

OPERATION: HEAVY METAL

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for scrap vehicles, certifying the seller is either the owner or authorized agent of the owner. The 'pseudo' owner is then paid for the vehicle leaving the legitimate owner without much recourse.

Impact

Auto theft places a tremendous burden on those who are victimized. Many auto owners do not carry comprehensive coverage on their older vehicles- only liability coverage in the event of an accident. Once the vehicle is stolen, it essentially becomes a total loss to that victim impacting their livelihood by crippling their ability to travel to work or school. This crime has far-reaching implications beyond individual victims. According to

statistics from the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), auto theft costs the insurance industry \$5.2 billion a year. That results in higher premium costs for consumers ranging from \$200-300 per policy.



Fulton County Assistant Chief of Police Gary Stiles discusses criminal operation



(L-R): ADA Sharla Jackson, DA Investigator Joshua Blakely, Fulco PD Investigators Brendan O'Neil and Dauda Sannob, APD Investigator Charron Walters

As the District Attorney's Office prepares to prosecute the 96 individuals indicted for the scrap metal-related auto thefts, DA Howard has pledged his on-going commitment to reversing this crime trend with continued investigation, arrests and prosecution of those responsible.

VICTIMS

More than 100 people were victimized by the alleged thieves indicted as part of the Operation: Heavy Metal round-up. Following is a snapshot of those thefts and the impact of the loss:



Victims of Auto Theft (L-R): Schemika Coverson, Chadwick McClure, Cedric Moore

Victim's Profile	Suspect(s)
<p>CHADWICK McCLURE Chadwick McClure's 1990 Chevy S10 was stolen from him on 7/21/11. McClure used his vehicle for his business "Triple M Audio Installation." The theft has impacted his livelihood and his mobility--forcing him to walk or rely on public transportation and the kindness of friends to get him to and from work.</p>	<p>Cedric Phelps Indicted on 21 counts of False Statement of Ownership and 14 counts of Theft by Taking.</p>
<p>SCHEMIKA COVERSON Ms. Coverson's livelihood was also impacted by auto thieves. Her two Ford Econoline vans used for her business "Visionary Learning Academy" were stolen from her on 1/18/11.</p>	<p>Bernard Walker Indicted on 3 counts of Theft by Receiving, 5 counts of False Statement of Ownership and 1 count of Theft by Taking.</p> <p>Christopher Davis Indicted on 12 counts of Theft by Taking, 19 counts of False Statement of Ownership and 1 count of Theft by Receiving.</p>
<p>CEDRIC MOORE Mr. Moore's 1985 Plymouth Voyager was stolen from the front of his home on 8/17/11. Moore had gone outside to check on a flat tire. He stepped back into his home for a brief twenty minutes and returned to find his van had vanished. The loss of Moore's vehicle has impacted his ability to take his mother to and from critical doctor's appointments.</p>	<p>Derrick Carter Indicted on counts of Theft by Taking, 6 counts of False Statement of Ownership and 1 count of Theft by Taking.</p>

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SPRING

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Community Connection

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A Publication from the Fulton County District Attorney's Office

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Zeroing-In

In the pre-dawn hours of March 26, 2012 a contingency of local and federal law enforcement teams comprised of members from the Atlanta and Fulton County Police departments, the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Marshals Service and the FBI Ammo Task Force gathered in the parking lot of the Atlanta Civic Center to finalize their game plan. Within thirty minutes, arrest teams would be knocking on doors throughout Atlanta and Fulton County apprehending alleged auto thieves in a mass arrest round-up initiative dubbed: "Operation: Heavy Metal," spearheaded by Fulton County District Attorney Paul L. Howard, Jr.



ADA Sharla Jackson oversees arrest operation

Two weeks earlier, the DA's Office indicted 96 individuals on charges related to the theft and subsequent sale of 300 vehicles for scrap metal. It was the culmination of an investigative and prosecution effort led by **Zone 5 Community Prosecutor Sharla Jackson**, alongside investigators from the Atlanta and Fulton County Police department who worked tirelessly with DA staff to build cases against the suspected car thieves. Following indictment, Grand Jury arrest warrants were issued and the **Fulton/Atlanta Multi-Jurisdictional Auto Theft Task**



DA Howard holds Press Conference with law enforcement partners to discuss Operation: Heavy Metal

Force was poised to execute them. By days end, the round-up had yielded the apprehension of more than half of the wanted suspects.

