



# Coral Gables JUSTICE ADVOCATE PROGRAM



The Justice Advocate Program is a collaborative effort between the City of Coral Gables City Attorney's Office, the Coral Gables Police Department (CGPD) and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office. The program's goal is to identify those defendants who repeatedly commit crimes and victimize the Coral Gables community and to ensure vigorous prosecution. The Program is facilitated by The Reyes Law Firm, P.A., Police Legal Advisors, Coral Gables Police Department.

The Program was initiated to insure that those individuals who repeatedly victimize the Coral Gables community are tracked through the system and to insure Coral Gables has an opportunity to be heard at all significant stages of the criminal proceedings through its legal representatives.

# Goal

- The **goal** of the Justice Advocate Program is to **reduce repeat victimization of the citizens of Coral Gables** by offenders who commit certain target crimes (Burglary, Robbery, Vehicle-based crime) within the City of Coral Gables and are highly likely to target Coral Gables again upon their eventual release. Additionally, the Justice Advocate(s) **provide legal representation of the City's interest** and the communities interest during the course of the various criminal proceedings.
- The initiative is **designed to ensure that criminals, once arrested are subjected to the maximum effect of the criminal justice system.** This includes: Stay Away Order's for nuisance criminals and seeking increased bond amounts for criminals that present significant risk of public harm if released, ensuring plea deals are in the best interest of the public in general and Coral Gables citizens in particular, and that maximum sentences are sought, obtained and served.



# BASALO, LUIS ALBERTO

## F-15-23635



Armed Carjacking (PBL)  
Att. Premeditated Murder (2 Counts)  
- **Defendant in Custody.**

Defendant in highly publicized October shooting.  
- Case was direct filed in Adult Court.

JA and Investigating Officers met with Assigned ASA at outset to offer any and all assistance. JA has been in repeated contact with Assigned Trial Prosecutor. Assisted SAO with several issues pre-trial.

### **GUILTY ON ALL COUNTS FOLLOWING JURY TRIAL**

JA attended the sentencing of the above offender along with Sgt. Nyguen and Det. Cachinero on behalf of the City of Coral Gables. The Defendant was sentenced to 45 years in prison followed by 25 years' probation, with 40 of the 45 years being sentenced to be served day-for-day in accordance with Florida Statutes.



# Brown, Wilcher & Wooten F-14-25635-A,B & C



Burglary

Grand Theft 3D

Crim Misc +1000

**- Alias Capias (Bench Warrant) Issued**

Defendants arrested for a publicized incident regarding a series of burglaries followed by a traffic accident which left someone seriously injured. Despite the best efforts of the JA in conjunction with CGPD and the SAO, two of the cases were dismissed (Victim Refused to Cooperate / Insufficient Evidence of ID).

- JA has been in frequent contact with SAO concerning this matter.
- The JA, City Attorney Leen and Mayor Cason attended an initial hearing in this matter on 3/16/15 and expressed the City's interest in the three related matters.
- **Two Defendant's are fugitives.**
- **Wilcher has accepted a plea approved by CGPD and the Victim. Adjudicated Guilty with CTS (340 days) plus one year of probation.**



# Santino and Patrick Fernandez Kristopher Soto F-17-13986-A,B & C



Burglary

Grand Theft 3D

Crim Misc +1000

-JA has provided Initiation Form to SAO for inclusion in file.

-JA has offered any help possible to assist in prosecution and has discussed potential plea offers in this matter.

- Defendant Patrick Fernandez accepted a **plea** to a withhold of adjudication followed by **2 years Community Control and 4 years Probation as a Habitual Offender**, with a special condition of attending Miami Dade Boot Camp Program.
- **Remaining Two Defendant's Set for Trial 12/18.**



Gill, Adam  
F-16-14697



False Impersonation of Officer, Battery, Indecent Exposure, Strong-arm Robbery

- **Alias Capias (Bench Warrant) Issued for Failure to Appear**

-JA has provided Initiation Form to SAO for inclusion in file.

-JA has offered any help possible to assist in prosecution. ASA indicated that CG will be appraised on status of case as things progress.

