UNION COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER FROM ACTING UNION COUNTY PROSECUTOR GRACE H. PARK



The 2015 calendar year marked my second full year in office, and I am proud to report that it was an extremely productive time in which the dedicated men and women of the Union County Prosecutor's Office (UCPO) excelled in the performance of their sworn duties. Throughout the course of the year, the Office undertook ambitious new initiatives, managed significant and complex investigations, and successfully prosecuted many cases impacting public safety within the County.

The UCPO staff handled a total of approximately 4,600 adult and juvenile cases in 2015. The Office also obtained more than 820 indictments and 650 guilty pleas while taking a total of 87 cases to trial.

The Office's Homicide Task Force filed charges in connection with 18 of the 21 homicides that occurred in the County last year, marking a solve rate of approximately 86 percent. This was the highest figure recorded since the Task Force was formed in 2008. And the Guns, Gangs, Drugs, and Violent Crimes Task Force successfully coordinated dozens of investigations resulting in more than 110 arrests, the confiscation of 20 firearms, and substantial seizures of heroin (13,532 grams), cocaine (3,936 grams), marijuana (19,261 grams), and methamphetamine (4,629 grams). The quantity of heroin seized in 2015 was the largest single-year total recorded by the Task Force since at least 2008. In addition, a pair of long-term Task Force investigations resulted in the arrests of a combined total of 27 gang members, effectively dismantling two violent sets of the Crips street gang operating in and around Elizabeth, New Jersey.

In September 2015, the UCPO also announced the launch of its Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Program. Leveraging a total of approximately \$750,000 in UCPO forfeiture funds along with \$375,000 in New Jersey Office of the Attorney General funds, we embarked on the state's most comprehensive county-run BWC initiative of its kind, ultimately resulting in 16 of 21 municipalities utilizing the devices as part of their patrol uniforms as of August 2016.

The UCPO also continued to make community outreach and engagement a top priority in 2015, when I and other members of the Office traveled to speak to civic, religious, business, and youth groups on approximately 100 occasions – this included two large-scale community meetings involving local clergy, one held in Elizabeth in September 2015 and the other taking place in Plainfield in October. Those two meetings involved a focused dialogue on the relationship between police and the public, as well as ways to increase transparency and accountability in law enforcement.

In April 2015, the UCPO also teamed up with YWCA Union County and other cosponsors to host the second annual Union County C.A.R.E.S. (Community, Action, Response, Education, Safety) Domestic Violence Symposium, which offered an in-depth analysis of an often overlooked area of major public health and safety concern. And in December, the Office hosted its third annual Forum for School Administrators, addressing education executives from across the county on matters ranging from school security to juvenile drug enforcement.

It is my sincere hope that you will take the time to read this report to learn about our Office and to better understand the many efforts being made to protect and serve the citizens of Union County.

Regards,

Grace H. Park

Acting Union County Prosecutor

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MISSION STATEMENT



The mission of the Union County

Prosecutor's Office is to investigate and prosecute major crimes occurring within the County; to proactively coordinate community outreach initiatives that improve quality of life for the County's citizens; and to work cooperatively with each of the County's various law enforcement agencies to protect the public's fundamental right to safety, security, and liberty.

ANNUAL REVIEW SUMMARY

The acting Union County Prosecutor is the chief law enforcement officer for Union County and maintains the Office of the County Prosecutor, located at 32 Rahway Avenue in Elizabeth, New Jersey. The Union County Prosecutor's Office (UCPO) is staffed by approximately 250 people.

In addition to the Prosecutor, the staff currently consists of attorneys who act as assistant prosecutors, sworn law enforcement officers who function as detectives, prosecutor's agents, victim/witness counselors, and clerical employees.

The County Prosecutor is a constitutional officer who is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of all indictable offenses within the County. The Prosecutor is also responsible for ensuring that policies and procedures mandated by the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General are disseminated and enforced among all law enforcement agencies within the county.

The County Prosecutor renders legal and investigative guidance to local police departments in the investigation, identification, apprehension, and prosecution of people accused of committing crimes within the County. In addition, the County Prosecutor performs an important public function in educating the public about crimes, trends, disposition of criminal cases, preventive action to detect and prevent crimes, and policies and procedures to keep our families and vulnerable members of our community safe.

Union County is a jurisdiction of slightly more than half a million residents living in approximately 100 square miles. Union County is bordered by Essex, Hudson, and Morris counties to the north; Richmond County, New York (Staten Island) to the east; Middlesex County to the south; and Somerset County to the west.

There are 21 municipalities in Union County, ranging in size from Winfield (population approximately 1,500) to the county seat, Elizabeth, which at nearly 125,000 residents is New Jersey's fourth-largest city. All 21 municipalities in the County maintain an independent police department.

The Union County Prosecutor's Office is organized into various specialized units. What follows are a brief description of the functions and 2015 accomplishments of each Unit.

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APPELLATE UNIT

Attorneys in the UCPO Appellate Unit represent the State of New Jersey in various proceedings in the Superior Court Law Division and Appellate Division, the New Jersey Supreme Court, and Federal Court. These proceedings include direct appeals, post-conviction relief proceedings, including *habeas* petitions, and appeals of municipal court convictions, including convictions for driving while intoxicated. Unit members also conduct legal research and handle interlocutory appeals.

The Appellate Unit also serves as the primary training ground for new attorneys embarking on prosecutorial careers. The Unit employs law students, many of whom return to the Office as assistant prosecutors after completing their legal studies. These employees concentrate on handling direct appeals referred back to the UCPO by the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, thus becoming familiar with all aspects of New Jersey criminal law and procedures. Handling these appeals also enables new attorneys to hone their skills in crafting persuasive legal arguments. Additionally, appearing in both the Law Division and Appellate Division provides firsthand knowledge as to how the courts function, and provides further training for their future work as trial attorneys.

Interlocutory motions for leave to appeal, particularly those granting motions to suppress evidence and challenging juvenile waivers, have increased steadily during recent years. In 2015, several such motions resulted in the reversal of trial court decisions suppressing evidence. Given the constantly evolving state of search and seizure and juvenile law, this trend likely will continue.

The number of *habeas* petitions that the Appellate Unit handles in Federal District Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit also has increased in the last few

years. All answers to these petitions filed in the past year resulted in denial of relief to the convicted defendants.

In September 2015, the New Jersey Supreme Court decided a long-awaited landmark decision, *State v. Witt.* The Court revisited New Jersey law governing warrantless automobile searches and departed from *State v. Pena-Flores* by no longer requiring exigency during such scenarios. Then, in December 2015, a case initially handled in the Appellate Division, *State v. Watts*, resulted in the Unit prevailing in New Jersey Supreme Court on an issue involving search and seizure. During the appeals process, the Office of the Attorney General took over the case and succeeded in reversing the Appellate Division and trial court opinions suppressing the evidence.

In addition, a number of other cases that the Appellate Unit handled in the Appellate Division also are now pending before the New Jersey Supreme Court, and should be decided in the coming year. Namely, these cases include *State v. Bueso*, considering whether the trial court sufficiently inquired into a juvenile witness's competency to testify; *State v. Williams*, considering whether a sentencing judge has discretion to impose a probationary term on a Graves Act waiver case; and *State v. Bull*, addressing whether the holding of *State v. Hudson*, 209 *N.J.* 513 (2012), should be given retroactive effect.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

In 2015, the UCPO Domestic Violence Unit continued its vertically integrated investigative prosecution of a high volume of indictable offenses, as well as violations of restraining orders and weapon forfeitures in Family Court. The Unit is responsible for the charging, indictment, and trial of indictable offenses stemming from domestic violence, including first-degree crimes such as kidnapping and attempted murder, as well as investigation-intensive crimes such as interference with custody, stalking, cyber-harassment, and invasion of privacy. The Domestic Violence Unit handles approximately 30 new indictable cases and/or restraining order violations each month. The Unit is staffed by four assistant prosecutors, two investigators, one victim/witness advocate, and one clerical. The Unit also maintains a 24-hour hotline whereby police departments can contact an on-call assistant prosecutor for domestic violence-related legal advice or for the approval of indictable charges.

The Domestic Violence Unit experienced several key successes in 2015. In Family Court, Unit prosecutors conducted 20 trials, handled 86 weapon forfeiture matters, and prosecuted 177 cases involving non-indictable violations of restraining orders. Unit prosecutors also obtained 35 indictments before the Grand Jury, sentenced numerous defendants on indictable crimes after guilty pleas, and conducted several noteworthy investigations. For instance, the Domestic Violence Unit was instrumental in the recovery of a child whose mother had absconded with her to the State of Georgia, in violation of a Family Court order. After determining the child's specific location, Domestic Violence Unit prosecutors and detectives filed criminal charges that allowed for the defendant's arrest and extradition to New Jersey. The father was reunited with his daughter and escorted her back to New Jersey, and the defendant subsequently pleaded guilty to an indictable offense.

Domestic violence cases present several challenges that distinguish them from other matters typically handled by the Prosecutor's Office. Victims of domestic violence are often emotionally, financially, and legally bound to their perpetrator, attachments that can significantly impact a criminal prosecution. The Domestic Violence Unit therefore takes the time to learn details about the victim's personal circumstances in order to help guide the victim through the criminal justice process and to connect the victim to community-based resources designed to help him or her break the cycle of violence. By understanding the dynamics of each victim's relationship with the defendant and by empowering the victim to improve his or her personal circumstances as soon as a domestic violence incident occurs, the Domestic Violence Unit improves its chances for a successful prosecution.

Members of the Domestic Violence Unit also instruct at the John H. Stamler Police Academy on domestic violence law and specialized domestic violence evidence-gathering and investigative skills. The Unit also provides training for Domestic Violence Response Teams, schools, community organizations, and civic groups.

DRUG COURT

In 2015, the Union County Drug Court Unit was staffed by one full-time assistant prosecutor who was responsible for the legal review of all applications and handled all court appearances.

The Drug Court Program, now in its 17th year, offers nonviolent offenders who are prone to substance abuse a community-based treatment alternative to prison. In 2015, a total of 363 individuals participated in Drug Court and were required to report to court on a weekly, bimonthly, or monthly basis, depending on the length of time the participant had spent in the Drug Court program and their compliance with program rules. Participants are required to submit to random drug testing, submit to unannounced home visits, report to probation on a weekly basis, obtain employment or education, and participate in either inpatient or outpatient treatment, as clinically determined. In 2015, a total of 38 Drug Court participants successfully completed their five-year term and graduated.

One hundred and fifty-two applications were filed and reviewed for legal acceptance into Drug Court in 2015. Of that number, 96 were determined to be legally suitable for the program, and letters of acceptance were submitted in each case. After clinical assessments were conducted, 73 defendants entered guilty pleas and were sentenced into Drug Court. Detailed letters of legal ineligibility were submitted in 56 cases.

ELIZABETH PROJECT

Since 1994, the Union County Prosecutor's Office has assigned an assistant prosecutor to work full-time at the Elizabeth Police Department. Referred to as the "Elizabeth Project," the program aims to improve the relationship between the Elizabeth Police Department and the Union County Prosecutor's Office through legal advice and investigative support.

The assistant prosecutor reviews police reports and statements for complaint approval and determines when there is sufficient evidence for indictable charges to be filed, or whether the case should be heard in Elizabeth Municipal Court. In 2015, the assistant prosecutor reviewed more than 80 cases and found there was insufficient evidence to charge an offense or crime. It was determined that disorderly persons offenses should be charged in more than 140 cases. In addition, more than 900 cases were downgraded to the Elizabeth Municipal Court and/or administratively dismissed. Complaint approval was given for indictable charges in 325 cases. The assistant prosecutor visits Elizabeth Municipal Court daily, and in 2015, reviewed more than 2,400 complaints filed in the Elizabeth Municipal Court for accuracy and completeness.