Background

"Operation: Heavy Metal" is an initiative borne out of the Fulton/Atlanta Multi-Jurisdictional Auto Theft Task Force, comprised of investigators from the Fulton County and City of Atlanta Police departments, the U.S. Marshals Service and prosecutors and investigators with the District Attorney's Office. Formed in October 2011, the task force was created to combat a rising number of auto thefts in Fulton County. According to statistics from the FBI, Atlanta ranks 4th in the nation for the number of auto thefts each year. In 2011, more than 2000 vehicles were stolen in the city of Atlanta alone. Fewer than 25% of those vehicles were recovered.

In many instances, those unrecovered vehicles are sold to local recyclers for scrap metal-- an emerging auto theft trend.

Criminal Operation

Thieves target cars that are at least twelve years old and steal them from a variety of locations including interstates, residential driveways and business and church parking lots. Once stolen, the vehicles are then taken to a recycler and sold for scrap metal. Based on weight, a thief can profit between \$500-800 on average. Older vehicles are targeted for two primary reasons: they are likely to weigh more, thus making the scrap metal more profitable; and Georgia law allows a car to be sold for scrap without a title as long as it is at least twelve years old. One presenting a car for sale to a recycler need only produce a drivers' license and a 'Cancellation of Title'

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Recycling machine crushes car for 'scrap' metal

courtesy: Atlanta Police Department

IN THE ZONE

Important News, Events and Information from and about YOUR Community Prosecutor

ZONE 1 Steven Jones

ZONE 2 TBD

ZONE 3 Claire Farley

ZONE 4 JaDawnya Butler

ZONE 5 Sharla Jackson

ZONE 6 Paul Camarillo

N. FULTON Todd Ashley

S. FULTON Kenya Johnson

Zone 4 Community Prosecutor **JaDawnya Butler** has been elected as the 31st President of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA). Butler was sworn in on January 25, 2012. Among its many missions, the 30-year old organization supports community initiatives affecting women and children. Ms. Butler's election is an appropriate complement to her work as a Community Prosecutor.



The Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce recognized local law enforcement professionals at the Chamber's First Annual Public Safety Breakfast in February. Approximately 150 attendees heard remarks from Fulton County DA Paul Howard and Fulton County Sheriff Ted Jackson. **ADA Todd Ashley**, North Fulton Community Prosecutor, was recognized along with the police chiefs from Sandy Springs, Roswell, Alpharetta, Johns Creek and Milton for their pro-active law enforcement efforts.



Regional Community Prosecution Conference

The Fulton DA's Community Prosecution program is being hailed as a national and regional model from which other prosecutors are taking cues. The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys selected our team of prosecutors to co-host its regional conference on Community Prosecution. The fall conference served as a training ground for jurisdictions interested in developing their own community prosecution programs. Prosecutors from as far away as Chicago and New York traveled to Atlanta to discuss community prosecution initiatives and prevention strategies related gangs, drugs and other quality of life issues.



