

PROJECT JOSHUA – CURRENT ISSUES

In order for any expansion of the Project Joshua to be productive, there needs to be the proper sharing of information that is gathered by the investigative agencies. All too often information that is gathered is not passed on to other agencies, which requires duplication of work and can place witnesses and/or victims in jeopardy.

1. **A.** There needs to be a flow of information as it relates to witnesses, events and prosecutions. Under the present system the AG does not share information with our office on any type of deals or immunity agreements that they reach with potential witnesses. This creates a real conflict when the AG makes a deal with a witness, unbeknownst to our office, and that same person is a witness in a case of ours, or, more importantly, that person becomes a defendant in one of our cases.
- B.** Non-Fatal Shooting information which is gathered by the Joshua Project needs to be shared with the Wayne County Prosecutors Office. Often, especially when dealing with gangs in southwest Detroit, data gathered in non-fatal shooting has application to other crimes like narcotics cases and homicides. It is common for gangs to be involved in multiple shootings/crimes. Intelligence on gang membership and activities which is gathered on non-fatal shootings is often relevant to homicides and other crimes. Presently, the WCPO has been denied access to this information gathered by Joshua. This requires DPD and WCPO to duplicate work that has already been done.
- C. Counter Proposal.**

Since the AG has announced that he will be pulling out of Detroit and turning over the Joshua Project to someone else, and since he is unwilling to follow the PSN model and wants to perpetuate the Joshua model: It is our proposal that we work with him in his project. If the AG wants four AAG's, give him two and give us the other two APA's to assign to the Joshua project to work directly with them, side by side. The benefits of this proposal are that we work together, share information, and the WCPO has a foot in Southwest when the AG pulls out.

2. Complete Administrative data sharing is imperative:

- A.** Who is charged?
- B.** When is the trial date?
- C.** What was the disposition?

Currently, the published AG stats do not match data received from the Courts.

3. "Absolutely No Crossing of District Lines"

In order to ensure a clear understanding of areas of operations and to prevent public and police confusion, there must be a clear line of demarcation regarding the Attorney's General's place within the City of Detroit.

A. Significant problems have previously occurred wherein serious felony investigations could have been compromised by Attorney General intervention in cases outside of the Southwest District. The most recent example involves the recent high-profile "**Dollar Store**" robbery case. Three defendants were apprehended in a Central District store and some of the defendant's later confessed to multiple robberies. However, when police interrogation had been halted, AAG Lamar Moreland and a DPD officer intervened and renewed questioning of these individuals in derogation of DPD Command orders:

1. On Feb. 16, 2006, Steven Logan and Antione Greene were arrested for RA of the Family Dollar after a brief standoff. The incident was covered in the media. Commander Fulton and Commander Ewing assigned the case to the Financial Response Team (FRT) of the Detroit Police Department. FRT promptly began their investigation. A few hours into the investigation, Sgt Jonathan Parnell and Sgt Otha Craighead informed our office that both defendants had confessed to committing several armed robberies. Our Community Prosecutor APA Kim Miles instructed them to submit the warrants to our warrant division and she would personally handle the trials.
2. On Feb. 17, 2006, AAG Lamar Moreland was in the NW District. DPD Officers advised our office that AAG Moreland and his Inv. Sims were interviewing the defendants from the Dollar case. Commander Ewing was shocked and a bit upset. He informed Commander Fulton and they immediately ordered the members of the FRT to the NW district to intercede and retrieve any statements taken by Inv. Sims and AAG Moreland. Commander Fulton said that he told AAG Moreland that his assistance was not needed. He said he found it a bit odd that AAG Moreland was asking about this investigation because the Joshua Project is in a different district and usually involves non-fatal shootings and gangs and this case was already closed.

Therefore, there must be a clear line of demarcation regarding the Attorney's General's place within the City of Detroit, to wit: **cases arising only within the Southwest District**, to ensure continuity of law enforcement investigation and to prevent any violation of due process.

4. "There Must Be A Clearly Defined Focus of Operation From the Attorney General."

In order to ensure a clear understanding of cases that would be handled and to prevent arbitrary selection of assigned cases or "Cherry-Picking", there must be a clearly announced focus of operation from the Attorney's General.

- A. In the past, significant confusion has arisen among law enforcement due to the Attorney General arbitrarily selecting cases for investigation. In fact, all too often the main focus in practice from "Project Joshua" often involves only those cases that have received significant media attention. The "Dollar Store" robbery defendants described above is but one example. An additional example is the recent "Zone 8" shooting defendant Marlon Westbrook's case. After several months of investigation of this gang AAG David Jones finally charged this shooting after complaints to our office from DPD investigators regarding this warrant. Now, several recent "Zone 8" gang shootings have continued to plague the city: three people were shot on April 19 and a "Zone 8" member was shot with an AK on April 20th. Now, DPD has advised our office that they are unsure as to who should handle these new cases since "Project Joshua" has focused on "Zone 8" incidents.
- B. Our recommendation is that there be a clear **Memo of Understanding** addressing the cases that are to be handled by the AG's Office with Due Process and Equal Protection concerns addressed.
- 5. We need two Assistant Prosecutors to handle Publication Violations assigned to a corresponding MDOC Agent.