

## STATE V. DONALD SHORTY



### One Man's Perspective

Dr. Walter Young has been a resident of the Cascade Heights community for nearly 30 years. Brother of former Atlanta Mayor and U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, Dr. Young is a community activist in his own right. Donald Shorty is an eight time convicted felon (four burglaries) who was recently sentenced to eight years behind bars for burglarizing a business near Young's dental practice. Dr. Young, a burglary victim himself, believes in rehabilitating misguided youth. He reached out to Donald Shorty only to have his efforts rejected. We sat down with Dr. Young to get his views on Shorty and the pervasive burglary problem in Fulton County.



Shorty

**Q: Dr. Young, what are your initial thoughts regarding burglaries?**

**A:** "I think there are tens of thousands of young people drifting in the streets and it's a shame. Donald Shorty was not a stranger to me. He used to be a patient [of my dental practice] and visited me frequently. I invited Donald Shorty to my office after he burglarized it so I could counsel him. I tried to help. I purchased him a book by Joel Olsteen, "Best Life Now," while he was in jail to motivate him. I reached out to the director of the Atlanta Workforce Development to set up a job as soon as he got out. He never reported although he had a spot waiting. I was upset I couldn't rehabilitate him so I had no choice but to encourage a long jail sentence."

**Editors note:** Donald Shorty was charged with one count of Burglary for breaking the window of Big Daddy's Café directly across the street from Dr. Young's dental practice. Shorty decided to plead guilty and was sentenced to 20 years to serve 8 with the balance on probation. While on probation, Shorty is banished from Zone 4 within the City of Atlanta. This is his fourth burglary conviction and eighth felony conviction in Fulton County.

**Q: Dr. Young what do you think is the cause/solution?**

**A:** There are no programs for young kids. I know

these guys in my neighborhood. I see them pass several times a day and I see them hanging out all weekend. But knowing who causes the problem doesn't help if there are not programs for the offenders. The offenders need counseling for mental and drug problems. I am glad that Mayor Reed is opening the recreational centers so teens with no direction have somewhere to go. Without direction they are certain to get in trouble. The solution is not the police. We call the police and the guys are arrested but then they come right back.

**Q: How can the community get involved?**

**A:** I try to get people in the community to be advocates for law enforcement. But it's not the law officer's responsibility to solve all the problems. The DA and the police can't do it alone, we have to participate. When I call 911 and don't get the response I want, I call the Major or just drive directly to the precinct. When the police arrive on a scene I point the finger. I'm not scared of these folks. I will not let them take over. I grew up during civil rights. I've been beaten, jailed, spit on and more. If I didn't get run out by that then I definitely won't let a crack-head run me out of my community.

*Upon his release from prison, Donald Shorty will serve twelve years on probation, during which time he is banished from the Zone 4 community in Atlanta.*

### Office of the Fulton County District Attorney

136 Pryor St. SW, 3rd Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
(404) 612-4980, after 5pm (404) 224-3230

### Multi-Jurisdictional Burglary Task Force

**ADA Christina Sears**  
(404) 612-8275, christina.sears@fultoncountyga.gov

**Zone 1 - ADA Kimani King**  
1590 Joseph E. Boone Blvd., Suite E  
Atlanta, Georgia 30314  
(404) 799-5075, kimani.king@fultoncountyga.gov

**Zone 3 - ADA Claire Farley**  
Villages @ Carver, 201 Moury Avenue, Apt. 114  
Atlanta, Georgia 30310  
(404) 624-0612, claire.farley@fultoncountyga.gov

**Zone 4 - ADA LaDawn Blackett-Jones**  
3050 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Suite X-6  
Atlanta, Georgia 30311  
(404) 699-5294, ladawn.blackett@fultoncountyga.gov

**Zone 5 - ADA Sharla Jackson**  
340 Boulevard NE, Suite 500  
Atlanta, Georgia 30312  
(404) 265-3450, sharla.jackson@fultoncountyga.gov

**Zone 6 - ADA Joshua Geller**  
340 Boulevard NE, Suite 500  
Atlanta, Georgia 30312  
(404) 265-3450, joshua.gellar@fultoncountyga.gov

**North Fulton - ADA Todd Ashley**  
3155 Royal Drive, Suite 155  
Alpharetta, Georgia 30022  
(404) 612-9401, todd.ashley@fultoncountyga.gov