Repeat Offenders Round-Up

Defendant	Charge(s)	Sentence	Zone	Facts
Reginald Byrd	Burglary, Fin. Trans. Card Fraud, Rec'g Stolen Prop.	20 yrs to serve 15	N Fulton	Burglarized a Milton home of computers, jewels, electronics
Ricky Malone	Burglary	10 yrs to serve 5	Zone 1	Burglarized a Church, stealing appliances
Jerry Lynn Thompson	Burglary	20 yrs to serve 10	Zone 3	Burglarized a Grant Park home stealing jewelry and heirlooms
Gregory White	Burglary	20 yrs to serve 5, banished from GA	Zone 3	Stole metal shelves for recycling from a vacant elementary school
Javado Barner	Burglary	10 yrs to serve 3	Zone 4	One of two suspects who burglarized a Willis Mill Rd home of computers, jewelry, and firearm
Antoniell Davis & Delveccio Collins	Burglary False Imprisonment	10 yrs to serve	Zone 5	Burglarized home, stealing a computer and flat screen TV. Forced an elderly male occupant to be silent and not summon police.
Chester Flowers	Burglary	10 yrs to serve 5	Zone 6	Burglarized a home, stealing a DVD player, later broke into a neighboring home to sleep
Travis Gregory	Burglary	20 yrs to serve 8	Zone 6	Stole cash and collectible coins from a St. Charles Place home
Robert Crowley	Burglary, Theft and Forgery	14 mths to serve	S Fulton	Burglarized a home. Fraudulently took Title over an impounded auto and attempted to extort \$1200 from owner.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LEGAL LIVES

The 14th annual "Legal Lives" program is currently underway in elementary school classrooms throughout the county. The 15-week instructional program is led by volunteer prosecutors who teach 5th grade students lessons on civics and criminal law. The program culminates in a mock trial competition which will be held at the Fulton County Courthouse on May 9, 2012 at 10:00 am. Selected students from each participating school are eligible to attend an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC during the summer. Students will tour the White House and other historic sites. The 2012 Legal Lives program includes students from Atlanta Public and Fulton County schools including: Peyton Forest, Daniel H. Stanton, Parkside, F.L. Stanton, Seaborn Lee, Cliftondale, Stonewall Tell, State Bridge Crossing and Shakerag elementary schools.



JUNIOR DA

In April, District Attorney Howard's signature program, 'Junior DA' will begin accepting applications for rising 7th and 8th graders in Fulton County. Established in 1998, the law-centered educational program provides students with an overview of the criminal justice system and exposes them to various facets of local government and courts with summer field trips to police departments, the Georgia Supreme Court and more.



Last summer, the program garnered national attention due to the heroic acts of one of its students. Taking cues from a forensics class she had just taken with her Junior DA classmates, **Jessica Maple** solved the burglary of her great-grandmother's home in Fitzgerald, Georgia. Her actions generated media buzz because Jessica, then just 12-years old, beat police to the punch. Jessica traveled to the South Georgia home which was ransacked by criminals and left devoid of furniture and appliances.



Following her instincts, Jessica went to a local pawn shop where she discovered her grandmother's belongings had been hocked. She asked the pawn shop owner for copies of the id's of the sellers and then called police to inform them that she had not only recovered her family's stolen property, but tracked down the suspects as well. Jessica and her mother, in a brazen move, confronted one of the suspected burglars about the theft. He was later arrested. Jessica's courageous acts were first reported by **WSB-TV** reporter **Jeff Dore**. The very next day she was bombarded with requests from national television, print and electronic media outlets. She has since received several awards including the District Attorney's annual "A Voice for Victims" award given to citizens who sacrifice their lives or personal safety for the benefit of crime victims or those in danger.



Jessica and DA Howard in HLN studio

To learn more about our youth programs, contact program director **Kenya Johnson** at 404-612-4206 or Kenya.johnson@fultoncountyga.gov.

CITIZENS' COURTWATCH



The Citizens' CourtWatch program remains a key Community Prosecution initiative.

Each spring, the District Attorney's Office hosts its annual CourtWatch training program where citizens receive a crash-course education in judicial processes and felony case proceedings. Newly appointed **Fulton County Superior Court Judge Todd Markle** and **Sheriff Ted Jackson** were among the special guests at the March 3rd session. The men dialogued with citizens on a variety of topics ranging from courtroom decorum to sentencing and courtroom security. The annual training session is typically held at the Fulton County Justice Center Tower however, mini-training sessions are offered at rotating venues throughout the county during the year and are open to all Fulton County residents.

To schedule a mini-CourtWatch training in your area, or to learn more about becoming a CourtWatcher, email us at courtwatch@fultoncountyga.gov.



DA Howard addresses CourtWatch participants