-New prosecutor has been assigned and JA has contacted the ASA regarding this matter, providing the previous communications concerning this case.

<http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/Man-Arrested-For-Allegedly-Impersonating-Cop-Indecent-Exposure-in-Coral-Gables-386834321.html>



# Gonzalez, Abraham

## F-17-20546



Aggravated Assault on LEO

- **Defendant in Custody.**

- **Good Example of Benefit of Early Involvement:**

- JA Attended the Bond Hearing with the victim Officer and a Detective from MPD who provided information to the Court regarding prior contacts with subject. JA requested, and were granted an elevated bond of \$15,000.00 (up from \$9,000.00), House Arrest with GPS Monitoring (in the event bond is posted), a Stay Away Order from the victim Officer and place of employment, as well as an Order to surrender and all firearms by Defendant.
- The JA is in contact with the SAO to insure any and all needs for trial are met and to express the City's concern regarding this individual.
- Report: 11/22/17



# Gray, Cedric F-16-18830



Armed Burglary, Robbery, Aggravated Battery, Battery on Elderly, False Imprisonment, etc.

- The JA is in contact with the assigned ASA to insure any and all needs for trial are met and to express the City's concern regarding this individual.
- Defendant is a Violent Felony Offender and Habitual Felony Offender and the State has filed Notice of its Intent to seek an enhanced penalty.
- Assigned ASA praised the Victim Advocate's involvement and requested continued participation.
- JA has offered use of conference room at RLF for deposition of elderly victim.
- Trial: 1/8/18





# Grissom-Rodgers F-17- 3042



## Shooting Incident In-Front of UM

**Att. Murder, Agg. Assault/Deadly Weapon, Agg. Fleeing, etc.**

- JA attended Bonda Hearing and argued for increased bond amount and probable cause for attempted murder.
- Judge Glazer found probable cause for the Attempted Murder Charge.
- Additionally, an elevated bond (in the event a bond is eventually imposed for the murder charge) was imposed for the aggravated fleeing & eluding charge, in the amount of \$25,000.

**Trial: 11-27-17**



# Redero, Juan Carlos

## F-15-8548



### LSA/Death, Tampering with Evidence

- Out-of-Custody
- The JA worked extensively with CGPD in drafting search warrants and an arrest warrant for the Defendant in this case mere hours and days following the incident, which led to the Defendant's eventual arrest and ongoing prosecution.
- The JA has been in contact with the SAO to insure any and all needs for the trial are met and to express the City's concern regarding this individual.
- Set for Trial 1/29/18



# Ordinance Violation Prosecutions



- **At the direction of the City Attorney, we are now reviewing No Action Memorandum's from the SAO in order to;**
  - 1) Identify cases that are appropriate for prosecution by the City Prosecutor, and
  - 2) To identify any issues that may be addressed from a legal perspective for training purposes.
- **Multiple qualifying offenders have been selected and cited in accordance with the City Code.**



# Important Note Concerning Community Involvement



- **The City cannot be 100% effective on its own.** Through the Justice Advocate Program, we have been able to identify numerous instances in which subjects have been apprehended, often caught red-handed, and **prosecutions are derailed by residents in the community who refuse to cooperate.** This has the decidedly undesirable effect of encouraging the commission of crime in Coral Gables. Criminals are emboldened by the knowledge that they can commit crimes against the citizenry and they will often not face any consequences because the public refuses to cooperate.

# Benefits of Program

- As the above examples illustrate to varying degrees, the Justice Advocate Program offers a vast array of benefits to the City of Coral Gables as a stakeholder in the criminal process. Among the benefits which have already been realized are the following;
  - the ability to attend the first appearance bond hearing to argue for increased bond when appropriate;
  - the facilitation of communication between the SAO and CGPD;
  - the provision of legal research and an increased analytical ability to the SAO for Coral Gables cases when new or novel issues arise;
  - the obtaining of Court Order Stay Away Orders from Coral Gables for offenders;
  - attending the deposition of officers when a member of the SAO is unavailable; and
  - advocating for more appropriate plea offers or sentences.