



Orange County  
District Attorney's Office

2014

Annual Report Executive Summary



*Looking back. Moving forward.*



## A Message From District Attorney David M. Hoovler

In 2013, when I was working to become Orange County District Attorney, I announced a plan to take back our cities, combat fraud, improve communication between the District Attorney's Office, law enforcement, and other elected officials, and reach out to the greater Orange County community.

We are pleased to report that we have made great strides toward accomplishing those goals. We are confident that we can build on those successes in the years to come.

# Community Prosecution

## ◇ Established Special Projects & Community Affairs Bureau to enhance community prosecution initiatives

- Comprised of two attorneys, including an Executive Assistant District Attorney
- Made 160 appearances at town board meetings, schools & community events
- Created the Strategic Methods Aimed at Reducing Truancy (SMART) Program, designed in partnership with school officials to use the authority of the District Attorney to help insure that parents do not neglect their responsibility to see that their children get an adequate education



## ◇ Created a public service announcement series, designed to dissuade crime; for distribution to schools, businesses, etc., as part of an overall crime prevention strategy of education, treatment & enforcement

- Themes included:
  - › Prescription drugs/heroin
  - › Distracted driving
  - › Driving while intoxicated
  - › Possession of illegal firearms
- PSA campaign earned international MARCOM awards:
  - › Gold award for driving series
  - › Honorable Mention for prescription drugs/heroin

## DWI Policy Restructure

- In 2014 the Orange County District Attorney's Office DWI policy was restructured in consultation with the Orange County Police Chiefs' Association and the New York State STOP-DWI chairperson. The new policy encourages first-time offenders to receive alcohol and substance abuse evaluations and, if necessary, treatment, so that they might avoid becoming felons or killing people on the highways.

## Domestic Violence Initiative

- In 2014 we developed a "Misdemeanors Matter" domestic violence initiative aimed at enhancing misdemeanor domestic violence prosecutions in local courts.

	2014	2013	% CHANGE
<b>Referrals of male offenders mandated to complete domestic violence classes</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>94% increase</b>

## Crimes Against Revenue

	2014	2013	% CHANGE
<b>Public benefits fraud cases investigated</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>62% increase</b>
• Handled as civil matters	48	64	25% decrease
• Criminally prosecuted	67	7	857% increase
• Fraud represented	\$748,000	\$503,354	49% increase
• Estimated avoided costs	\$4.3 million	\$2.15 million	100% increase
• Voluntary recoveries	\$118,000	\$12,000	880% increase

## Felony Convictions

	2014	2013	% CHANGE IN # OF CASES
<b>Felony conviction rate</b>	<b>94%</b> (914 cases)	<b>94%</b> (850 cases)	<b>7.5% increase</b>
<b>Felony trials</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26% increase</b>



## Narcotics Enforcement

- Four sweeps conducted in 2014: January, March, May & October

	2014	2013	% CHANGE
<b>Prosecution: sale of illegal drugs</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>142% increase</b>
• Enhanced charges of selling on or near school grounds	11	1	1,000% increase
• Value of drugs seized*	\$85,000	\$6,960	1,121% increase
• County Court felony narcotic filings	269	128	110% increase

\*These figures do not include 12 kilos of heroin seized in a truck in 2014. The total value of narcotics seized in 2014 (including that truck load) was \$4.1 million.

NOTE: More than 20% of drug offenders, those who were not dealers, were recommended for treatment through Drug Court and other court-ordered diversion programs, or were recommended for probation.

## Guns & Violence

- Co-sponsored gun buy-back program in the City of Newburgh
- Obtained violence reduction grant for the City of Newburgh
- Violent crime in City of Newburgh down 18% from five-year average

	2014	2013	% CHANGE
<b>Guns recovered countywide</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41% increase</b>

## Budget/Grants

	2015	2014	% CHANGE
<b>Annual budget (proposed)</b>	<b>\$9,191,427</b>	<b>\$9,519,498</b>	<b>3% decrease</b>
<b>Grants</b>	<b>\$520,660</b>	<b>\$207,250</b>	<b>151% increase</b>
• Gun-Initiated Violence Elimination “GIVE” Grant	\$213,465		
• Domestic Violence Grant	\$75,000		
• Byrne Justice Assistance Grant	\$25,000		
• Crimes Against Revenue Program “CARP” Grant	\$100,000		
• Violence Against Women Formula Grant	\$35,600		
• Aid to Prosecution Grant	\$71,600	\$71,600	

## Plans for 2015

- Expand Special Projects & Community Affairs Bureau to include four attorneys.
- Establish narcotics eviction program, designed to remove drug dealers and others running illegal businesses on rental property.
- Promote programs designed to assist parolees in reentering society without recidivism.
- Participate in the Youth Police Initiative, designed to bridge the gap between police and youth who are at-risk to commit crime.
- Continue our collaborative narcotics enforcement efforts to disrupt, displace, and dismantle the drug trade.
- Emphasize alternatives to incarceration through treatment programs for nonviolent offenders who are not drug dealers.
- Further initiatives centered on the prosecution of cases involving the abuse of public funds and labor crimes.

