



**A Message from District Attorney Paul L. Howard, Jr.**

*Had Enough Already* is more than a sentiment, it is a call to action. Driven by the steadily increasing number of burglaries in our County, we have launched a multi-faceted collaborative which involves the resources of federal, county and local government, the business community, non-profits and our law enforcement partners. We have entitled this effort the "Fulton County Multi-Jurisdictional Burglary Task Force." Our goal is simple: to reduce the number of burglaries in our County by thirty-percent over the next two years. Our approach is three-fold: prevention, suppression and public awareness. Still in its infancy, the Burglary Task Force has had some early and notable success. You will learn more about this initiative, the startling statistics and the people behind those numbers in the next few pages. We are also taking the *Had Enough Already* campaign to the streets and asking for your help as we work to combat the burglary problem in our community. Turn a burglar in, report a tip, refuse to purchase stolen goods—we all play a role in keeping our neighborhoods safe and crime-free. Let's stand together and send a strong and clear message:

*We have Had Enough Already.  
Burglars Beware!*



**Fulton County Multi-Jurisdictional  
BTTF  
BURGLARY TASK FORCE**

**HAD ENOUGH ALREADY?!**

The Fulton County Multi-Jurisdictional Burglary Task Force is an idea borne out of necessity. The brainchild of District Attorney Paul Howard, it was first known as the South Fulton Burglary Task Force, reflecting the area of the County hardest hit by this burgeoning problem. Fulton County law enforcement agencies initially began to notice a peak in burglaries as early as 2006. Although each agency addressed the issue through traditional policing methods, burglary incidents continued to rise countywide in 2007, prompting the heads of law enforcement to seek ways to jointly combat the emerging crime trend. In early 2008, investigators and detectives from the various agencies began meeting regularly to brainstorm and cross-reference burglary-related information. It soon became apparent that the crimes had a multi-jurisdictional impact. Officers were able to connect crimes from various quadrants of the County, identify suspects and solve open cases through information sharing. Despite some success, almost every municipality still saw an increase in burglary incidents by year-end.

DA Howard sought to expand upon the moderate successes of the monthly meeting by forming a co-located task force dedicated to addressing and reducing the increases in burglary felt in each jurisdiction throughout the County. The District Attorney's Office applied for, and was subsequently awarded, a \$200,000 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance program. The Task Force is comprised of officers from six municipalities and eight law enforcement agencies in Fulton County. The singular mission of the Task Force is to reduce the number of burglaries in Fulton County by thirty-percent over the next two years. The strategy includes a public awareness campaign that centers on the theme, "*Had Enough Already*" capitalizing on the sentiment of weary residents, business owners and elected officials who have collectively tired of burglaries and the emotional and financial toll they have taken on the community at-large.



**Lisa Borders**

Proving that no one is immune to this crime is Lisa Borders, past president of the Atlanta City Council, and former Atlanta Mayoral candidate. In May 2009, she was awakened to the sound of burglars in her downtown condominium. It was the third time she had been burglarized in a year and a half. She has agreed to become the public "face" of the campaign saying, "When DA Howard called me, I told him, 'I'll do anything to make it [the burglary situation] better.' We need to stand together and say, 'We will not take this anymore.' We have all had enough!"

**External Support**

The Atlanta Police Foundation and Crime Stoppers Atlanta has also partnered with the initiative and are assisting with funding for billboards and reward money for credible tips which lead to the arrest and conviction of burglars or the return of stolen property. The corporate sector has also taken an interest. Nationwide Insurance has donated money to assist with operational costs associated with the Task Force. "Nationwide is very happy to partner with the District Attorney's anti-burglary task force. These crimes present a significant threat to our policyholders and our communities," said Peter Van Patten from Nationwide's Special Investigations Unit. "By identifying, arresting and prosecuting career criminals who are often responsible for the majority of these types of crimes, we can make our communities safer. Reducing property crimes also leads to fewer insurance claims and can help lower insurance rates for everyone."

# HOW BAD IS IT?

The numbers tell the story of just how pervasive the burglary problem is in Fulton County. In 2008, there were nearly 17,000 burglaries countywide, representing a 12% increase from the year before. Some pockets of the County saw burglary increases of 40% or more---four times the national percent increase of just 10%.

## The Burglary Problem is Real

- Burglaries in Fulton County increased by 12% from 2007 to 2008.
- Annual population growth for 2007 - 2008 was just 2%.