The assistant prosecutor's referral of appropriate cases to Elizabeth Municipal Court, rather than to the Prosecutor's Office, allows the detectives of the Elizabeth Police Department to spend more time on cases involving serious indictable charges. The referral of cases to the Municipal Court also eases the burden of the clerical, investigative, and legal staffs of both the Elizabeth Police Department and the Prosecutor's Office. Numerous armed robberies, aggravated assaults, shootings, and burglaries were solved last year as a result of the cooperative effort between the many different units within the Elizabeth Police Department and the Prosecutor's Office. Both the Elizabeth Police Director and Chief lend full support to the assigned assistant prosecutor with respect to both investigative and legal issues.

There were a number of notable high-profile cases involving the Elizabeth Project in 2015. On May 13, 2015, two teenaged brothers were robbed at gunpoint by a group of young men while they were waiting for a bus on 1st Street. While a witness reported the crime, the victims fled the scene. Through the combined efforts of detective personnel, cooperative civilians, and the Elizabeth Project assistant prosecutor, eight suspects were charged with first-degree armed robbery. The individuals charged were identified through an exhaustive search of social media.

In addition, on August 1, 2015, a young couple was brutally beaten by a group of men in a parking lot of a liquor store on Elizabeth Avenue. Many people from the neighborhood looked on as two of the men repeatedly stomped on the unconscious victim's head. The woman was also beaten but managed to run to the Elizabeth Fire Department, who made up the first responders. Detectives were able to retrieve video footage of the horrific crime from surveillance cameras installed at local businesses. Through the combined efforts of the Prosecutor's Office, the Elizabeth Fire Department, the Elizabeth Police Department's Detective Bureau and Narcotics Unit, and the Carteret Police Department, four of the perpetrators were identified and charged. Two of the four were charged with attempted murder. This case illustrates the positive impact of the working relationship between the Prosecutor's Office and the Elizabeth Police Department.

All criminal investigations handled by the Elizabeth Project are screened for accuracy, completeness, and disposition before they are forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office for Grand Jury presentation. In 2015, more than 600 completed investigations were screened prior to submission to the Prosecutor's Office. The assistant prosecutor also provided daily legal advice, complaint approval, and assistance in applications for bail for the Elizabeth Police Department.

The assistant prosecutor remains available to both the Municipal Court administrators and the Police Department telephonically after hours.

Additionally, the assigned assistant prosecutor reviewed 25 affidavits for search warrants and/or court orders and assisted in obtaining search warrants and/or court orders from the designated judge in 2015. The assistant prosecutor also gives approval for the submission of evidence for DNA analysis and assists with firearm applications. The assistant prosecutor additionally assisted the Elizabeth Police Department's Narcotics Unit and Detective, Traffic, and Juvenile bureaus in obtaining and preparing more than 70 Grand Jury subpoenas for bank records and other essential documents, and was responsible for preparing affidavits and orders for investigative detention. The assistant prosecutor also obtained authorization from Superior Court judges for higher bail for recidivist defendants who committed serious offenses.

GRANTS MANAGEMENT

During 2015, Grants Management supervised all federal and state grants awarded to the Union County Prosecutor's Office, as well as all donation funds maintained by this Office, totaling over \$1 million.

In the past year, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) 2014 funds for the DNA Backlog Reduction and Enhancement Grant Program, in addition to the 2012 and the 2013 DNA awards, enabled the Union County Forensic Laboratory to reduce DNA analysis time and obtain improved DNA profiles for criminal investigations.

The Multi-Jurisdictional County Gang, Gun, and Narcotics Task Force Grant, part of the Justice Assistance Grant Program of the State of New Jersey, continues to offset overtime costs and allow for the purchasing of new equipment for the UCPO Guns, Gangs, Drugs, and Violent Crimes Task Force. In July 2015, the Prosecutor's Office was awarded additional funding for the 2015-2016 grant period for this Program.

The Jail Diversion Program continues through an agreement between the Department of Behavioral Health at Trinitas Regional Medical Center and the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

Grant funds from the New Jersey Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor continue to fund three salaries in the Insurance Fraud Unit. Due to this Unit's exemplary performance in 2015, the Prosecutor's Office was awarded an additional \$11,250 in insurance fraud grant funds for 2016.

In 2015, the Sexual Assault Response Team/Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SART/SANE) Grant Program continued to fund training costs and pay all on-call and examination fees of nurse examiners who are a part of the Union County Sexual

Assault Response Team. Three hospitals in Union County now participate in this Program, and since the inception of the Program in June 2001, SANE nurses have provided more than 1,300 forensic examinations to victims of sexual assault. Due to a caseload increase and the stability of the Program in Union County, the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice awarded the Prosecutor's Office increased funds for the SART/SANE Program for the 2015-2016 grant period.

The Victim Assistance Project continues to fund the salaries of victim advocates and victim notification clerks in order to improve and enhance programs and services for victims of crime in Union County. Additionally, the Prosecutor's Office continues to participate in the New Jersey Violence Against Women Act Program, which funds the salary of a Domestic Violence Unit advocate.

The Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Program, awarded by the New Jersey Police Training Commission to the John H. Stamler Police Academy, provided new equipment for recruits and funding for in-service training for Union County law enforcement personnel in 2015.

The Prosecutor's Office also maintains a Child Advocacy Donation Fund, which Grants Management fiscally managed in 2015. The remaining money in this fund was expended in 2015 to assist with payments for on-site Trinitas clinician services at the Union County Child Advocacy Center for child victims of sexual assault.

Union County additionally continues to receive funds from the Body Armor Replacement Program. These funds allow the Prosecutor's Office to upgrade body armor for existing investigative staff and purchase body armor for new investigative staff.

Grant funding allows the Union County Prosecutor's Office to continue existing programs and pursue new initiatives. Grants management will continue to complete fiscal reporting and explore new funding that corresponds to initiatives of the UCPO.

GUNS, GANGS, DRUGS, AND VIOLENT CRIMES TASK FORCE

The UCPO Guns, Gangs, Drugs and Violent Crimes Task Force works with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to investigate illegal drug trafficking and gang activity in Union County. The Task Force is the successor to the Narcotic Strike Force, the oldest county-wide, multi-jurisdictional narcotics task force in New Jersey, established in 1971. It is comprised of four assistant prosecutors and 13 detectives from the Prosecutor's Office.

The Task Force's daily activities include narcotics interdiction, search warrant preparation, speaking engagements for civic groups, presentation of training courses at the John H. Stamler Police Academy regarding narcotics, gang enforcement, and search and seizure issues; technical and surveillance assistance to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; and maintenance of an extensive inventory of sophisticated surveillance equipment. Detectives assigned to the Task Force also contribute their expertise by reviewing cases in Union County wherein a defendant is charged with possession of controlled dangerous substances with the intent to distribute. These detectives are responsible for testifying as expert witnesses in Superior Court.

The narcotics interdiction efforts of the Task Force are two-pronged in that the priority is to identify and arrest mid- and upper-level drug dealers and gang members while also assisting municipal police departments with disrupting open-air, street-level drug distribution and gang activities. These efforts are accomplished by employing the full spectrum of investigative techniques, including on-the-ground surveillance, undercover operations, search warrant execution, and electronic surveillance.

In 2015, through the cooperation of the Union County Police Chiefs Association, the Task Force continued a program in which municipal detectives are detailed to the unit for six months to a year at a time, when they are trained in all aspects of narcotics and gang

investigations. The benefit of this initiative is threefold: departments are given a cash stipend for each detective assigned; the Task Force obtains additional staffing; and the detectives return to their departments better equipped to handle narcotics and gang investigations.

In 2015, the Task Force initiated 43 investigations and conducted 47 search warrants, resulting in 113 arrests and substantial seizures of heroin (13,532 grams), cocaine (3,936 grams), marijuana (19,261 grams), oxycodone (59 grams), and methamphetamine (4,629 grams); the quantity of heroin seized was the largest single-year total recorded by the Task Force since at least 2008. The investigations also resulted in the seizure of 17 handguns, two AK-47 assault rifles, one shotgun, \$141,922.50 in United States currency, and eight vehicles. Additionally, five wiretaps and 15 pen registers were conducted.

In March 2015, detectives dismantled an extremely violent set of the Crips criminal street gang in Elizabeth, New Jersey known as the "111s." Using both physical and electronic surveillance, detectives developed probable cause to execute five search warrants and eight arrest warrants, resulting in the arrests of 13 individuals and seizure of eight firearms. This group was the source of numerous shootings and homicides in Elizabeth during recent years. Three of those arrested were subsequently charged with murder.

In November 2015, detectives concluded an electronic surveillance investigation that dismantled another violent set of the Crips in Elizabeth, known as the "Grape Street Crips." This investigation resulted in the execution of six search warrants, the arrests of 27 individuals, and the seizure of 116 grams of cocaine, 10 grams of heroin, two handguns, and an AK-47 assault rifle. This group was also the source of numerous recent shootings and homicides in Elizabeth.

These investigations were initiated in response to the violence waged between the 111s and the Grape Street Crips during 2014. Gang members in both investigations were charged with first-degree racketeering and incarcerated with high bails. A testament to the success of

these two 2015 investigations was a 32-percent reduction in non-lethal shootings in Elizabeth, from 44 in 2014 to 30 in 2015, as well as, a 24-percent reduction in homicides in Elizabeth during that period.

HOMICIDE TASK FORCE

The Homicide Task Force is responsible for the investigation of all homicide cases, including vehicular homicides, occurring within Union County. The Unit is also responsible for the investigation of police shootings that result in deaths, suspicious deaths, in-custody deaths, baby deaths, and murder-suicides. The Homicide Task Force works in conjunction with detectives and police officers employed by the municipality in which each such death occurs.

The Homicide Task Force maintains a 24-hour-a-day legal and investigative on-call service to all law enforcement agencies in Union County. Five assistant prosecutors, four investigative supervisors, five Union County Prosecutor's detectives, five municipal detectives, two prosecutor's agents, and two clerical personnel staff the Unit. Some of the Unit personnel are assigned to particular areas, such as cold cases, electronic surveillance, and evidence collection.

In 2015, a total of 21 homicides took place in Union County. In total, 18 of these homicides have been solved, marking a clearance rate of approximately 86 percent, tying a Task Force single-year record. Of the 21 homicides, there were 15 shootings, two cases of strangulation, two death-by-auto cases, one case of fatal blunt-force trauma, and one fatal stabbing. In addition, there were 24 motor vehicle deaths, 11 baby deaths, 30 drug-related deaths, and five unattended/suspicious deaths. The Homicide Task Force also investigated one in-custody death. In total, 33 homicide complaints were signed in 2015, with a total of 33 defendants charged. During the course of the year, there were also nine trials prosecuted by members of the Homicide Task Force.

One investigation of note concerned the murder of Michael Thompkins, which occurred shortly after 10 p.m. on May 18, 2015, in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Thompkins had been shot

several times and was transported to Trinitas Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead a short time after arriving.

A little more than a month later, shortly after 3 a.m. on June 25, 2015, the body of Dennis Vega was found near the corner of New Point Road and 7th Street in Elizabeth. Vega had been shot multiple times. Surveillance video was viewed by detectives, and a white vehicle was observed driving away from the scene.

Later that day, a little before 9:45 p.m. on June 25, 2015, Jamil Payne was shot from a white vehicle near the corner of 6th and South Park streets in Elizabeth. After being shot, Mr. Payne attempted to run while the vehicle chased him; the victim ultimately fell, and the driver then exited the vehicle and shot him several additional times, killing him.

