas Medical Center (Livingston) and University Hospital, Rutgers (Newark); Clara Maas Hospital and St. Michael's Medical Center which also affiliates with the program to provide HIV/AIDS testing and counseling without cost to victims upon request.

The Essex County Prosecutor's Office has received grants from the New Jersey State Office of Victim Witness Advocacy to help develop the program and to assume certain operating costs. The SANE/SART Coordinator is responsible for the operation and management of the countywide program. Anyone who would like more information should contact the program Coordinator at 973-753-1130.

### **2018 Accomplishments**

The success of the program is evidenced by the frequency with which the program was used. In 2018, in Essex County there were a total of 305 SANE/SART activations at participating hospitals in response to the needs of sexual assault victims. Of that number 52 were pediatric cases.

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING TEAM**

Human trafficking is modern day slavery that controls and exploits vulnerable members of our community. Victims are often lured into forced labor, sex trafficking and other forms of servitude using force, coercion, abduction, fraud and other methods. The victims range from juvenile runaways to undocumented immigrants. The New Jersey Human Trafficking statute, N.J.S.A. 2C:13-8, is one of the most comprehensive statutes in the country aimed at eradicating this criminal behavior.

The Human Trafficking Team is led by a senior Assistant Prosecutor and senior detective. Investigations use the full resources of the Special Victims Unit as well as the Narcotics Task Force. The team shares intelligence and conducts joint investigations with multi-county, statewide and national human trafficking entities. It is common for an operation to include the New Jersey State Police, the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security, NJDCF and allied professionals in the field such as Polaris. By having the Human Trafficking Team as part of the Special Victims Unit, the victims receive the best therapeutic services possible. The social services/therapeutic component of the unit is the primary component of the unit.

## **ELDER ABUSE TEAM**

The Elder Abuse Team is led by a senior Assistant Prosecutor, who is also a registered nurse, and a senior SVU detective, and staffed by SVU detectives and victim advocates. The team uses the services of experts in fields involving the unique medical and emotional needs of the elderly. The team investigates and prosecutes cases

involving physical abuse, neglect, fraud and other crimes against those who are over 62-years old. The team also works with the Financial Crimes Unit and other units within the ECPO to enhance investigations.

### **2018 Accomplishments**

In 2018, the Elder Abuse Team investigated six cases involving alleged physical abuse, sexual abuse and fraud.

## **BIAS CRIMES UNIT**

The Essex County Prosecutor's Office recognizes the distinctive fear that is generated, and unique trauma suffered by victims of bias crimes. The ECPO considers bias crimes (also known as hate crimes) to be serious crimes that can affect an entire community. Bias crimes are aggressively prosecuted through vertical prosecution by the Bias Crimes Unit. In 2013, the Unit was placed within the Special Victims Unit to better serve the victims through the most comprehensive investigations possible and provide the best therapeutic support for the victims.

By law, a bias crime occurs when a person, group or their property is targeted for intimidation based upon race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, or ethnicity. N.J.S.A. 2C:16-1. A person convicted of a bias motivated crime is subject to enhanced punishment.

The Bias Crimes Unit is led by a designated Assistant Prosecutor and detective. Bias crimes are investigated by detectives trained to conduct interviews in a sensitive manner. Victims are also referred to counseling and other assistance programs.

### **2018 Accomplishments**

In 2018, the Bias Crimes Unit opened 36 cases.

## **MEGAN'S LAW UNIT**

The ECPO established its Megan's Law Unit in January of 1995 in response to state legislation designed to protect potential victims from convicted sex offenders. The law is named after Megan Kanka, a seven-year-old girl who was sexually assaulted and murdered by a neighbor who was a convicted sex offender. Simply put, the promise of Megan's Law is that if people know about a sex offender's presence in their community, they are better able to safeguard against potential victimization.