**South Fulton - ADA Kenya Johnson**  
5600 Stonewall Tell Road, Suite 219A  
College Park, Georgia 30349  
(404) 612-9170, kenya.johnson@fultoncountyga.gov

## Upcoming Events

**HAD ENOUGH ALREADY?!**

**Billboard and Website Launch**

**Thursday, June 24, 2010**

**10:00 - 12:00noon**

55 Trinity Avenue  
Atlanta, GA 30303

RSVP: Lauren Jones, 404-612-8275  
or DAevents@fultoncountyga.gov

### Citizen's CourtWatch Training

**Thursday, July 22, 2010**

**6:00 - 8:00pm**

Sandy Springs City Council Chambers  
7840 Roswell Rd  
Building 500  
Sandy Springs, GA 30350

**Wednesday, July 14, 2010**

**6:00 - 8:00pm**

Washington High School Auditorium  
45 Whitehouse Dr, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30314

Contact: Janet Martin, 404-555-5555  
or courtwatch@fultoncountyga.gov



## 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



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

In the Spring of 2010, I posed a question to the citizens of Fulton County: 'Had Enough Already?' It was more a rhetorical question to which I already knew the answer. Yes! We have all had enough of the intrusion into our homes and businesses at the hands of burglars. Instead of simply lamenting our plight, my office joined forces with our Fulton County law enforcement partners in a proactive approach now known as the Multi-Jurisdictional Burglary Task Force. Since our public launch in March, we have made some important strides. We are pleased to announce the passage of the new 'Smash and Grab' Act drafted by our office in partnership with a coalition of local and national retailers. The new Georgia law creates tough prison sentences for convicted smash and grab burglars- juveniles and adults alike. The 'Had Enough Already' website is up and running and our roadside billboards are ready for public view. Learn more about both in these pages, plus a rundown of recent burglary dispositions in our County. Even in our infancy we are making progress; but there is work yet to do. We remain committed to our mission of reducing burglaries by thirty-percent countywide over the next two years. With your help, we know we can achieve our goal. Join us in the fight!

## SUMMER 2010

### Fulton County Multi-Jurisdictional



### 'Smash and Grab' Law Adds Muscle to Burglary Fight



Governor Sonny Perdue signs 'Smash and Grab' legislation as DA Howard-4th from left back row- and Community Prosecutor Sharla Jackson- red shirt- watch proudly

These days it seems rarely a week goes by without news of another 'smash and grab' burglary. It's 'meaty' copy for the nightly news and a catchy headline for the morning paper. More than that, this crime is cause for growing concern. The seemingly incessant assault on businesses is taking a huge emotional and financial toll on businesses throughout Fulton County, particularly in the heart of the capital city. Of the 363 retail burglaries in Atlanta between 2007 and 2009, 44 percent were smash and grabs. Clothing (mostly high-end denim) accounts for nearly 40-percent of the retail thefts with electronics a close second at 28-percent according to data compiled by the Law Enforcement Retail Partnership Network (LERPnet). The estimated price tag associated with these losses: \$3.9 million dollars and growing. The Georgia State Legislature has taken notice and action. On June 4, 2010, **Governor Sonny Perdue** signed into law the new Smash and Grab Act--legislation that calls for tougher penalties for 'smash and grab' offenders.

The **Georgia Smash and Grab Act**, O.C.G.A. § 16-7-2, incorporated as part of House Bill 1104 sponsored by **Representative Jimmy Pruett**, was passed on April 29, 2010 by a 150-1 vote in the Georgia State Senate. The legislation was drafted by the Smash and Grab Coalition, a collaboration of large and small retailers, the Georgia Retail Federation, the National Retail Federation, local police departments and the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, spearheaded by **Zone 5 Community Prosecutor Sharla Jackson**. The coalition was formed in 2009 to implement policy changes to curtail the rising number of smash and grab burglaries.

Under the Smash and Grab Act, offenders will receive a minimum mandatory sentence of two years in prison for first-time smash and grab offenses and/or a fine of up to \$100,000.00. Second or subsequent convictions call for prison time of five to 20 years in prison, plus a fine. The act also calls for treating juvenile smash and grab burglaries as designated felonies, that is, under this act; a juvenile can be sentenced to for up to sixty months in prison upon conviction. In addition, any adult who involves a juvenile in such crimes will also be subject to felony treatment. Finally, the act makes smash and grab burglaries a listed offense under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO).