Barely an hour later, a little after 10:45 p.m. on June 25, 2015, the Task Force was notified of another homicide. The victim, Kelvin Nelson, was standing on the 300 block of Clark Place in Elizabeth, when a white vehicle pulled next to him; a brief, friendly conversation then occurred between him and the occupants of the vehicle, and without provocation, Mr. Nelson was shot several times. The shooter then exited the vehicle and shot Mr. Nelson several additional times.

Barely 10 minutes after that shooting, at approximately 11 p.m. on June 25, 2015, another report of a man shot was made to the Elizabeth Police Department. Richard Marte was shot several times as he was being dropped off from work at the corner of Jackson Avenue and Julia Street in Elizabeth. While Mr. Marte said goodnight to his cousin, a white vehicle pulled alongside their vehicle and an unknown male exited and shot him multiple times. Mr. Marte was transported to University Hospital in Newark, where he survived his injuries, but he was paralyzed from the knees down.

Realizing that the white vehicle represented a common link to each of these investigations, Elizabeth Police Department officers advised members of the Homicide Task Force of a white Buick Lacrosse they observed in the area of 6^{th} and South Park streets, parked illegally with its lights on, at approximately 9:36 p.m. that night, just six minutes before the homicide of Jamil Payne.

National Crime Information Center/State Crime Information Center (NCIC/SCIC) alerts were placed nationwide for the vehicle and, at approximately 6:30 a.m. on June 27, 2015, it was found on the 200 block of Catherine Street in Elizabeth. A suspect, Todd West of Elizabeth, was eventually identified, and on July 6, 2015, he was arrested in Pennsylvania after committing several additional murders in that state.

On July 7, 2015, Todd West was charged by this Office with four counts of murder and one count of attempted murder.

INTELLIGENCE UNIT

In December 2002, the Union County Prosecutor's Office Intelligence Unit was established. The mission of this Unit is to gather information from all available sources in a manner consistent with the law in order to provide tactical and strategic assessments on the existence, identities, and capabilities of local suspects and criminal enterprises, and to further the crime prevention and law enforcement objectives/priorities identified by the Prosecutor's Office.

One area of responsibility for the Intelligence Unit is collecting, analyzing, and disseminating intelligence and information regarding gang members into the Infoshare intelligence database. This includes the verification of gang members and identifying information, including photographs, addresses, vehicles, and information regarding involvement in criminal activity.

The Intelligence Unit is often tasked with mapping a variety of criminal activity throughout the county and state; identifying crimes that have similar methods of operation; and giving assistance to units within the Prosecutor's Office as well as municipal police departments. The focus is on analyzing a series of crimes, most notably homicide, assault, robbery, burglary, and auto theft, with the intent of apprehending offenders and deterring continued criminal acts.

In 2015, the Unit gave assistance in the form of intelligence to more than 250 different municipal, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as law enforcement officers and legal personnel within the Prosecutor's Office.

In 2015, the Unit also continued to monitor the 24-hour Union County Crime Stoppers tips hotline and reviewed and forwarded those tips to the appropriate agency or agencies. In 2015, there were 97 tips received through Crime Stoppers.

In 2015, the Unit also maintained statistics regarding incidents of carjacking (9), non-lethal shootings (56), and Narcan deployments (63) countywide.

In 2015, the Unit continued to host monthly roundtable meetings for the purposes of intelligence sharing. The goal of these meetings is to promote intelligence-led policing in order to help agencies allocate resources, improve investigations, enhance community response, and increase agency effectiveness. Attendance at these meetings continues to grow and expand well beyond Union County law enforcement agencies.

In 2015, the Unit also handled 362 deconflictions in order to ensure officer safety. This system is used to determine whether multiple agencies are investigating the same person or crime.

In 2015 the Unit also assisted with the investigation of an armed carjacking involving three suspects occurring in Hillside; two were arrested, but the third eluded arrest. A street name of the third suspect was obtained, and a photo of the suspect pulled from a social media account was given to the Unit. Intelligence Unit personnel took the Facebook photo and ran it through High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas/Photo Imaging Network (HIDTA/PIMMS) facial recognition software, and as a result, the suspect was identified. This photograph was shown to the victim, who made a positive identification, and an arrest was made. In addition, the handgun used during the carjacking was recovered.

In 2015, Intelligence Unit personnel were additionally instrumental in helping to obtain guilty verdicts during a homicide trial involving three suspects. Cell phones were seized from the suspects and various cell towers that were used before, during, and after the homicide were analyzed by Unit personnel. A poster-sized map was introduced into evidence and shown at

trial, with testimony provided regarding same. All three suspects were found guilty of murder, kidnapping, and armed robbery.

Lastly, the bi-monthly Unit Intelligence Brief continues to be compiled and disseminated to more than 300 law enforcement professionals, identifying potential criminal activity that is typically trans-jurisdictional in nature.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Union County Prosecutor's Office is responsible for conducting investigations of police misconduct and criminal and administrative violations committed by its law enforcement personnel. It is also charged with the responsibility of overseeing internal affairs criminal investigations for all police jurisdictions within Union County. Under certain conditions, the Prosecutor's Office may conduct investigations of police personnel at the executive level of law enforcement and may conduct independent or joint investigations of a criminal or administrative incident involving municipal and county law enforcement. At times, the Prosecutor's Office also provides legal and investigative support to municipal and county law enforcement for internal affairs investigations.

The Prosecutor's Office requires all Union County law enforcement agencies to report statistical information on a quarterly basis summarizing each department's internal affairs unit's activity for that period. Union County internal affairs reporting statistics are derived from each police department's professional standards summary reports. The Prosecutor's Office's internal affairs professional standards summary reports provide a yearly analysis for the entire county.

During 2015, the Union County Prosecutor's Office provided training to all new police recruits regarding internal affairs policies and requirements.

The below professional standards summary report forms cover the period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. The complaints reported this year, for the most part, occurred during the reporting year. However, it is understood that not all complaints filed will have had a disposition during the same reporting year, and the number of all dispositions may not equal the number of complaints filed.

Within the 2015 summary report, a "complaint" is defined as a single incident involving an officer. If an officer commits more than one act under the complaint types, only the most serious complaint type is reported. If there are multiple officers involved in an incident, each officer who had a complaint filed against him or her represents a separate case. The reports from each department's quarterly reporting and a summarized yearly analysis are consolidated into a countywide annual report using the sample format provided by the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General Internal Affairs Guidelines.

The below report contains statistical summaries for all law enforcement departments in Union County for 2014 and 2015, revealing the following trends:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Complaints Filed		·
Anonymous Complaint	9	12
Citizen Complaint	381	385
Agency Complaint	<u>260</u>	<u>316</u>
Total Complaints	650	713
Agency Dispositions		
Sustained	284	283
Exonerated	156	143
Not Sustained	155	132
Unfounded	82	81
Administratively Closed	<u>55</u>	<u>63</u>
Total Agency Dispositions	72 1	702
Court Dispositions		
Cases Dismissed	1	1
Cases Diverted	0	1
Acquittals	0	0
Convictions	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>
Total Court Dispositions	<u>4</u> 5	$\frac{1}{3}$

In 2015, the police departments within Union County reported a total of 713 internal affairs complaints filed. In comparison to 2014, this represents an approximately 9 percent increase in complaints filed. There was a modest decrease in agency disposition of 3.6 percent.

JUVENILE UNIT

The Juvenile Unit is responsible for prosecuting juveniles for acts of delinquency, which can range from violations of township ordinances to murder. The Unit is comprised of a supervising assistant prosecutor, three or four full-time assistant prosecutors, a detective, a victim/witness advocate, and two clerical staff members. The goals of the Union County Prosecutor's Office Juvenile Unit are to promote swift and certain punishment for repeat violent offenders and to divert minor offenders away from delinquency and court action.

During 2015, the Unit handled approximately 670 cases and 98 violations of probation. Staff members from the Unit handled 28 juvenile delinquency hearings, consistent with the heavy trial schedule of 2014.

Fifteen motions pertaining to 14 individuals were filed to have the juveniles treated as adults for purposes of prosecution. Of those motions, one of the juveniles was charged with kidnapping; one was charged with attempted murder; three were charged with carjacking; and four were charged with murder. The remaining motions were filed for juveniles charged with various crimes including robbery, aggravated assault, and weapons offenses.

Statistics show a slight decrease in the number of complaints filed, with 1,183 cases filed in 2014 and 1,010 in 2015. The number of juveniles charged with acts of delinquency has decreased to 782 juveniles, down from 938 juveniles last year, and 372 cases were diverted from the formal calendar. In 2015, a total of 109 Violations of Probation were filed.

The number of serious and complex cases being handled by the Unit remains high.

Specifically, in 2015 the Unit charged 12 juveniles with sexual assaults. There is a great deal of time and preparation required in prosecuting these types of cases. The assistant prosecutor must review extensive discovery and meet with the victim and the victim's family regarding the plea

offer. The assistant prosecutor must answer numerous defense motions and prepare the State's motions and briefs for the admission of certain evidence unique to these cases. The State must retain experts and prepare witnesses for testimony. Most importantly, the assistant prosecutor spends weeks preparing the victim for their testimony.

This year has also seen the steady reporting of gang-related crimes and violent offenses. Approximately 67 robbery cases were handled by the Juvenile Unit in 2015. In addition, the Unit handled 73 weapons-related offenses and 104 assault cases.

The Unit also provides daily legal advice to cm'qh'the municipal police department juvenile bureaus within Union County. The supervising assistant prosecutor is a member and officer of numerous organizations and initiatives regarding juveniles, including but not limited to the Juvenile Officers Association, the local and statewide Council on Juvenile Justice Systems Improvement, and the Executive Planning Committee of the Youth Services Commission.

FORENSIC LABORATORY

The Union County Prosecutor's Office Forensic Laboratory was established in 1972 to analyze physical evidence submitted by law enforcement agencies in Union County, and it was New Jersey's first county laboratory. The Forensic Laboratory today occasionally extends services to the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, the Newark Police Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Port Authority Police Department.

The Forensic Laboratory is comprised of two analytical sections, Forensic Biology and Controlled Dangerous Substances, which offer forensic science service delivery for criminal investigations within Union County. The Forensic Laboratory currently employs 15 technical and support staff, including a laboratory director, DNA technical leader, senior forensic chemist supervisors, and other staff members.

The Forensic Laboratory has maintained accreditation by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board-International, demonstrating continual commitment to improvement in the area of delivery of forensic services.

In 2015, the Forensic Biology Section saw an overall increase in case submissions, with 292 submissions in total compared with 237 submissions in 2014. Requests were received in the following types of cases: 22 assaults, 49 homicides, 56 burglaries/robberies, 80 sexual assaults, and 86 others. There are currently 1,124 DNA profiles that have been uploaded to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) maintained by the FBI. To date, the Forensic Laboratory has linked crime-scene DNA profiles to convicted offenders in 185 Union County cases, and to arrestees in three Union County cases. Another 43 case requests linked DNA profiles with other Union County investigations or cases in other jurisdictions. Union County's shared-services

agreement continued with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office for the analysis of biological evidence and DNA, with the completion of 40 Middlesex County cases to date.

A notable case from the Biology section last year was that of a woman who was strangled to death in her home. Evidence was submitted to the Forensic Laboratory several days after the murder, including clothing from a suspect. Blood was identified on one of the suspect's shoes, and a DNA profile that was consistent with the victim was obtained that same day, allowing the suspect to be charged with murder.

The Controlled Substances Section saw an 11-percent increase in case submissions as compared with 2014. Marijuana (43 percent), heroin (18.6 percent), and cocaine (15.4 percent) accounted for more than three-quarters of all submitted evidence items. There was an increase in cases containing fentanyl, acetyl fentanyl, or a heroin/fentanyl mix. Synthetic marijuana submissions also approximately doubled.

