



OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY



MICHAEL F. McAULIFFE
STATE ATTORNEY

April 29, 2009

An Update from State Attorney Michael McAuliffe

I have been serving as your new State Attorney for just over a hundred days. I wanted to update you on what we have done to keep you safe in Palm Beach County.

I have completed a full review of the State Attorney's Office and have implemented a re-organization that I believe makes us more effective and efficient. The new structure and leadership of the office better reflects the current challenges facing investigative and prosecutive law enforcement in our community.

Specifically, I have established a Gang & Gun Unit to work closely with local, state and federal investigators in dismantling gangs in our area. The Gang & Gun Unit will work with the Sheriff's Violent Crimes Task Force and the municipal police departments to investigate and prosecute the leadership of the local gangs. We also are designating one of our prosecutors as a special prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office to handle our gun cases. Currently, we can obtain tougher sentences in federal court for many of those cases.

Additionally, I have established a Public Integrity Unit to investigate and prosecute official corruption and misconduct matters. I have staffed that section with a senior prosecutor and an experienced investigator. I hope to be a leader in restoring a climate of accountability to this county. I, however, remain mindful that we have hundreds of elected and appointed officials who serve selflessly and without any glory to better our community.

As I promised, I have developed and started a Special Prosecutor Program that brings in private practice attorneys to help prosecute misdemeanor cases. The initial class of six (6) prosecutors started last week. The Specials are assisting our Assistant State Attorneys and helping the office address the budget crisis.

I am working with Boca Raton entrepreneur Hank Asher, former Attorney General Bob Butterworth and others in launching an innovative operation to catch the worst child sexual predators in our community and the nation. The operation will be located in Boca Raton and I have assigned a full-time prosecutor to this effort. We will be able to target "super-predators" who are abusing our children right here and sending the resulting pornography through the internet. This extraordinary partnership will use sophisticated computer data mining to identify the worst sexual predators.

Consistent with my pledge to make this County the safest place to be a child, I have created the Special Victims Unit (SVU) which will investigate and prosecute crimes against children and sex offenses. I have assigned senior prosecutors to this Unit who share my vision that there is no higher calling than to protect our children and to vindicate the rights of victims of sexual abuse.

Finally, we face a continuing financial crisis. That means we are being required to do more with less. We remain committed to keeping you safe by holding those who harm us responsible and accountable. That commitment does not change with economic cycles.

I love my job. Thank you for allowing me to contribute to the community as the State Attorney.

401 North Dixie Highway
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401-4209
561.355.7100