Video surveillance of smash and grab burglary in progress.

# HAD ENOUGH ALREADY?!

## Website

[www.hadenoughalready.com](http://www.hadenoughalready.com) is live! The website is element number one of the public awareness campaign associated with the Multi-Jurisdictional Burglary Task Force. The interactive web portal gives citizens direct access to task force officers. Users can relate their personal burglary experiences via either blog or video. The website also offers burglary-related news and information and provides links to our partner sites, including Crime Stoppers Atlanta where visitors can anonymously submit burglary tips in exchange for reward money of up to \$2000 for credible information leading to the successful arrest and/or disposition of burglary cases.

Citizens interested in taking a more active role in the judicial system can click on the "Citizens CourtWatch" link which details the popular DA program and offers step-by-step instructions regarding participation and a calendar of upcoming court proceedings.

Another interesting feature of [www.hadenoughalready.com](http://www.hadenoughalready.com) is the video account of the Burglary Task Force initiative featuring the compelling story of **Lisa Borders**, Honorary Chair of the BTF Citizens' Advisory Board and Past Atlanta City Council President. Borders, three times burglarized in less than two years, has a vested interest in putting burglars away and creating a safer environment for all Fulton County residents.

## Billboards

Not only will you see Ms. Borders' story on-line, her face will appear on roadside and electronic billboards throughout the county. The billboards are another extension of the 'Had Enough Already' public awareness campaign and are designed to encourage citizens to take a proactive role in the burglary reduction initiative by reporting tips regarding burglars and/or stolen goods to Crime Stoppers Atlanta. The billboards and funding for reward money is sponsored by the Atlanta Police Foundation. The billboards will be unveiled at a special ceremony on June 24, 2010.

## Task Force Launch

Some residents got a sneak-peak at the billboards during the launch event for the Burglary Task Force in March. The event was held at the South Fulton J.R. Crickets restaurant owned by young entrepreneur **Gloria Jones** whose establishment has been burglarized ten times. District Attorney Howard pledged an end to burglaries at J.R. Crickets and throughout the county and announced a goal of reducing burglaries by 30-percent countywide over the next two years.



Community Prosecutor Christina Sears receives a \$200K grant from Rep. John Lewis



Fulton County Commissioner William "Bill" Edwards is honored by DA Howard

U.S. Congressman **John Lewis** addressed the crowd and presented a mock \$200,000 check representing federal grant dollars used to establish the Burglary Task Force. Nationwide Insurance has also pledged financial support for the initiative.



District Attorney Paul L. Howard, Jr. and Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed

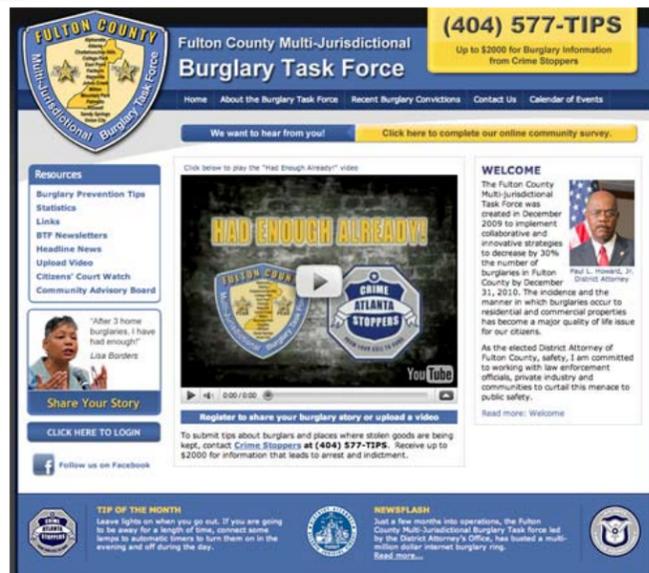


District Attorney Howard and Lisa Borders with BTF members



The BTF accepts a check from Nationwide Insurance

Photos: Horace Henry



## Superior Court Determines that Burglaries are COMPLEX



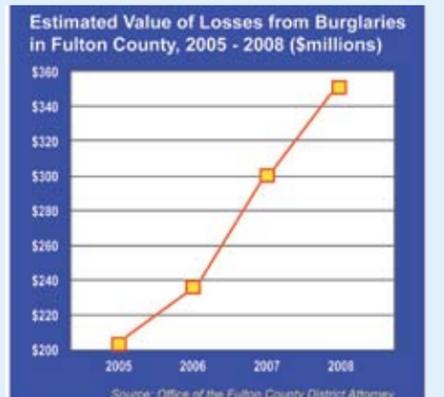
Chief Judge Cynthia Wright

On Friday June 18, 2010, in response to citizen concerns, Fulton County Superior Court **Chief Judge Cynthia Wright** elevated burglary charges indicating that these crimes are to be considered as serious as violent felonies. Effective immediately, all defendants charged with Burglary will be handled within the "Complex Trial Division". This change modifies the Superior Court "Felony Fast Tract" established in 2006, which split felony cases into two distinct categories—non-complex and complex cases. The "Non Complex" tract, presided over by appointed magistrates, includes less serious offenses such as theft and drug cases. The "Complex" tract presided over by elected superior court judges, includes more serious offenses ranging from drug trafficking to murder.

In her statement, Judge Wright indicated that by moving burglaries to the Complex Trial Division, the goal is to provide adequate time for the Court to review the charges and a defendant's past criminal history. This will enable the Court to impose appropriate sentences and be held accountable by the public for the sentence imposed. In applauding her efforts, District Attorney Howard said, "The change is an appropriate response given the county-wide increase in burglary offenses. I think that the Court is sending a clear message that burglars are not welcome in Fulton County."

## THE COST OF BURGLARIES IN FULTON COUNTY

From 2005 to 2008, the number of burglaries in Fulton County increased from 11,757 to 16,864, according to crime reports prepared by the county's 14 police departments. During the same period, the FBI reports that the average cost per burglary in the US increased from \$1,725 to \$2,079. Applying these national cost figures to the number of burglaries in Fulton County, the total estimated losses from burglaries in Fulton County increased from \$20.3 million in 2005 to \$35.1 million in 2008, a growth rate of 73 percent.



## AT-A-GLANCE: BURGLARY CONVICTIONS

Disp. Date	Defendant	State's Recommendation	Judge's Sentence	Prior Convictions
5/3/10	Andre McMichael	20 to serve 15 yrs	10 to serve 5 yrs	5+
5/3/10	John McDaniel	20 to serve 15 yrs	20 to serve 3 yrs	5+
5/3/10	Damion Jones	7 to serve 1 yr	5 yrs to serve /60 days bal. probated	0
5/3/10	Kevin Toney	20 to serve 7 yrs	10 years probation	3
5/3/10	Charles Johnson	20 to serve 10 yrs	20 yrs to serve 6 mos	4
4/27/10	Michael Dunlap	20 to serve 15 yrs	15 to serve 5 yrs, bal. probated	3
5/3/10	Ronald Gay	20 to serve 3 yrs, bal. probated	5 years probation	0
4/29/10	Albert Tate	20 to serve 5 yrs	20 to serve 1 yr commuted-time served	3
4/29/10	Antonio Wynn	20 yrs to serve	20 to serve 30 days	4
4/29/10	Antavious Kimber	10 to serve 5 yrs	5 to serve 6 mos commuted-boot camp	2
5/5/10	Salina Williams	5 to serve 3 yrs	2 years probation	0
5/5/10	Boris Evans	5 to serve 3 yrs	2 years probation	0
2/25/10	Arthur Jordan	20 to serve 10 yrs	20 to serve 10 yrs	5
4/22/10	James Duffey	20 to serve 10, bal. probated	10 to serve 18 mos, bal. suspended	4
4/20/10	David Rucker	20 yrs to serve	20 to serve 3.5 yrs, bal. probated	5

## Community Leads Burglary Reduction Efforts

A unique component of the District Attorney's efforts to reduce burglaries is the Community Advisory Board, led by Honorary Chair Lisa Borders. Thirty-five community members representing various geographic regions of the County meet regularly and are tasked with increasing community involvement and providing feedback to the Burglary Task Force and District Attorney's Office.



Photo: Horace Henry



"I've been here 11 years and I've never been the victim of a burglary. Unfortunately, several of my neighbors have been. One of my neighbors was burglarized five times in two years. We feel that this is a quality of life issue. Many of us are scared and don't know what else to do. This is just another key to cleaning up our neighborhoods. I think that these are children and young adults committing these crimes; and there has to be a way to keep them occupied so they're not out burglarizing homes."

- **Laurel Rummel**  
Community Advisory Board member