Submission of prescription legend drugs (PLDs) decreased significantly, going from 18,019 tablets/capsules in 2014 to 1,344 tablets/capsules submitted in 2015. Amphetamine, alprazolam, and oxycodone all saw increased submissions in 2015, and benzodiazepine submissions reached a single-year high. The submissions of analogues of scheduled drugs, in which controlled drugs are altered in order to make them uncontrolled or "legal," also almost doubled in 2015. Synthetic cathinones ("bath salts") submissions decreased for the second year in a row.

Shared-services testing with the Newark Police Department also continues to bring narcotics submissions to the Forensic Laboratory. In 2015, evidence in 167 such cases was submitted for routine processing.

PLAINFIELD PROJECT

The Plainfield Project is a fully staffed satellite office established in the City of Plainfield. Its mission is to work closely with the Plainfield Police Division to advance the shared goal of reducing crime. It serves as the presence of the Prosecutor's Office in Plainfield in order to work with the community and the Police Division on crime reduction initiatives.

The assistant prosecutor assigned to the Plainfield Project provides legal advice and investigative support to the Plainfield Police Division on a daily basis. This consists of preparation and review of affidavits for search warrants and obtaining court orders, communication data warrants, and other legal documents required to appropriately investigate and prosecute criminal matters arising in Plainfield. The Plainfield Project also serves to provide in-service training to Plainfield Police Division personnel and participates in crafting strategies to address emergent and chronic crime problems. In addition to providing daily legal advice and investigative support to the Plainfield Police Division, the assistant prosecutor also provides legal assistance to the Westfield, Scotch Plains, and Fanwood police departments.

All criminal matters arising within Plainfield, Westfield, Scotch Plains, and Fanwood are initially screened to determine whether there is sufficient evidence for indictable charges to be filed. Upon a determination that indictable charges are appropriate, such cases are further screened for accuracy and completeness before being forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office's Pre-Disposition Conference Unit for disposition. This helps improve the quality of cases originating from all four municipalities.

In 2015, the assistant prosecutor reviewed a total of 607 cases. The assistant prosecutor referred 247 of the cases to the municipal courts, as there was only sufficient evidence of disorderly persons offenses having been committed. Additionally, the assistant prosecutor determined that no

charges should be filed in 28 cases, since there was insufficient evidence of any criminal offenses having been committed.

The assistant prosecutor reviewed 31 affidavits for search warrants and assisted the Plainfield Police Division Narcotics Bureau and Criminal Investigations Bureau in obtaining those warrants. In addition to obtaining search warrants and grand jury subpoenas, the assistant prosecutor also obtained court orders for telephone records. The assistant prosecutor also assisted investigative units in the various police departments in obtaining and preparing 102 grand jury subpoenas for medical records, telephone records, banking records, and other essential documents to assist the police departments in their investigations.

JOHN H. STAMLER POLICE ACADEMY

Union County is home to one of New Jersey's premier police training facilities, the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains. The Academy has two primary functions: to provide basic police training to recruits to produce qualified law enforcement officers for municipal, county, and state agencies; and to provide advanced in-service training for veteran police officers.

The Basic Training Police Curriculum meets the strict requirements of the New Jersey Police Training Commission (PTC). The instructional staff is comprised of experts in various areas of law enforcement, thus assuring that Academy graduates have the desire, ability, and judgment to serve the public and honor their oaths of office.

In 2015, the John H. Stamler Police Academy conducted two 20-week sessions of the Basic Course for Police Officers. Class No. 112 consisted of 83 graduating recruits, and Class No. 113 consisted of 70 graduating recruits. In addition to the aforementioned graduates, six recruits participated as Alternate Route recruits.

In addition to training police recruits, the Academy strives to provide top-notch continuing education to law enforcement professionals in Union County and throughout the state. In 2015, approximately 3,256 law enforcement professionals – 1,627 from Union County and 1,629 from out of county – attended 173 in-service training courses (including the Computer Proficiency for Law Enforcement course) representing 109 different course offerings presented over 293 training days.

The Academy courses represent diverse offerings focused on expanding the core Police Training Commission's Basic Police Training Curriculum, and they often are created to respond to forecasted and identified needs in the field.

Among our accomplishments in 2015 were Class 19's graduation of 19 auxiliary recruits from our three-month Basic Auxiliary Police Training Program, conducted in cooperation with the New Jersey State Police and New Jersey Office of Emergency Management; Class 9's graduation of 10 recruits in the Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) Class One Police Training Program, in cooperation with the New Jersey Police Training Commission; and the offering of a wide array of special in-service course offerings from such esteemed institutions and law enforcement agencies as Penn State University, Northwestern University, the New Jersey Department of Homeland Security/Immigration Customs Enforcement, the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, and the New Jersey State Police, as well as federal agencies including the FBI and other regional and specialized law enforcement organizations and training agencies – including the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HITDA), MAGLOCLEN, Renahan Consulting, and Marin Consulting.

In addition, Connell Consulting focused on enhanced investigative and prosecutorial techniques, particularly with regard to gang, narcotic, and cyber investigations, as well as enhanced professional standards and performance. The Academy also offered specialized crisis intervention training to enhance police response to individuals with mental illnesses and to assist returning veterans in crisis; training on increased patrol efficiency, safety, leadership, supervision, and agency management enhancement; and special training for educators and law enforcement officers in partnership with the Office of the Union County Superintendent of Schools.

PRE-DISPOSITION CONFERENCE/PIP/PRETRIAL INTERVENTION UNIT

The Pre-Disposition Conference/PIP/Pretrial Intervention Unit is tasked with resolving criminal cases early by way of plea offers and negotiations. All three components of the Unit are designed to resolve cases as expeditiously as possible. In 2015, the Unit handled approximately 3,400 cases, whereas in 2014, more than 6,100 cases went through PDC/PIP/PTI.

The largest component of the Unit is the Pre-Disposition Conference (PDC) Unit, which handles slightly more than 90 percent of the caseload. Once a defendant has a first appearance, they are given a PDC date for approximately four to six weeks later. A majority of the cases that have first appearance dates make their way to PDC, exceptions being first-degree cases and all cases originating from the Guns, Gangs, Drugs, and Violent Crimes Task Force.

Once a defendant has a first appearance, the case is then forwarded to the deputy Trial Team supervisors for dissemination among their respective team members. The Trial Team assistant prosecutors then prepare discovery and a plea offer to be handled at PDC. When each respective file comes to PDC, plea negotiations occur in an attempt to resolve the matter as judiciously as possible.

Two examples of this expeditious movement of cases come from recent real-life examples. In October 2015, defendant Ali Ellis pleaded guilty to a second-degree robbery and was sentenced to three years in state prison with an 85-percent parole disqualifier under New Jersey's No Early Release Act. The defendant was facing up to 10 years in prison with an eight-and-a-half-year parole disqualifier had the case proceeded to trial.

The second example involves defendant Jeffrey Sims, who pleaded guilty to second-degree unlawful possession of a weapon and received a sentence of five years with a 42-month parole disqualifier. Sims was facing up to 10 years in prison with a 42-month parole disqualifier had the case proceeded to trial.

In both of these cases, the State was willing to plead the defendant to the bottom range of the sentencing guidelines due to their prior criminal history and to mitigate the degree of resources the State would have had to dedicate to take the case to trial. These two examples show the value of early plea negotiations in a county with such a large caseload.

The PIP component of the unit is a subset of PDC. Handling a little less than 5 percent of cases that go through PDC, PIP is tasked with resolving those cases that should be easily adjudicated with little negotiation. The typical PIP file is a drug case wherein only a possession offense or third- or fourth-degree theft is charged. The typical PIP defendant has no prior convictions, and an offer of non-custodial probation is recommended if the case has not been downgraded. Files are designated for PIP by assigned screeners and the deputy Trial Team supervisors.

The last component of the Unit is Pretrial Intervention (PTI). PTI is a diversionary program designed for first-time offenders who commit non-violent, victimless crimes. In 2015, 309 Union County defendants were admitted into the program.

RELEASED OFFENDERS UNIT

The Released Offenders Unit, better known as the Megan's Law Unit, is staffed by one assistant prosecutor, one legal analyst, one legal assistant, one investigator, one prosecutor's agent, and two clerical staff members.

The Unit is responsible for ensuring that all convicted sex offenders residing in Union County have properly registered their residence, employment, and/or school attendance with the police department in the municipality in which they live. This includes verifying on a quarterly basis that each registrant does in fact reside at his or her given address and monitoring offenders along with local law enforcement to ensure compliance.

As a result of intense monitoring and tracking of sex offenders, this Unit, working with local law enforcement and the New Jersey State Parole Board, uncovered instances in which sex offenders failed to register their employment, failed to notify the police of an intent to move, failed to re-register a new address, and provided false address information to law enforcement.

In 2015, approximately 10 criminal complaints were signed against sex offenders for violating the registration requirements of Megan's Law. Throughout the year the Unit also worked closely with the State Parole Board Sex Offender Management Unit and the GPS Monitoring Unit, investigating and prosecuting offenders who violate criteria such as community supervision for life, parole supervision for life, or GPS conditions.

In 2015, criminal complaints were also signed against sex offenders who violated community supervision for life conditions. The Unit also ensures that immediate notification is made to the GPS unit of a tier 3 (high risk) offender determination to coordinate the mandatory placement of the offender on GPS monitoring. Moreover, due to the thorough investigation and

tracking of missing sex offenders, numerous arrests were made by the Unit detective last year for offenders who violated the registration provisions of Megan's Law.

The primary focus of the Released Offenders Unit is the tiering of registered offenders to determine the level of risk of re-offense to be assigned to each defendant, and the subsequent scope of community notification. This requires an assessment of many factors, including the individual's criminal history, the facts of the sex offense, institutional progress, response to treatment, employment and residential stability, and whether publication on the Sex Offender Internet Registry is applicable to the registrant. Registrants must also be re-tiered whenever their address, employment, or school status changes.

During 2015, there were approximately 750 registered sex offenders residing in Union County. Last year approximately 64 new sex offenders registered their addresses, and a total of 92 cases were tiered by the Unit. A total of approximately 41 notifications were made to law enforcement regarding tier 1 offenders and numerous offenders were personally served with notice of their tier 2 or 3 status. In excess of 600 schools, community organizations, and civic groups received notification regarding a sex offender. Close to 5,000 door-to-door notifications to residences and businesses also occurred in connection with the tier 3 notifications.

This Unit is also responsible for entering all sex offender data in the new Offender Watch Registry and Megan's Law Promis Gavel. The Offender Watch database, which was implemented this year by the New Jersey State Police, is the basis for the information that is listed on the Internet Sex Offender Registry, and the data entry is an important and continuous function to track sex offenders, as they frequently move and change employment. The up-to-date data entry significantly improves notification procedures to schools, community organizations, and the public, thereby enhancing public safety. This past year several members

of the Unit continued to work diligently to review the list of offenders and obtain the necessary fingerprints and documentation so that those offenders who were no longer residing in Union County and those who were deported or deceased could be removed from the New Jersey State Police database and the Internet Registry of Union County sex offenders. The Unit staff also attended numerous trainings on the use of Offender Watch and provided instruction to the municipalities within Union County.

This Unit continues to assist U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to identify convicted sex offenders residing in the County who are subject to deportation. The Unit also reviewed and objected to clemency/pardon applications submitted to this Office by the New Jersey State Parole Board. The Unit also handled numerous motions to be relieved of Megan's Law obligations – a substantial increase from years prior. Pursuant to the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General Guidelines, the Released Offenders Unit also conducted numerous training sessions for school personnel, community organizations, and civic groups so they could receive Megan's Law notifications, and conducted law enforcement training, public awareness training, and service provider training.

SEIZED ASSET FORFEITURE UNIT

The Seized Asset Forfeiture Unit files civil lawsuits seeking the forfeiture of property that has been or is intended to be utilized in the furtherance of illegal activity; has been or is intended to become an integral part of illegal activity; or that which constitutes the proceeds of illegal activity.

