On August 5, 2017, the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office powered alongside the Fulton County Clerk of Superior Court, the Fulton County Solicitor General’s Office, and other partners hosted yet another effective Records Restriction at the Cascade United Methodist Church. One of the many success stories was that of a gentleman who walked in with 4 felonies and walked out with a clean record and full expungement.

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The Fulton County District Attorney’s Office recently opened two new Community Prosecution offices in Atlanta and Union City. The celebration for the opening of the Atlanta Zone 4 Community Prosecution Office was held on September 6, 2017 on-site at Gordon Plaza 2472 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SW Atlanta, GA. A grand opening celebration for the Union City location was held on October 26, 2017 on-site at Jonesboro Road, Suite 104, Union City, GA at the Union City Crossing Business Complex. The new offices were established as a part of a collaborative effort between the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office, local government leaders, and various community stakeholders.

Mr. Howard hopes that the presence of the new offices and dedicated prosecutors will help foster positive relationships between citizens and law enforcement. “We are extremely excited about the expansion of the Community Prosecution program into Atlanta and Union City,” says Paul Howard, Jr. “We are thankful for the support of our community partners and stakeholders for embracing this concept. We hope to reduce crime and ultimately increase citizen confidence by working together,” Howard added.

Community Prosecution is a national concept which strategically places prosecutors in community-based offices for greater visibility and accessibility to residents. Implemented in the year 2000, the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office Community Prosecution Unit has been recognized for excellence both locally and nationally. There are currently ten Community Prosecution offices serving citizens throughout Fulton County. The offices are strategically placed in satellite locations across the county to work directly with citizens to reduce crime in their neighborhoods. This grassroots approach to law enforcement involves kingdom, proactive partnerships among prosecutors, police, public and private organizations and the community-at-large.

The Zone 4 Community Prosecution Office is staffed by Community Prosecutor/Assistant District Attorney, Shari Jones. The Union City Community Prosecution Office is staffed by Community Prosecutor/Assistant District Attorney, Jocelyn Watkins.
**Race for the Dream**

On January 14, 2018, as the historic City of Atlanta celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday, the Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Merchants’ Association honored Dr. King’s memory by holding the Inaugural 2018 Race for the Dream Marathon, Half-Marathon, and Bike Tour. Over 500 runners, walkers, and bikers came from across the world to participate in the Holiday Marathon. The furthest participant traveled from China hours before lining up at the start line. There were over 1,200 spectators and neighbors cheering on their loved ones. In addition to those physically present, there were approximately 40 virtual runners that joined the Race for the Dream.

The Marathon consisted of 26 miles that toured the City of Atlanta starting from Booker T. Washington High School, where Dr. King attended as a young man, traveling on the major streets named after Civil Rights Leaders and ended back at Washington High School. The fastest runner finished the Half Marathon of 13.1 miles in 1 hour and 17 minutes. Despite the icy conditions, the runners did not prevent anyone from crossing the finish line with a smile on their face. Each participant was greeted with medals and hugs by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Merchants’ Association, community volunteers, and the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office.

Mr. Terrell Collier, President of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Merchants’ Association, has a goal to create, retain, and foster sustainable prosperity the merchants located along the corridor, and to situate the Merchants’ Association as a strategic resource for the City of Atlanta. And Mr. Collier is doing just that, it is reported that the Race for the Dream was a success and has had a positive economic impact to the community in the amount of approximately $504,000.00. One of the Partners of the Merchants’ Association is the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office. The two entities continuously work together to make Fulton County a better place to work, play, and live.

**Pedaling Crime Down -18%**

On November 16, 2017, the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office launched its Thanksgving event. District Attorney Paul L. Howard, Jr., partnered with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Merchants’ Association, the Atlanta Community Food Bank, Rosaleana’s Community Development Center, Burger King, Neighborhood Planning Units (NPU) H, I, R, Q, S, and T; neighboring businesses, local churches, Halpern Enterprises, Inc., the Atlanta Police Department, the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department, Atlanta City Council, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, and other government agencies to make this event a success.

