



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.
- The Justice Advocate Program has been **active** for approximately **2 years and 5 months.**



Andrews & Gibson F-15-2493 A&B



Burglary, Theft, Crim. Misc.

- Co-Defendants

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

-JA has been in repeated contact with various assigned ASA's.

-JA has offered any help possible to assist in prosecution. ASA indicated no assistance was required and that case was under control.

Anton Andrews was adjudicated guilty of all three offenses

Sentenced 9-28-16: **10 years State Prison** as a **Violent Career Criminal**.

Gibson was also **convicted** and sentenced in accordance with the State Sentencing Guidelines.



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 12-5-16.



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.



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 12/12/16

<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 Offered use of conference room at RLF for deposition of elderly victim.**
- Trial: 1/23/17



Lastres, Rafael

F-16-10414



Burglary (3 Counts – 2 Vehicle 1 Residential), Crim. Mis., Petit Theft

- The JA was in contact with the SAO to insure any and all needs for the trial were met and to express the City's concern regarding this individual.
- **Defendant was a Habitual Felony Offender**
- **Sentenced to 64.7 Months State Prison (5 years).**



Menendez, Irene

F-16-14049



Grand Theft (2nd)

- 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.**
- Trial: 1/9/17



Redero, Juan Carlos

F-15-8548



Leaving Scene of Accident involving 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.
- Defendant's Motion to Disqualify the Judge was Denied.
- Set for Trial 2/6/17



Reyes, Brayan, et. al.

F-16-18676, 18677 & 18679



Multiple Car Burglary Defendant
One of Three Arrested for a spree of burglaries
The other two are Juveniles

One case (F-16-18679) was dismissed because the only evidence linking the Defendant to the offense was his own statement, and he was unable to describe the vehicle as he indicated he was under the influence of Xanax.

We have contacted the assigned ASA on this case and remain in frequent contact with the Juvenile Division.

- Set for Trial 1/9/17

Innovation

- A pilot non-party notification program is being developed by the Clerk of Court to allow a non-party, such as the Justice Advocate, or any Coral Gables citizen, to register with the Clerk and obtain notification of upcoming events for any case they select.
- We have been provided with a demonstration by the Clerk's staff and understand that it will be ready for roll-out soon.
- This program was initiated as a result of our attempts to obtain regular, automated notice of events in Justice Advocate Cases.
- The Clerk's Office has indicated their willingness to demonstrate the program to the City Commission once it is released.

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 severe plea offers or sentences.



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.
- **The Reyes Law Firm, P.A.** has also agreed to make its conference rooms available for depositions of Coral Gables residents in order to alleviate them of the burden of leaving the City and to ensure that an RLF attorney will attend the deposition if the assigned Assistant State Attorney cannot attend.