A forfeiture action is commenced by the filing of a verified complaint in the Law

Division of Superior Court. A copy of the filed complaint and summons then are served upon
each claimant and/or potential property claimant. A claimant is an individual who has an
ownership and/or possessory interest in the seized property. If the claimant fails to file an
answer to the complaint, the Court or the Superior Court clerk may enter default against the
claimant. Upon the entry of a default, the State then applies to the Court for the entry of an order
for judgment by default. Once such an order is entered, title in the property is transferred to the
State. When an answer is filed, the matter ultimately is resolved either by way of a negotiated
settlement, trial or court order.

Forfeiture actions promote major public policy objectives by encouraging property owners to be responsible with their property and deter them from using or allowing their property to be used for, or in furtherance of, illegal activity. A corollary benefit is that the forfeited property is distributed to the law enforcement agency or agencies that participated in the investigation and seizure of the property. The forfeited property is to be utilized by the seizing agency or agencies solely in furtherance of law enforcement purposes.

In 2015, the Seized Asset Forfeiture Unit opened 512 files and seized \$1,261,867.62 in United States currency, 19 motor vehicles valued at \$88,461, and other forfeited property valued at \$114,765, totaling \$1,465,093.62 in total value of property forfeited.

SPECIAL OFFENDERS UNIT

The Special Offenders Unit was created in March 2005 to address a marked increase in criminal prosecutions against individuals with mental illnesses. The Unit is comprised of two assistant prosecutors and one clerical staff member. The assistant prosecutors are tasked to handle any Trial Unit case in which the defendant's competency to stand trial is questioned or a defense of insanity or diminished capacity is raised.

The Special Offenders Unit partners with Trinitas Regional Medical Center and Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services to operate the Union County Jail Diversion Program. The Program attempts to divert mentally ill criminal defendants from traditional prosecution when the underlying offense is related to the defendant's mental illness. A treatment plan formulated by mental health professionals from Trinitas and Bridgeway is developed, and progress with the treatment plan is monitored by the court. Successful completion of the Program could result in diversion from conviction and/or incarceration. In 2015, the Special Offenders Unit reviewed approximately 350 referrals for the Jail Diversion Program.

In 2015, the Unit also continued to handle cases in a mental health program assigned to a judge within the criminal courts. This program was launched in July 2009, and the mental health list is heard once a month. This specialization allowed more individuals to be diverted from incarceration and prosecution because of the close monitoring of the cases.

The Unit additionally provides training for law enforcement professionals in the recognition of mental illness and techniques for de-escalation of crisis situations. The Unit continues to collaborate with the National Alliance on Mental Illness of New Jersey (NAMI) and the Union County chapter of NAMI. The Unit, in conjunction with local law enforcement and various mental health service providers and agencies, began the process of establishing a Crisis

Intervention Training Program (CIT) in Union County in 2010. This process resulted in three 40-hour CIT training sessions conducted annually for law enforcement and mental health providers. The continuing goal of the CIT Program is to train local law enforcement officers and responding mental health screeners in how best to handle situations involving an emotionally disturbed person. It is further designed to encourage an understanding and appreciation by all responding parties of each agency's role, as well as to enhance cooperation and coordination among these agencies.

The Unit has also continued in its efforts to provide a practical training curriculum at the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains. In 2015, the Unit conducted two separate one-and-a-half-day intensive training programs on law enforcement's response to mentally ill individuals and the concept of excited delirium, offering practical de-escalation methods and tactical demonstrations.

The Unit is further responsible for involuntary civil commitment cases at the state psychiatric hospitals. The assistant prosecutors in this Unit regularly appear at Ann Klein Forensic Center, Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, and Ancora Psychiatric Hospital to represent the State in commitment hearings involving profoundly mentally ill criminal defendants who have maxed out on their state prison sentences and require hospitalization. In addition, the Unit is responsible for the continued legal monitoring of individuals who are found not guilty by reason of insanity, as well as individuals found to be incompetent to stand trial.

SPECIAL PROSECUTIONS UNIT

The Special Prosecutions Unit's core function is the investigation and prosecution of complex financial matters, identity theft, and official misconduct by public officials. The Unit also handles investigations into matters such as insurance fraud, bribery, kickback schemes, election law violations, bias crimes, New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act violations, welfare fraud, officer-involved shootings (via the Shooting Response Team), and cyber-crimes. There are three assistant prosecutors, one sergeant, and four detectives assigned to the Special Prosecutions Unit; one assistant prosecutor, one sergeant, and one detective assigned to the affiliated Insurance Fraud Section; and one assistant prosecutor and one detective assigned to the affiliated Cyber Crimes Section. The Special Prosecutions Unit's Financial Crimes Section also handles telephone calls, letters, and walk-ins from members of the public.

Whenever a member of the public raises a question about a matter that does not clearly fall under the jurisdiction of one of the other Prosecutor's Office investigative units, he or she is directed to the Special Prosecutions Unit. Questions have ranged from something as simple as the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act to inquiries about complex fraud schemes or identity theft. The Unit also handles special assignments/inquiries.

The Special Prosecutions Unit signed 51 criminal complaints in 2015 and made 50 arrests. The Unit also handled more than 125 citizen contacts/inquiries and conducted four police-involved shooting investigations. Criminal charges were filed against 14 defendants for identity fraud, five separate private employees for second- or third-degree embezzlement from their respective employers, three contractors for theft by deception, and two fiduciaries for misappropriation of entrusted funds. Two public employees were indicted for official

misconduct via theft of time. In total in 2015, three public officials permanently forfeited public office in New Jersey as a result of theft convictions.

A notable case arising in 2015 involved a joint investigation by the Special Prosecutions Unit and the Kean University Police Department. The investigation revealed that 25-year-old Kayla McKelvey, a self-proclaimed activist, participated in an on-campus student rally regarding racial issues on the evening of November 17, 2015. McKelvey left the rally midway through, however, and headed to a nearby computer station in the University library. Once there, she created an anonymous Twitter account and began posting racially charged threats of violence against black Kean students. One such tweet, addressed to the Twitter account of the Kean University Police Department, read, "@kupolice I will kill all the blacks tonight, tomorrow and any other day if they go to Kean University." The investigation revealed that there was never any actual plan to harm students; however, McKelvey was charged with third-degree creating a false public alarm in late November 2015 and pleaded guilty in February 2016, receiving a 90-day sentence in the Union County Jail. She also agreed to repay over \$82,000 in police salary that was spent investigating the false claims.

A total of seven bias-related incidents were referred to the Bias Crime Section for review in 2015. No bias incidents resulted in criminal charges. Six of the seven incidents involved acts of graffiti on public and private property.

The Section, working in conjunction with the New Jersey Bias Crime Officer

Association, also conducted several community outreach programs last year. Topics included bias education and awareness, enhanced communication between law enforcement and the community, and problem-solving techniques. Additionally, the Section conducted bias crime training for police recruits and held in-service training session for veteran law enforcement

officers. A member of the Section also serves on the Union County Human Relations Commission and apprises it of recent bias incidents on a monthly basis.

As it pertains to the Cyber Crimes Section, on October 7, 2015, the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, the New Jersey State Police, and the Union County Prosecutor's Office signed a memorandum of understanding and agreed to work collaboratively with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) regarding Internet crimes against children.

Following a NCMEC referral received in 2015, the Cyber Crimes Section began investigating 48-year-old Cranford resident Eugene Jukniewicz for sharing and distributing sexually exploitative images and videos of children. After a two-month investigation, UCPO Cyber Crimes detectives executed a search warrant of Jukniewicz's home. Dozens of sexually exploitative images were located on his home computer and on a tablet. The defendant was indicted for second-degree distribution of child pornography and the case is pending pre-trial motions.

The Insurance Fraud Section devotes 100 percent of its efforts to combating insurance fraud while working closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement as well as privately run businesses.

In 2015, the Section issued complaints against 16 defendants, made 15 arrests, obtained seven indictments against 11 defendants, and secured seven guilty pleas. In addition, Unit cases resulted in the awarding of \$43,154.99 in restitution.

The Section is state-mandated under a grant provided by the Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor (OIFP). In recognition of a consistent track record of investigations, arrests, and convictions, the Section, for the first time in its 12-year history, last year received a \$12,500 increase in its salary reimbursement grant from the OIFP.

Among notable cases handled by the Section in 2015, defendant Martin Touhy obtained a driver's license in the name of his dead brother because his own license had been suspended for, among other things, multiple DWIs. He then registered two separate vehicles under the false identity and obtained auto insurance for them. He renewed the insurance each year and made a claim on the policy when one of his insured vehicles was stolen and totaled. The insurance company paid off the lienholder in the amount of \$12,821.50. The defendant was arrested and pleaded guilty in exchange for a county jail sentence with probation and restitution.

SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

For decades, the Union County Prosecutor's Office has consistently dedicated every available resource to protecting survivors of sexual abuse and holding perpetrators fully accountable for the bodily and psychological harm of children, teens, and adults. Case referrals come from all 21 municipalities. The UCPO Special Victims Unit (SVU) staff includes 10 detectives, five assistant prosecutors, two clerical support staff members, a multidisciplinary team coordinator, two part-time, on-site therapists from Trinitas Regional Medical Center, five intake workers from the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency, and a forensic sexual assault nurse examiner.

SVU members are jointly involved with municipal police detectives in the initial stages of investigations into the sexual abuse of adults. The SVU staff supervises the investigations and reviews witness interviews, suspect statements, and evidence analysis, and it obtains search warrants and court orders for phone records and biological evidence. The Unit investigators also work with municipal officers by providing field support. Assistant prosecutors direct the investigations and provide legal advice at each critical stage of the proceedings. An assistant prosecutor will make a determination of probable cause or close the investigation due to insufficient credible evidence. After the signing of complaints and arrest of a suspect, the assistant prosecutor will build a rapport with the victim, present the matter to a grand jury, negotiate a plea, or prepare for trial.

The SVU works closely with the Sexual Assault Response Team, the Union County

Forensics Laboratory, and the New Jersey State Police Laboratory. In June 2001, the

Prosecutor's Office, following two years of collaborative efforts with Runnells Hospital, the

Rape Crisis Center, and emergency room staffs at Trinitas, Muhlenberg, and Overlook hospitals,

established a special team to address the needs of survivors of sexual assault. If a survivor is over the age of 13 and the sexual assault occurred within the past five days, he or she is offered special medical and therapeutic services. The Prosecutor's Office, in close collaboration with the Rape Crisis Center and members of those local hospital emergency rooms, meet every eight weeks as the Sexual Assault Response Team Advisory Board to review and improve patient care at the point of first disclosure.

The Union County Child Advocacy Center is an integral part of the SVU team. Since 1995, the Center's detectives have interviewed more than 3,300 children ages 12 and under regarding sexual abuse. From initial disclosure through continued investigation, complaint authorization, grand jury presentation, plea or trial and sentencing, the Unit's various members guide each child's case through the criminal justice system. Essential to the investigatory process is the building of a rapport with each child, respecting the child's evolving capacity to both disclose and heal, and stabilizing parents in acute crisis. Detectives who are trained as forensic child interviewers then seek to interview each victim in an open-ended format.

Often, sexual abuse disclosure is an event that is painful for a child. The digitally recorded interview process eases disclosure and prevents multiple re-interviews. The Union County Multi-Disciplinary Team meets monthly to assess the needs of all families with open cases and take all necessary and appropriate investigative, legal, therapeutic, and medical services steps to improve each family's well-being.