## Burglaries Countywide

- All areas of Fulton County experienced increased burglaries from 2007-2008
- Severe increases in:
  - Hapeville: 69%
  - College Park: 38%
  - Milton: 30%
  - Fairburn: 23%
  - Alpharetta: 21%
  - Atlanta: 13%
- Several of hardest hit cities are not presently participating in Task Force



## Behind the Numbers: Gloria Jones

*"I can't let them break me"*

Gloria Jones calls the Sandtown Community in unincorporated South Fulton home. This is where her roots are: family... friends... community. It was the obvious choice for her new business venture: a restaurant franchise known as J.R. Crickets. She opened her doors in the new Sandtown Plaza on Campbellton

Road in October 2008. It was an exciting and promising time that was quickly short-lived. Within six months of opening, the restaurant had been burglarized three times. Each time the thieves were targeting the high-end plasma televisions lining the walls of the facility. "It's been really, really challenging to know that someone has come in and violated the place," says Jones. "We work very hard. You go home after a long day of work, after being open until 2:00 a.m. and two hours later you get a call that someone has actually broken in. That is not a good feeling and what's really hard is that it didn't happen just one time."

to dismantle the flat-screen televisions. They are more securely mounted on the walls, leaving the burglars empty-handed. Still, with each attempt, the costs continue to mount. Jones estimates the cumulative total of damages to date at nearly \$45,000. "I'm now paying out of pocket for expenses like replacing the front door or repairs to the walls." The repeated burglaries, the rising costs associated with the break-ins... why not just give up? Ms. Jones refuses. "My employees depend on me," she says, "my neighborhood depends on me. So I keep my head up. I keep pushing. I can't let them [the burglars] break me."

Flash forward one year. Jones' establishment has now been burglarized 10 times. With each incident, she has made it increasingly difficult



## INSIDE THE BURGLARY TASK FORCE

Lt. Michael Giugliano of the Atlanta Police Department heads the Multi-Jurisdictional Burglary Task Force. Prior to being appointed to lead the Task Force, Lt. Giugliano was the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Commander for Zone 2. The CID consists of detectives that are primarily responsible for the follow-up investigation of crimes committed against persons or property.

Most of Lt. Giugliano's law enforcement career has focused on organized crime. This has prepared him to lead the Task Force in that a number of burglaries committed in the County appear to be either gang-related or highly organized burglary rings. When asked about his involvement with the Task Force,

Lt. Giugliano said, "I am blessed to have such a motivated crew. They are very passionate about what we are doing and hope to make a difference."

Sgt. John Mullin of the Sandy Springs Police Department is second in command. He has been a law enforcement officer for twelve years and is also assigned to the Sandy Springs Criminal Investigations Division. Sgt. Mullin began his career in the Fulton County Police Department. He believes that reducing burglaries ensures the safety and security of Fulton County residents. "I am pleased to be a part of the leadership team and proud to work with the other agencies to address this issue."



Sheriff  
Ted Jackson  
Fulton County



Chief  
Gary George  
Alpharetta

# BURGLARY TASK FORCE SUCCESS

## INTERNET BURGLARY RING BUSTED!



*Joseph Mobbs    Kenneth Devrick    Tracy Devrick*

Just a few months into operations, the Fulton County Multi-Jurisdictional Burglary Task force led by the District Attorney's Office, has busted a multi-million dollar internet burglary ring. Three suspects have been arrested for stealing high-end appliances from homes, marketing them on-line and selling them for a fraction of their worth.

Undercover operations began in January following a tip from a Sandy Springs homeowner whose unoccupied home was burglarized. Shortly after the theft, the owner spotted his uniquely marked nine thousand dollar stove for sale on the internet site 'Craigslisat'. The on-line "seller" marketed the stove and a companion luxury refrigerator for less than five thousand dollars. The homeowner notified Sandy Springs police who turned the lead over to the newly formed Burglary Task Force.

After an intense investigation, detectives identified Kenneth and Tracy Devrick of Suwanee and Joseph Mobbs of Lawrenceville as the appliance thieves. The trio orchestrated thefts of high-end kitchen appliances throughout the Metro area targeting mostly unoccupied homes for sale. The group advertised the newly stolen goods on various internet-marketing sites and personally delivered or shipped the items to local and national buyers. Officers estimate that this criminal enterprise profited \$500,000 from the sale of over \$2 million worth of stolen property. These estimates do not include the damage caused to homes during the commission of the burglaries or the insurance claims paid as a result thereof.

The operation began to unravel in February when undercover officers arranged a buy with the suspects in the parking lot of a Sandy Springs home improvement store.

Tracy and Kenneth Devrick were arrested on scene. Joseph Mobbs was arrested at a later time. Officers recovered more than twenty high-end appliances, stolen vehicles, and a significant amount of methamphetamine from the Devrick's Gwinnett County home. Log books and USB drives detailing the sale of the stolen property were also recovered. Following a press conference announcing the bust of the burglary ring, additional leads regarding other burglaries connected to this ring began pouring into the Burglary Task Force. DA Howard offered a thirty-day amnesty period to buyers who purchased goods from these suspects. The group faces multiple felony counts including burglary, theft by receiving and drug charges. Indictments are pending in Fulton, Gwinnett and Cobb counties.