The Unit is responsible for evaluating how likely a convicted sex offender is to commit a new sex offense. These evaluations are made in accordance with guidelines established by the Attorney General's Office and are triggered when a sex offender is released from prison or sentenced to probation or parole supervision for life. The

## INVESTIGATION UNITS

seriousness of the offender's Megan's Law triggering conviction(s), their offense history, their personal characteristics, and their community support are all analyzed. Additionally, these reviews may include an evaluation of the offender's prison records, school and employment records, and conduct while under parole or probation. Upon completion of this process, a report is compiled establishing a risk level. After notice of a hearing is given to the offender, a hearing is held (on Tier 2 and Tier 3 cases, i.e., the more serious cases) before a Superior Court judge who makes the final determination of the offender's tier classification. Depending upon the designated tier level, school and/or community notification may be initiated. Effective January 1, 2002, notification of some offenders is posted on the Internet.

There are three types of Tier classifications. Tier 1 offenders are deemed low-risk and notification is limited to the police departments where the offender lives and/or works and the State Police. Tier 2 offenders are considered moderate-risk and notification is sent to all schools, day-care centers, women's shelters and registered community organizations within an area where the offender is "likely to encounter" potential victims. Tier 3 offenders are considered high-risk and all residences, businesses, schools, day care centers, women's shelters and registered community organizations within the offender's "likely to encounter" zone are given notice. The court determines the geographic scope of notification and the types of institutions to be notified in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cases. Local law enforcement agencies and the State Police also receive notice in these cases.

With respect to sex offender publication on the Internet, all Tier 3 offenders and certain Tier 2 offenders are eligible for publication on the New Jersey Sex Offender Internet Registry. As previously mentioned, all Tier 2 and Tier 3 offenders are entitled to a judicial hearing and it is the judge who makes the final determination whether an offender will be listed on the Internet and what type of community notification will be made. If the court rules that a case is Internet eligible, the offender's name, county of residence, date of birth, physical attributes, type of conviction, modus operandi and photograph will be published. His street address and the municipality in which he lives will also be included. In addition to Internet publication, community notification will also be ordered according to the "likely to encounter" standard. If the court rules that an offender is not eligible for the Internet but still finds that they are a Tier 2 or Tier 3 offender, then notification will proceed as outlined above.

The ECPO's Megan's Law Unit is the busiest Megan's Law Unit in New Jersey. Essex County has more registered sex offenders residing within it than any other County. At any given time, there can be over 1,500 sex offenders.

Due to the transient nature of a significant portion of the sex offender population in Essex County, the number of court hearings required and conducted can be voluminous. This is because even after the tiering process is completed by the issuance of a court order, a sex offender is entitled by law to a new court hearing every time he or she moves to a new address within Essex County, or moves into Essex County from elsewhere. The Megan's Law Unit must then conduct a new notification

## INVESTIGATION UNITS

regarding the offender, encompassing his or her new area of residence. Transient sex offenders also consume time, resources and manpower spent on locating, tracking and verifying their whereabouts on a continuing basis. Additionally, a Megan's Law file can only be closed if a registered sex offender dies or is relieved by way of a court order of all Megan's Law obligations. Thus, the overall number of Megan's Law cases or files being handled by the Unit increases on an annual basis.



In July 2009, the Megan's Law Unit launched the Megan's Law Fugitive Initiative. This program is a collaborative and systematic effort by ECPO, along with federal, state, county and local law enforcement agencies, to make our communities safer from sex offenders. The Initiative is a team effort focused on the apprehension of Megan's Law offenders from Essex County with outstanding warrants, and those who are in violation of the statutes governing mandatory registration with the appropriate law enforcement agencies, as well as sex offenders who are non-compliant with the conditions of Community Supervision for Life where applicable. The initiative is modeled after the U.S. Marshals' Operation Falcon Fugitive Program, which is based on the collaboration of various law enforcement agencies to achieve a common goal.

The Megan's Law Unit also focuses on the training of law enforcement personnel and the education of the public through Megan's Law seminars. The unit has hosted a day-long training seminar for all municipal, county and state law enforcement personnel working in Essex County. The unit also provided public education seminars to eight different community groups including the Essex County Community and Clergy Coalition and the Mayor and Council of the Township of Nutley.

### **2018 Accomplishments**

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In 2018, there were approximately 1,668 offenders registered in Essex County. The Megan's Law Unit also indicted 77 sex offenders. This number represents a steady volume in the number of violations sex offenders in Essex County have committed pertaining to Megan's Law, Parole Supervision for Life, Community Supervision for Life and the New Jersey Sex Offender Monitoring Act.