2015 marked the third year of operation for the new "wraparound" service model at the Union County Child Advocacy Center, which is located at 240 West Jersey Street in Elizabeth. Colocation has allowed total investigative, prosecutorial, and therapeutic review time of all new sexual abuse referrals to be reduced from five business days to one business day. In addition to

these tasks, SVU legal and investigative staff are assigned to the Child Abduction Response Team and assist in locating numerous children and teens reported missing and/or endangered.

In 2015, more than 590 referrals of child abuse involving children under the age of 17 were received, 32 criminal investigations were opened, and 31 criminal complaints were signed. Regardless of the opening of a criminal investigation, all families were offered community-based resources for follow-up. The vast majority of complaints were signed for first- and second-degree sexual assaults. Detectives from the Office completed 474 interviews of sexually abused children and teens, and with the help of the clerical staff, obtained 26 typewritten statements from related witnesses. A total of 123 suspect interviews were also conducted by investigative staff.

The child sexual abuse clearance rate in 2015, or those formal investigations that resulted in a criminal charge, was 100 percent, and the teen sexual abuse clearance rate was 89 percent. This figure is a Unit single-year record.

Last year, SVU investigated and prosecuted a number of high-profile cases. For instance, in one case a referral was received from the Garwood Police Department regarding a possible sexual assault upon a 13-year-old male by a 44-year-old female he met online, who resided in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The victim's mother found out about the relationship and reported it to the Garwood Police Department.

Detectives obtained a sworn statement from the victim, during which he disclosed engaging in conversations with the woman over the Xbox gaming system, which began when the victim was just 11. During the course of playing online games, the victim developed an online relationship with the woman through her son. The relationship developed into texting and conversations over the phone (cell and landlines), which eventually led to exchanging naked images of one another.

The defendant drove from Michigan to Garwood to meet the victim and attend his middle school play. During the course of the online relationship, she also sent gifts via mail and brought gifts with her when she drove to Garwood.

Complaints were signed and SVU detectives travelled to Michigan and arrested the defendant at her place of employment, a nursing home. She was subsequently charged with two counts of second-degree attempting to lure or entice a child and 12 counts of third-degree endangering the welfare of a child,

Also in 2015, SVU received a referral from the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency regarding a 16-year-old girl who disclosed to school staff that she had been sexually assaulted by her stepfather since she was 8 years old.

SVU detectives took a videotaped sworn statement from the victim in which she disclosed sexual abuse. The stepfather was charged with multiple counts of first-degree aggravated sexual assault and endangering the welfare of a child.

TRIAL UNIT

The Trial Unit is comprised of one trial supervisor, three deputy trial supervisors, and 18 assistant prosecutors who are assigned, in teams of three, to six criminal courts that handle first, second-, third-, and fourth-degree criminal charges that are not being handled by a specialized unit.

Assistant prosecutors assigned to the Trial Unit conduct case review and issue complaint approval on a rotating, on-call basis. Once complaint approval is given, assistant prosecutors screen the cases to determine which are suitable for prosecution in Superior Court and which should be remanded to municipal court for disposition. All felony cases, wherein the defendant is not charged with a first-degree offense, are referred for a pre-disposition conference (PDC) where assistant prosecutors attempt to resolve the case through a plea. Cases that do not resolve at the PDC level are referred to a grand jury, where the assistant prosecutors will present the cases for indictment. After an indictment is returned, the assistant prosecutor handles the arraignments, status conferences, pre-trial motions, trials, and sentences.

The Trial Unit is the backbone of any prosecutor's office, as reflected in the volume of cases each assigned assistant prosecutor must review, prepare, and dispose of during the course of a year. In 2015, the Trial Unit handled approximately 1,900 cases involving crimes including kidnapping, carjacking, burglary, robbery, aggravated assault, weapons possession, eluding police, and drug possession and distribution. Approximately 650 defendants entered guilty pleas in 2015. A total of 43 defendants proceeded to trial. The cases that proceeded to trial included defendants who were possibly subject to significant penal exposure due to the nature of the charges or a significant prior record. Throughout the year, the Trial Unit assistant prosecutors

also sat as "second chair" in a number of investigative or specialized unit trials for crimes ranging from murder to aggravated sexual assault.

Among notable cases adjudicated by the Trial Unit last year, one defendant was sentenced to 33 years in state prison after being convicted of robbery, weapons offenses, and being a certain persons prohibited from possessing a firearm. The victim in the case parked her car in Elizabeth and was gathering her personal effects when she was approached by the defendant, who brandished a handgun, threatened the victim, and stole numerous items from her, including her purse and cell phone. Officers from the Elizabeth Police Department used the "Find my iPhone" application to trace the victim's cell phone to a location where they found the defendant. The victim was brought to the scene, where she identified the defendant as the person who robbed her, and police also were able to locate a handgun in a snowbank not far from where the defendant was found.

Also in 2015, an Elizabeth man was sentenced to 40 years in state prison after being convicted of robbing a woman at gunpoint at an ATM. Police identified the defendant through surveillance video that was obtained from the bank. Because of the defendant's prior record, the judge sentenced him as a persistent offender. The defendant was subsequently convicted of another robbery and given an additional 11 years in prison.

VICTIM/WITNESS UNIT

In the aftermath of a crime, victims are often shocked, scared, confused, angered, and traumatized, all while their participation in the criminal justice system is increasing. The UCPO Victim/Witness Unit continues to provide comprehensive services to survivors of crime in Union County upon the inception of cases and beyond. These supportive services range from emotional support to transportation, orientation, and more, depending on the needs of each victim and case.

In 2015, the Unit was comprised of a victim/witness coordinator, four advocates, and two clerical staff members. The coordinator and one advocate handle all victim cases, while the remaining three advocates are located in the Pre-Disposition, Domestic Violence, and Juvenile units. In the last quarter of 2015, the Unit launched a restructuring in order to include two new County-funded positions.

During 2015, the Unit continued to service victims to the best of its capacity and abilities.

The County was also faced with many unique cases and victim-centered needs.

A series of shootings committed by one defendant occurring on June 25, 2015 in the City of Elizabeth resulted in three people being killed and a fourth being seriously injured. This impacted the lives of many within the community, and as a result, the Unit moved quickly to address and resolve issues facing the victims' families. As a team, the Unit responded to the individual needs of each family impacted by the crime, responded to community concerns by working with local faith-based organizations, and coordinated compensation efforts with the Victims of Crime Compensation Office.

As a result of the recent Unit restructuring that continued into 2016, advocacy and increased training efforts of staff is helping to improve the quality of services offered. These

improvements effectively help offer victims information to expedite the legal process as well as provide the necessary supportive services they may need.

Each advocate within the Unit has examples of exemplary work and service to victims. The advocate assigned to the Homicide Task Force has been able to provide more personalized and dedicated service. The father of a homicide victim who was struggling with the loss of his son would come to the office periodically with questions and concerns about the case. Although he was referred to grief counseling and other services, the advocate was always available to speak with him each time he visited to provide support and guidance.

Each advocate also has a caseload that can range from simple calls and restitution requests to intensive services, including crisis counseling and beyond. Through their training, communication, teamwork, care, and compassion, the Unit is continuing to make positive impacts within the Office and community. The Unit continues to liaison with community agencies to enhance and create robust referral options and promote the services offered by the Unit and Office.

In 2015, the Unit has been faced with significant challenges and opportunities to grow. With the support of the County, the future of victim services continues to improve and expand.

Appellate Unit Workload and Dispositions (2015) Appellate Division and Other Appellate Courts

			* *						
								U.S. and	
Appellate Unit Workload and Dispositions/Outcomes	Criminal Referral Cases	Other Criminal Appeals	Criminal Interlocutory	Juvenile	Law Division (de novo)	Civil	NJ Supreme Court Appeals	Other Court Appeals (specify court)	Total
1. Appeals pending at beginning of year	257	51	47	6	18	0	139	29	850
2. Notices of appeal received/filed	158	70	9	9	3	0	63	7	316
Appellate motions, motion responses filed	4	0	10	0	0	0	56	5	75
4. Appellate briefs filed	119	4	4	3	2	0	2	7	144
5. State appeals and total disposed crossappeals	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	6
a. Conviction or order affirmed	1	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	9
b. Conviction or order reversed	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
c. Remanded or judgment modified	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
d. Withdrawn or dismissed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
e. Affirmed in part/reversed and/or remanded in part	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2. Defense appeals, total disposed	141	09	_	2	1	0	53	က	264
a. Conviction or order affirmed	83	51	0	2	1	0	20	3	193
b. Conviction or order reversed	2	6	1	0	0	0	2	0	14
c. Remanded or judgment modified	18	14	0	0	0	0	1	0	33
d. Withdrawn or dismissed	13	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
e. Affirmed in part/Reversed and/or remanded in part	13	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	14
3. Appeals pending at the end of year	571	61	52	10	20	0	146	30	068

Appellate Unit Workload and Dispositions (2015) Law Division

		Municipal cour	t appeals by ty	Municipal court appeals by type of violation		
Appellate Unit Workload and Dispositions/Outcomes	Criminal	Disorderly Persons	Motor Vehicle	Municipal Ordinances	Other	Total
1. Appeals pending at beginning of year	0	8	17	0	0	26
2. Notices of appeal received/filed	0	8	16	0	0	24
3. Appellate motions, motion responses filed	0	0	4	0	0	4
4. Appellate briefs filed	0	8	8	0	0	11
5. Total appeals disposed	0	4	18	0	0	22
a. Conviction or order affirmed	0	0	8	0	0	8
b. Conviction or order reversed	0	2	4	0	0	9
c. Remanded or judgment modified	0	ı	1	0	0	7
d. Withdrawn or dismissed	0	ı	2	0	0	9
6. Appeals pending at the end of year	0	12	15	0	0	21
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Post-Conviction Activities and Miscellaneous Court Activities by Type and Outcome (2015)

Post-Conviction Activity and Outcome	Number
Krol hearings involving the Prosecutor's Office	0
Total post-conviction relief applications/briefs filed involving the Prosecutor's Office	62
a. Defendants granted relief	2
b. Defendants denied relief	29
c. Defendants granted relief in part/denied relief in part	0
d. Dismissed/withdrawn	15
Total habeas corpus petitions/briefs filed involving the prosecutor's office	6
a. Defendants granted relief	0
b. Defendants denied relief	2
c. Defendants granted relief in part/denied relief in part	0
d. Dismissed/Withdrawn	0

Elizabeth Project Monthly Statistics (2015)	h Pro	ject	Mor	ıthly	Stati	stics	(201	5)					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Indictable Complaints Screened Indictment Recommended	22	25	37	24	22	32	25	47	49	50	20	27	413
Indictable Complaints Screened Downgrade/Remand/AD	15	12	27	20	10	20	20	18	17	12	10	14	195
Complaints Approved Indictable	17	15	19	20	16	36	25	30	51	32	45	19	325
Complaints Approved DP Only	13	5	12	6	6	28	10	8	15	14	15	5	143
Complaints Denied Insufficient Evidence/Other	5	5	3	4	23	5	3	4	11	8	7	3	81
Warrants/CDWs Reviewed and Approved	3	0	1	3	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	20
Investigative Subpoenas Issued	19	5	4	7	5	5	5	4	8	9	5	3	92
Trigger Lock Gun Referrals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Court Orders/DNA Approval	7	0	2	2	3	1	9	10	3	8	6	2	20
Complaints Received Municipal Court	265	192	228	245	225	239	140	258	273	193	215	175	2648

Briefs	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Court Appearances	0	0	1	2	2	4	2	0	2	2	1	1
Complaint Downgraded (Municipal Court)	08	40	133	59	09	114	70	63	58	98	102	35
First-Degree Offenses Screened	4	2	4	8	2	37	0	5	0	8	10	0
Gun Permits (Destruction)	15	10	0	0	15	20	10	2	13	25	0	0
TOTAL	499	312	472	404	394	543	318	450	453	447	438	258

