



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.

- Defendant sought to have bond set – Request was Denied.

- Set for Trial 4-17-17.



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



Burglary

Grand Theft 3D

Crim Misc +1000

- Alias Capias Issued – Failure to Appear for Trial for all 3 Defendants

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.
- **No Further Update at this time – two Defendant's are fugitives, one is serving prison time in Arkansas.**



Gill, Adam
F-16-14697



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

- 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.

- Set for Trial 5/30/16

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



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: 5/15/17



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: 6-5-17



Menendez, Irene

F-16-14049



Grand Theft (2nd) - Conviction

- **Victim approved plea of 364 DCJ.**

- Grand Theft of approximately \$85,000.00 in cash from 2011
- The Defendant was apprehended in California and brought to Florida. Pre-Trial release was requested by the Defendant after an initial bond of \$50,000.00 was imposed.
- JA communicated to the State Attorney's Office, as the victim was concerned that the Defendant might attempt to retaliate, and we confirmed that a Stay Away Order was in place. Additionally, we requested that the State request the Court impose, as a condition of pre-trial release (if the Court was inclined to grant same), a GPS monitor and surrender of travel documents.
- **The Court reduced the bond to \$25,000.00 (still more than twice the standard bond) and imposed the conditions we requested.**



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.
- A new ASA has been assigned and JA has contacted her to express City's interest in this matter.
- Set for Trial 4/10/17



Reyes, Brayan, et. al.

F-16-18676, 18677 & 18679



Multiple Car Burglary Defendants

One of Three Arrested for a spree of burglaries

All Cases Closed

The adult entered a plea and received a Withhold of Adjudication with special condition of 6 Months Community Control W/Gps Monitor, followed by 6 Months Probation.

Juveniles have entered pleas on their cases and have been sent to High Risk Residential Commitment facilities. This means that the youth will be locked in a secure juvenile facility for at least one year to one year and a half receiving intensive counseling including mental health and substance abuse treatment. They will also maintain their schooling and hopefully get caught up in their academics studies. Depending on how they do in the program will determine their release time.

- If either of the juveniles commit any further crimes as juveniles after their release for which they are eligible for direct file, that would be the likely outcome.



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.



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.
- Since November of 2016 there have been 7 cases where an arrest was made by CGPD and a No Action (dismissed prior to arraignment) was entered by the SAO.
- Of these 7 cases, **6 were due to victims refusing to cooperate** with the prosecution.

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.