The Feeding Our Families – Zone 4 Style event took place at the newly opened Fulton County District Attorney’s Zone 4 Community Prosecution Office located at 2472 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive inside of Gordon Plaza.

With the help of numerous sponsors, over 250 men, women, and children walked away with a prepared meal. Meat, bread, gravy, dressing, sweet potato casserole, and a cookie sponsored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Merchants’ Association; two bags of groceries per person (1 bag of canned goods and 1 bag of fruits/vegetables) packaged and sponsored by the Rosaleana’s Community Development Center and Atlanta Community Food Bank, and burgers donated by Burger King, lemonade prepared and sponsored by The Brown Boys Lemonade and the Atlanta Brand Central, LLC; and bags of toiletries donated by community members and employees of the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office.

**Pre-Arrest Diversion Program in Zones 5 & 6**

Zone 5 Community Prosecutor Niaa Daniels recently attended the Pre-Arrest Diversion Officer Reception with Zone 5 Commander Major Schiebaum. Zone 5 Assistant Commander Captain Ricardo Vasquez and Atlanta Police Officers. Pre-Arrest Diversion is a partnership between law enforcement and social service providers that allows police officers to divert people into services instead of arresting them when the criminal activity is likely related to untreated mental illness, addiction, and/or extreme poverty.

The event was held to honor Zone 5 and Zone 6 officers who have made calls to the Pre-Arrest Diversion Unit to provide services for qualifying individuals instead of taking them into custody. The event took place at 236 Forsyth Street SW, Suite 200 at the Pre-Arrest Diversion Office.

**Zone 2 Brings the Community to Juvenile Court for CourtWatch**

On December 11, 2017, Zone 2 Community Prosecutor Brenden Dougherty, with the continued help and partnership of CourtWatch Director Danielle Simpson, brought the Community to the Fulton County Juvenile Court for a hearing regarding an attempted Entering Automobile offense, a quality of life crime that has plagued the Zone 2 Community. The crime occurred on November 25, 2017, when police units responded to a suspicious person call on the 3100 block of Peachtree Drive. A concerned citizen stated that his security camera captured an attempted Entering Automobile crime at the hands of a young juvenile. With the assistance of this video surveillance technology and an active neighborhood watch, police were able to apprehend the suspect. Based on the Juvenile Defendant’s prior criminal history, the Zone 2 Community was allowed to voice their feelings to the Court regarding the Defendant’s menacing presence in their community and the impact this type of crime has on their sense of safety and security.

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**Santa Claus is Coming to Town**

The Zone 6 Toy Giveaway was held in December at Coan Park in Atlanta where Zone 6 Major Timothy Peek was honored. The Zone 6 Atlanta Police Department flew Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus in on a helicopter. Deputy District Attorney Keith Lamar. Zone 6 Community Prosecutor assisted with this amazing event in hopes that no child in Zone 6 left the festivities without a toy in hand.

**Tis The Season**

On Thursday December 7, 2017, the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office launched another holiday event, Tis the Season Community Toy Giveaway. District Attorney Paul L. Howard, Jr. partnered again with neighboring businesses, local churches, and other government agencies to make this event a success. The Toy Giveaway took place at Faith AME Zion Church and consisted of children being welcomed by the Reindeer of the North Pole, also known as the horses of the Atlanta Police Department Mounted Patrol, pictures with both Santa and Mrs. Claus, and food provided by Burger King. Zone 4 Community Prosecutor Shari Jones, with the help of numerous sponsors, was able to provide over 500 Children with wrapped presents to put underneath their Christmas Trees.

**250 Families Fed in Zone 4**

On September 20, 2017 and September 21, 2018 the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office and City of Atlanta Police Department worked together to bring a Thanksgiving meal to Zone 4. With the help of local businesses, suppliers, and community members, the event was a success and has had a positive economic impact to the community in the amount of approximately $504,000.00. One of the Partners of the Merchants’ Association is the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office. The two entities continuously work together to make Fulton County a better place to work, play, and live.