UCPO Budgets and Expenditures

Activity	Year	Total Operating Budget (Excluding Grants)	Total Grants Funding
Total actual expenditures, prior reporting year (include all county, state, and federal funding)	2014	\$19,916,469.84	\$3,095,513.00
a. Salaries and Wages		\$19,270,057.68	\$1,130,463.00
b. Other Expenses		\$646,412.16	\$1,965.050.00
Total budgeted appropriations, current reporting year (include all county, state, and federal funding)	2015	\$21,434.040.00	\$1,504,346.00
a. Salaries and Wages		\$20,669,040.00	\$865,435.00
b. Other Expenses		\$765,000.00	\$638,911.00

UCPO Guns, Gangs, Drugs, and Violent Crimes Task Force Investigative Workload and Dispositions (2015)

	Z	lumber of In	vestigations by	Type Oriç	Number of Investigations by Type Original and Post-Complaint Investigations	emplaint Investig	ations
	Original I	Investigation	Original Investigations Conducted Jointly With:	ntly With:	Original		Total Post-
Investigative Workload and Dispositions	Local Police	State Agency	Other County Prosecutor	Other Agency	Exclusive Investigations	Total Original Investigations	complaint Investigations
 Investigations pending or inactive at the beginning of the year 	3	0	0	2	10	15	0
2. Investigations opened during the year	10	0	0	11	09	81	0
3. Total investigative workload for the year (add Nos. 1-2)	13	0	0	13	70	96	0
4. Total investigations completed during this year (add ad.)							
a. Resulting in criminal charges	10	0	0	13	44	29	
b. Referred to other agency for criminal prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	
c. Referred to other agency for civil or administrative action	0	0	0	0	0	0	
d. Closed; no further action	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5. Investigations pending or inactive at the end of the year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
							1000

Dispositions of Original Investigations Resulting in Criminal Charges

Dispositions of Original Investigations Resulting in Criminal Charges	Number of Defendants
Defendants charged by complaint, total	117
a. Defendants with complaints administratively dismissed	4
b. Defendants with complaints downgraded to disorderly persons offenses	5
c. Defendants with complaints referred to Family Court	0
d. Defendants with complaints presented to grand jury	97
Defendants with original charges presented to grand jury on direct presentment	1
Defendants charged through accusation	12
Defendants completing grand jury process on direct presentment and complaint presentation, total	98
a. Defendants indicted	98
b. Defendants no-billed and remanded to municipal court	0
c. Defendants no-billed/no action	0

UCPO Homicide Task Force Investigative Workload and Dispositions (2015)

		Z	umber of In	vestigations by	Type Orig	Number of Investigations by Type Original and Post-Complaint Investigations	mplaint Investig	yations
		Original	nvestigations	Original Investigations Conducted Jointly With:	ıtly With:	Original		Total Post-
Investigative Workload and Dispositions	and	Local Police	State Agency	Other County Prosecutor	Other Agency	Exclusive Investigations	Total Original Investigations	Complaint Investigations
 Investigations pending or inactive at the beginning of year 	ng or ning of year	130					130	
 Investigations opened during the year 	ed during the	92					92	
3. Total investigative workload for the year (add Nos. 1-2)	orkload for -2)	222	0	0	0	0	222	0
4. Total investigations completed during this year (add ad.)	completed I ad.)	86	0	0	0	0	86	0
a. Resulting in criminal charges	inal charges	33					33	
b. Referred to other agency for criminal prosecution	r agency for tion						0	
c. Referred to other agency for civil or administrative action	r agency for ative action						0	
d. Closed - No further action	ner action	53					53	
Investigations pending or inactive at the end of the year	ng or f the year	136					136	

Dispositions of Original Investigations Resulting in Criminal Charges

Dispositions of Original Investigations Resulting in Criminal Charges	Number of Defendants
Defendants charged by complaint, total	33
a. Defendants with complaints administratively dismissed	0
b. Defendants with complaints downgraded to disorderly persons offenses	0
c. Defendants with complaints referred to Family Court	0
d. Defendants with complaints presented to grand jury	26
Defendants with original charges presented to grand jury on direct presentment	7
Defendants charged through accusation	0
Defendants completing grand jury process on direct presentment and complaint presentation, total	26
a. Defendants indicted	26
b. Defendants no-billed and remanded to municipal court	0
c. Defendants no-billed/no action	0

UCPO Internal Affairs Table 1 – Complaints Filed (2015)

Type of Complaint	Anonymous Complaints	Citizen Complaints	Agency Complaints	Total Complaints
Excessive Force	0	24		25
Improper Arrest	0	18	0	18
Improper Entry	0	3	0	3
Improper Search	0	6	0	6
Other Criminal Violation	0	14	8	22
Differential Treatment	0	24	0	24
Demeanor	2	167	4	173
Domestic Violence	0	3	3	9
Other Rule Violation	10	123	300	433
Total	12	385	316	713

Table 2 – Agency Dispositions

	Sustained	Exonerated	Not Sustained	Unfounded	Administratively Closed	Total Dispositions
Excessive Force	0	16	9	2	3	27
Improper Arrest	0	2	2	2	l	12
Improper Entry	0	_	_	0	0	2
Improper Search	0	8	_	0	0	6
Other Criminal Violation	2	2	2	2	4	20
Differential Treatment	0	10	8	2	1	21
Demeanor	21	29	29	44	6	162
Domestic Violence	0	0	2	0	1	3
Other Rule Violation	260	67	51	24	44	446
Total	283	143	132	81	69	702

Table 3 – Court Dispositions

Court	Cases Dismissed	Cases Diverted	Acquittals	Convictions
Municipal Court	3	0	0	-
Superior Court	0	1	0	0
Total	3	1	0	1

UCPO Juvenile Unit Juvenile Waiver Decisions (2015)

Voluntary Waivers at Juvenile's Request	0			
2. Juvenile Waiver Applications by Prosecutor				
a. Pending at Beginning of Year	8			
b. Motions Filed by Prosecutor this Year	15			
3. Juvenile Waiver Decisions (Prosecutor's Applications)				
a. Waived on Prosecutor's Motion with Juvenile's Consent	6			
b. Waived on Prosecutor's Motion after a Hearing	6			
c. Motion Voluntarily Withdrawn by Prosecutor	4			
d. Waivers Denied	0			
e. Total Decisions (sum of 3 a. through 3 d.)	16			
4. Juvenile Waiver Applications filed by Prosecutor Pending at Year End (sum of 2 a., 2 b., and 3 e.)	7			

Section IV. 9.a.

County: Union

Year..: 2015

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY INTAKE

Filings/New Cases 1. Total New Filings During the Calendar Year	Number of Juveniles 782	Number of Cases 1,010	Number of Offenses 1,755
VOP Filings 2. Total Violations of Probation During the Calendar Year	94	109	109
Returned to Court			
3a. Cases Reactivated	28	41	70
3b. Cases Reopened	97	101	
-			159
3c. Cases Successfully Appealed	0	0	0
3. Total Cases Returned to Court	125	142	229
Transfers			
4a. Entering this county	98	113	228
4b. Leaving this county	109	148	240
4. (Net Change)	-11	-35	-12

5.	County	Screening	Procedures:	Check	the box	that	most	accurately	describes	the	procedure	in
				vour o	county.	Do n	ot che	eck more tha	an one box			

- a. Prosecutor's office reviews all new delinquency complaints either before of after diversion.
- b. Prosecutor's office reviews selected delinquency complaints either before or after diversion based on offense charged or other criteria

c. Prosecutor's office does not screen new delinquency complaints.

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\ /	

- 6. Violations of Probation Procedures: Check the box that most accurately describes the procedure in your county. Do not check more than one box.
- a. An Assistant Prosecutor appears at all V.O.P. hearings.

- b. An Assistant Prosecutor appears at selected V.O.P. hearings based on offense charged or other criteria.

c. Assistant Prosecutor's do not at V.O.P. hearings.

Revised for 2015 data

Section IV. 9.b.

County: Union

Year..: 2015

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY DISPOSED CASES

Dismissed/Consolidated/Withdrawn 1. Total Dismissed/Consolidated/Withdrawn during Calendar Year	Number of Juveniles		Number of Offenses 269
Diverted Cases			
2. Total Diversions during Calendar Year	368	372	500
Inactivated Cases			
3a. VOP Cases Inactivated	36	43	43
3b. Non-VOP Cases Inactivated	41	47	77
3. Total Inactivations during Calendar Year	77	90	120
Non-VOP Decisions (Mandatory Calendar)			
4a. Adjudicated Delinquent	314	416	832
4b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	416	0
4c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
4d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	19	21	45
4. Total Non-VOP Decisions (Mandatory Calendar)	333	437	877
Non-VOP Decisions (Non-Mandatory Calendar)			
5a. Adjudicated Delinquent	3	3	3
5b. Adjudicated Not Delinguent	0	0	0
5c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
5d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	11	11	12
5. Total Non-VOP Decisions (Non-Mandatory Calendar)	14	14	15
Non-VOP Decisions (Juvenile Referee)			
6a. Adjudicated Delinguent	0	0	0
6b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	0	0
6c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
6d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	0	0	0
6. Total Non-VOP Decisions (Juvenile Referee)	0	0	0
	Mandatory	Non-Mandatory	Juvenile
VOP Decisions (1:1)	Calendar	Calendar	Referee
7a. Adjudicated Delinquent	78	0	0
7b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	0	0
7c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
7d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	0	0	0
7. Total VOP Decisions	78	0	0
Trials			00

Trials 8a.	Total Number of Trials Where the Assistant Prosecutor Appeared.	28
8b.	Total Number of Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent on One or More Charges at Trial.	14
8c.	Total Number of Juveniles Adjudicated Not Delinquent at Trial.	14
Revised	for 2015 data	14

Pl ainfield P	d Pro	oject	roject Monthly	ıthly		tistto	Statisttcs (2015))15)					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	nnf	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Indictable Complaints Screened Indictment Recommended	25	17	24	18	19	29	23	27	21	20	11	19	253
Indictable Complaints Screened Downgrade/Remand/AD	10	26	8	11	6	20	31	21	21	11	12	17	197
Complaints Approved Indictable	4	7	8	8	7	7	8	9	4	6	9	5	79
Complaints Approved DP Only	1	2	3	2	4	2	2	3	2	2	2	7	20
Complaints Denied (Insufficient Evidence/Other)	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	28
Warrants/CDWs Reviewed and Approved	2	3	7	3	2	0	5	2	5	1	0	1	31
Investigative Subpoenas Issued	12	15	16	17	5	3	8	4	2	7	8	5	102
Trigger Lock Gun Referrals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Court Orders	1	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Total Matters Handled	57	75	69	89	50	99	79	99	61	55	44	56	746

Police Pursuit Summary Report

Agency: Union County Prosecutor's Office	County: Union
Reporting Period: January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015	
Person Completing Report: Acting Chief John McCabe	Date: March 3, 2016
Phone Number: (908) 527-4500	
Number of pursuits initiated	140
Number of pursuits resulting in accidents	40
3. Number of pursuits resulting in injuries (no deaths)	17
4. Number of pursuits resulting in death	1
5. Number of pursuits resulting in arrest	72
6. Number of vehicles in accidents	
a. Pursued vehicles	36
b. Police vehicles	8
c. Third-party vehicles	23
7. Number of people injured	
a. Pursued vehicles	15
b. Police vehicles	0
c. Third-party vehicles	9
d. Pedestrians	0
8. Number of people killed	
a. Pursued vehicles	1
b. Police vehicles	0
c. Third-party vehicles	0
d. Pedestrians	0
Number of people arrested	100
10. Number of pursuits in which a tire deflation device was	used 2

(DCJ 10/2001)