*Chief  
George Turner  
Atlanta*



*Chief  
Leander Robinson  
East Point*



*Chief  
Cassandra Jones  
Fulton County*



*Chief  
Ed Densmore  
Johns Creek*



*Chief  
Deborah Harrell  
Milton*



*Chief  
Terry Sult  
Sandy Springs*

*\*Due to ongoing undercover operations, pictures of the command staff have been purposely omitted.*

# BURGLARY CONVICTIONS AT A GLANCE

## You Tube Burglar Convicted

After Grant Park homeowners took matters into their own hands, the "You Tube Burglar," Degeorgio Jackson, was convicted of burglary. On October 27, 2008, Jackson and two other suspects kicked in the door of a Grant Park home on Broyles Street, stealing a flat screen television, laptop computer and a digital camera. Little did these burglars know, that the homeowners had video surveillance installed in

## Burglary Task Force Prosecutor Christina Sears

Christina Sears is a South Carolina native having attended Howard University and law school at Tulane University. Christina joined the Office of the Fulton County District Attorney in December 2008. Prior to working in the DA's Office, she served as an Assistant Solicitor in DeKalb County.

A Fulton County resident herself, Christina saw that incidents of burglary were increasing in her own community, and having talked to her family and friends, she saw that burglary was becoming a widespread problem throughout Metropolitan Atlanta. When asked why she wanted to serve as the Burglary Task Force Prosecutor, Christina says, "I didn't want to just protect my own home; I wanted to protect my community. I can aggressively prosecute burglars helping to bring about widespread changes."

Christina will work closely with the Burglary Task Force officers, to bring about a 30% reduction in burglary incidents over a two-year period by using a wide range of prevention and suppression strategies, as well as the aggressive prosecution of complex burglary cases.

their home, and that the break-in was captured on video. The tech savvy homeowners posted the video on "YouTube." During the trial, Prosecutors also introduced video of a similar burglary that occurred the same day in DeKalb County. This video showed the defendant, Jackson, and three other suspects stealing a flat screen television. Like the Grant Park homeowners, this homeowner also posted his video on YouTube. The simultaneous postings of these videos led to the identification, arrest and successful prosecution of Jackson. A jury convicted Jackson of burglary and Judge Jerry Baxter sentenced him to twenty years to serve. Zone 3 Community Prosecutor Claire Farley prosecuted the case.

## Downtown Office Creeper Convicted

Best known as the "Downtown Office Creeper," defendant William Carter has been convicted of Burglary and Theft by Taking. He was sentenced to 20 years in prison without parole.

On January 3, 2008, Carter entered the offices of Deloitte LLP located at 285 Peachtree Center Avenue and stole an employee's purse. Surveillance cameras captured Carter's stealing the purse, and led to his eventual identification and arrest. Well known in the downtown area, Carter was implicated in several previous office thefts at many downtown office buildings. His crimes prompted a series of informal meetings of the Downtown Security Forum, a consortium of security managers.

William Carter has four prior felony convictions. At the time of the Deloitte burglary, Carter was on probation for a 2004 conviction for stealing a Fulton County District Attorney's badge and personal items in addition to two guns from the Fulton County Sheriff's department. This case was prosecuted by Zone 5 Community Prosecutor Sharla Jackson and Assistant District Attorney William Miles.

## Career Burglar Strikes in Sandy Springs, Gets 20-Year Sentence

Bernard Williams came to Sandy Springs on August 15, 2009, looking for trouble. He found it in the form of fearless and sprightly Betty Turner. Ms. Turner was working in her basement when she heard someone upstairs in her house. She encountered Williams standing in her dining room holding a black portfolio. When Ms. Turner asked Williams what he was doing in her house, Williams fled, beating a path up Lake Forrest Drive. Ms. Turner gave chase while calling 911. Officers from the Sandy Springs Police Department apprehended Williams a short time later near Osner Drive and Roswell Road. The Sandy Springs officers located Ms. Turner's jewelry inside Williams' portfolio. He was subsequently charged with burglary. After a three day trial, Williams was convicted of burglary. Because of his multiple prior burglary convictions, Judge Jerry Baxter sentenced Williams to 20 years to serve without the possibility of parole. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Leetra Harris and North Fulton Community Prosecutor Todd Ashley.

## Prolific Thief Hits Roswell, Alpharetta, Milton

Each time Darmaine Roebuck found his way to North Fulton, the residents of Roswell, Alpharetta, Johns Creek and Milton paid a price. Roebuck was one of the more prolific thieves to hit the area in many years, committing at least five burglaries, five entering autos and several other thefts between July 2008 and June 2009. His activities came to a head on the night of June 24, 2009, when he broke into four homes, entered three autos and stole yet another car in the Providence at Atlanta National subdivision. After the thefts, he was apprehended by Milton police a short time later and was found in possession of personal items belonging to an Alpharetta burglary victim. Fingerprints linked Roebuck to yet another entering auto in Johns Creek. On December 16, 2009, he plead guilty to these charges and received a sentence of 20 years to serve 8 years on the burglaries, and 5 years to serve on the entering autos and thefts. He will be on probation for 12 years after his release from prison. Roebuck was banished from Fulton County with the exception of his mother's home in Union City. Judge Marvin Arrington presided and the case was prosecuted by North Fulton Community Prosecutor Todd Ashley.

## CITIZEN ALERT!



If you have Burglary information,  
please contact Crime Stoppers at:

# 404-577-TIPS

We pay up to \$2000 for information  
about Burglaries in Fulton County

## Contact Information

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### Multi-Jurisdictional Burglary Task Force

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### Burglary Task Force

ADA Christina Sears (404) 612-4981