UCPO Pre-Disposition Conference Unit Prosecutorial Screening of Defendants (2015)

	Stage of Criminal Justice Pr	ocess When Decision Occurs
Screening Outcomes	Pre-Complaint Decisions	Post-Complaint Decisions
a. Defendants administratively dismissed		510
b. Defendants with charges downgraded to disorderly persons offenses		1,634
c. Defendants accepted for pretrial diversion		232
d. Defendants otherwise screened out		37
e. Defendants with change of venue		34
f. Accusations filed		910
g. Defendants with either indictable complaints authorized or charges approved for grand jury		953
h. AOC Correction: Defendants who completed grand jury		622
Total Screening Decisions for 2015		4,932

Defendant Applications for Diversion Program, Action Taken and Outcome

Pretrial Intervention Diversion Program

	Number of Defenda Pretrial In	ant Applications for tervention
	Pre-Indictment	Post-Indictment
Applications reviewed	351	130
2. Recommended for acceptance	231	79
3. Recommended for rejection	214	95
4. Accepted into Program	232	79

Defendants Pending Grand Jury Process (Pre-Indictment Defendant Cases) By Age of Complaint

Ages of Pre-Indictment Defendant Cases	Number o	of Defendants
from Date of Complaint	Active	Inactive/Fugitive
1. 0 to 1 month	219	0/0
2. 1 to 2 months	218	0/4
3. 2 to 3 months	225	0/11
4. 3 to 4 months	95	0/8
5. Over 4 months	156	0/17
6. Total defendant cases pending grand jury	913	0/40

Defendants Completing the Grand Jury Process and Action Taken

Actio	on Taken	Number of Defendants
1.	Defendants presented to the grand jury	1,206
2.	Defendants indicted	1,194
3.	Defendants no billed and remanded to municipal court	0
4.	Defendants no billed/no action	12
5.	Total defendants completing the grand jury process	1,206

Defendants Charged by Accusation

	Number of Defendants
Total defendants charged through accusation	910

MONTH	Total Scheduled Matters Heard	Ref	Referred to Grand Jury		Pleas	A/D	A/D and D/G		PTI	B/W	Adjournments
JANUARY	172	99	32.56%	18	10.47%	21	12.21%	35	20.35%	9	42
FEBRUARY	168	41	24.40%	23	13.69%	13	7.74%	25	14.88%	5	63
MARCH	198	89	34.34%	27	13.64%	13	6.57%	19	%09.6	2	71
APRIL	224	61	27.23%	24	10.71%	36	16.07%	36	16.07%	3	67
MAY	164	39	23.78%	28	17.07%	15	9.15%	27	16.46%	2	55
JUNE	191	38	19.90%	24	12.57%	8	4.19%	31	16.23%	1	06
JULY	230	9	28.26%	35	15.22%	24	10.43%	27	11.74%	9	79
AUGUST	152	32	21.05%	32	21.05%	17	11.18%	24	15.79%	3	47
SEPTEMBER	243	82	33.74%	47	19.34%	14	5.76%	22	9.05%	3	78
OCTOBER	243	71	29.22%	52	21.40%	18	7.41%	24	%88.6	7	78
NOVEMBER	126	33	26.19%	11	8.73%	111	8.73%	16	12.70%	5	55
DECEMBER	183	71	38.80%	36	19.67%	14	7.65%	17	9.29%	9	45
TOTALS	2294	657	28.64%	357	15.56%	204	8.89%	303	13.21%	49	770

UCPO Seized Asset Forfeiture Unit Miscellaneous Activities (2015)

Activity	Number	Value
Notice of intention to solicit funds received		
Expungement applications received	511	
Total number of forfeiture actions	512	
Number of motor vehicles obtained through forfeiture actions	19	
Total value of property forfeited (add ac.)		\$1,465,093.62
a. Cash forfeited		\$1,261,867.62
b. Value of forfeited motor vehicles		\$88,461.00
c. Value of other forfeited property		\$114,765.00
(Specify property)		
Electronics, jewelry		

UCPO Special Prosecutions Unit Investigative Workload and Dispositions (2015)

		Z	lumber of In	vestigations by	Type Oriç	Number of Investigations by Type Original and Post-Complaint Investigations	mplaint Investig	jations
		Original	Investigations	Original Investigations Conducted Jointly With:	ntly With:	Original		Total Post-
ت ت	Investigative Workload and Dispositions	Local Police	State Agency	Other County Prosecutor	Other Agency	Exclusive Investigations	Total Original Investigations	Complaint Investigations
-	Investigations pending or inactive at the beginning of the year	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
2.	Investigations opened during the year	4	0	0	0	48	52	0
3.	Total investigative workload for the year (add Nos. 1-2)	4	0	0	0	50	54	0
4.	Total investigations completed during this year (add ad.)	0	0	0	0	53	53	0
	a. Resulting in criminal charges	0	0	0	0	51	51	
	b. Referred to other agency for criminal prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	c. Referred to other agency for civil or administrative action	0	0	0	0	7	1	
	d. Closed, no further action	0	0	0	0	-	~	
5.	Investigations pending or inactive at the end of the year	0	0	0	0	5	5	0

Dispositions of Original Investigations Resulting in Criminal Charges

Dispositions of Original Investigations Resulting in Criminal Charges	Number of Defendants
Defendants charged by complaint, total	51
a. Defendants with complaints administratively dismissed	1
b. Defendants with complaints downgraded to disorderly persons offenses	2
c. Defendants with complaints referred to Family Court	0
d. Defendants with complaints presented to grand jury	23
Defendants with original charges presented to grand jury on direct presentment	2
Defendants charged through accusation	19
Defendants completing grand jury process on direct presentment and complaint presentation, total	24
a. Defendants indicted	24
b. Defendants no-billed and remanded to municipal court	0
c. Defendants no-billed/no action	0

UCPO Special Victims Unit Investigative Workload and Dispositions (2015)

		2	lumber of Inv	vestigations by	Type Orig	Number of Investigations by Type Original and Post-Complaint investigations	emplaint investig	Jations
		Original	Investigations	Original Investigations Conducted Jointly With:	ntly With:	Original		Total Post-
<u> </u>	Investigative Workload and Dispositions	Local Police	State Agency	Other County Prosecutor	Other Agency	Exclusive Investigations	Total Original Investigations	Complaint Investigations
-	Investigations pending or inactive at the beginning of the year	6				74	80	
2.	Investigations opened during the year	17				576	593	1
3.	Total investigative workload for the year (add Nos. 1-2)	17				029		1
4	Total investigations completed during this year (add ad.)					515	543	1
	a. Resulting in criminal charges	19				47	66	
	b. Referred to other agency for criminal prosecution					99		
	c. Referred to other agency for civil or administrative action					8		
	d. Closed, no further action	100				404	504	
5.	Investigations pending or inactive at the end of the year	5				71	92	

Dispositions of Original Investigations Resulting in Criminal Charges

Dispositions of Original Investigations Resulting in Criminal Charges	Number of Defendants
Defendants charged by complaint, total	66
a. Defendants with complaints administratively dismissed	4
b. Defendants with complaints downgraded to disorderly persons offenses	0
c. Defendants with complaints referred to Family Court	8
d. Defendants with complaints presented to grand jury	23
Defendants with original charges presented to grand jury on direct presentment	2
Defendants charged through accusation	6
Defendants completing grand jury process on direct presentment and complaint presentation, total	28
a. Defendants indicted	28
b. Defendants no-billed and remanded to municipal court	0
c. Defendants no-billed/no action	0

UCPO Trial Unit and CCCU Narrative Numbers (2015)

Total	1387	105	93		21	0		7	0		0	0		13	3	311	1	298	
Other	41	3	0		1	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	7	0	10	62
Fail to Register	9	1	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	,	0	0	0	0	0	7
Obstr. Govt. Oper.	29	6	4		0	0		0	0		0	0		2	0	20	0	6	111
Wiretap	0	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Gamblin g	0	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Abuse/ Endanger	6	2	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	2	0	0	13
Weapons	95	0	2		9	0		0	0		0	0		3	0	24	0	84	214
Forgery/ Fraud	34	2	5		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	33	0	3	77
Theft	200	6	7		1	0		0	0		0	0	i	1	0	78	0	25	321
Perjury/ False	9	0	1		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	5	0	2	14
Official Miscon.	0	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Narcotics	533	12	37		2	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	91	1	112	788
Briber y	0	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	118	9	7		0	0		1	0		0	0		0	0	11	0	4	147
Arson Assault	138	14	20		7	0		1	0		0	0		5	2	30	0	11	234
	23	1	4		0	0		0	0		1	0		0	1	7	0	2	39
Robbery	83	29	4		4	0		0	0		0	0		1	0	1	0	20	142
Sexual Assault	13	3	1		5	0		1	0		0	0		0	0	1	0	2	26
Kidnap	6	3	1		2	0		0	0		0	0		1	1	1	0	1	19
Homicide Kidnap	12	11	0		10	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	L	40
Manner of Disposition	 Guilty plea to most serious offense 	Guilty plea to lesser indictable offense	3. Ind. dism., plea to dis. person offense	4. Guilty at trial, most serious offense	a. Jury	b. Non-Jury	5. Guilty at trial, lesser indictable offense	a. Jury	b. Non-Jury	6. Guilty at trial, dis. person offense	a. Jury	b. Non-Jury	7. Not guilty at trial	a. Jury	b. Non-Jury	8. Acceptance into diversion program	9. Dismissed over objection of pros.	 Dismissed pros. motion or consent 	11. Total dispositions

Victim/Witness Unit Notification Services

		Z	otification	Notification Provided to:	to:	
Notification Services	Victims	ms	Lay Witnesses	nesses	Law Enf Witn	Law Enforcement Witnesses
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Initial contact	×			×		×
Administrative dismissal	×			X	X	
Remand to municipal court	×			X		×
Indictment returned	×			X	X	
No bill	×			X	X	
Acceptance into pretrial intervention	×			X	X	
Guilty plea	×			X	X	
Not guilty at trial	×			×	X	
Guilty at trial	×			X	X	
Indictment dismissed	×			X	X	
Sentence	×			X	X	
Parole	×			×		×
Disposition of juvenile cases	×			X	X	
Other (specify)						

Victim/Witness Unit Assistance Services Provided

		Service Pr	ovided to:	
		ctims		nesses
Victim/Witness Unit Assistance Services	Juvenile Cases	Adult Cases	Juvenile Cases	Adult Cases
Information and Referral Services				
Introductory brochure	Х	Х		
Criminal justice system orientation	Х	Х		
Case information	Х	Х		
VCCB referral	Х	Х		
Social service information/referral	Х	Х		
Crime prevention information/referral	Х	Х		
Property return information	Х	Х		
Witness fee information				
Public education, community awareness	Х	Х		
Logistical Services				
Stand-by subpoena and call	Х	Х	Х	Х
Witness waiting area	Х	Х	Х	Х
Response to witness intimidation, harassment	Х	Х	Х	Х
Restitution recommendation at sentencing	Х	Х		
VCCB claim assistance	Х	Х		
Social service intervention	Х	Х		
Employer/student intervention	Х	Х	Х	Х
Travel, lodging assistance	Х	Х	Х	Х
Transportation assistance	Х	Х	Х	Х
Child care assistance	Х	Х	Х	Х
Property return assistance	Х	Х		
Witness fee assistance				
Victim impact statement assistance	Х	Х		
Counseling	Х	Х		
Other (specify)				



UNION COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

GRACE H. PARK

ACTING UNION COUNTY PROSECUTOR

THOMAS K. ISENHOUR

FIRST ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR

ANN M. LUVERA

DEPUTY FIRST ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR JOHN G. MCCABE, JR. ACTING CHIEF

OF INVESTIGATORS









