



Your State Attorney's Office

Leading the Path to Justice and Safety



Katherine Fernandez Rundle
STATE ATTORNEY
Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Miami-Dade County

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Historical Overview

10 Years of Leadership

Today, the Office has over 1,200 positions, including over 300 attorneys. In 2002, the Office handled a total of 104,917 cases: 36,286 were felonies; 13,657 juvenile cases; and, 54,974 misdemeanor cases. In addition, the State Attorney's Office Child Support Enforcement Division handled 85,182 cases for the year 2002.

Under Ms. Katherine Fernandez Rundle's tenure over the past ten years, the Office has succeeded in obtaining funding for special projects from the Florida Legislature. For example, Ms. Fernandez Rundle obtained more than \$3.3 million for office automation, funding for a "Hurricane Fraud Task Force" following Hurricane Andrew in 1993, funding for a "Retired Judge Strike Force" in 1995 to address the career criminal epidemic, funding for additional computers and retired judges to expedite the processing of child support orders in 1996, and funding for a countywide truancy prevention program in 1997, which was the first of its kind in Florida.

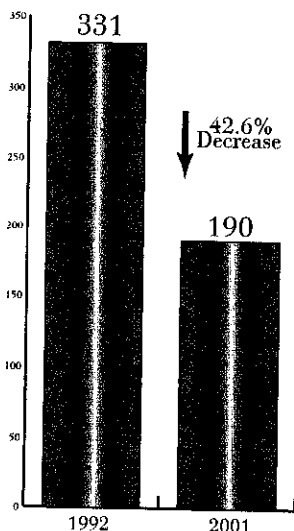
Crime Decreases

While the population of Miami-Dade County has grown 15.3% in the past 10 years, crime has decreased.

- Murders have decreased 42.6%,
- Robberies have decreased 52.8%,
- Burglaries have decreased 41.2%,
- Aggravated assaults have decreased 19.2%,
- Thefts have decreased 17.8%,
- Motor vehicle thefts have decreased 30%.

Miami-Dade County has had a larger percentage decrease in crime than the state overall.

HOMICIDE COMPARISON



Career Criminals from Miami-Dade Sent to State Prison 07/01/1992 – 12/31/2002

FISCAL YEAR	STATE RANKING	NUMBER OF CAREER CRIMINALS SENT TO PRISON	REPRESENTS STATEWIDE PERCENT OF CAREER CRIMINALS SENT TO PRISON
7/02-12/02 (6 months)	1st	385	32.7%
FY 01/02	1st	710	31.7%
FY 00/01	1st	637	29%
FY 99/00	1st	615	25.2%
FY 98/99	1st	585	22.4%
FY 97/98	1st	737	27.5%
FY 96/97	1st	704	28%
FY 95/96	1st	473	26%
FY 94/95	1st	445	23.4%
FY 93/94	1st	295	14.2%
FY 92/93	5th	225	7.9%

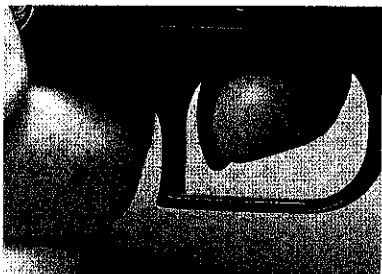
Based on prison admission statistics supplied by the Florida Department of Corrections

Focus on Serious & Career Criminals

In the early 1990's, our community was victimized and demoralized by early prison releases, weak sentencing guidelines, and the brazen acts of career criminals. It may be hard for the average citizen to believe, but convicted criminals were serving as little as 25% of their sentences once they entered prison. Since becoming State Attorney on March 12, 1993, Ms. Fernandez Rundle has embarked on a coordinated program to reduce the level of crime and violence.

In 1993, the State Attorney tripled the staff for the Career Criminal Unit. Since then, the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office has led the state each year in the number of career criminals sent to prison.

- Over 5,500 career criminals have gone to prison with enhanced prison sentences under the administration of Katherine Fernandez Rundle.
- Because 75% of the crime is committed by 20% of the criminals, effective prosecution of career criminals has a huge impact on crime.



Since 1993, there has been a 33% reduction in the number of reported crimes.

REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE THROUGH CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION 12

In 1998, as a member of the Florida Constitutional Revision Commission, Katherine Fernandez Rundle proposed a Constitutional Amendment to close

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the "gun-show loophole." This loophole allowed convicted felons and potential juvenile offenders to buy firearms at gun shows and flea markets with "no questions asked" and without a background check. Ms. Fernandez Rundle traveled around the state for nearly two years to seek support for closing this loophole. In Florida, 72% of the electorate voted in favor of Constitutional Revision 12; in Miami-Dade County 85% of the electorate favored the revision. The passage of the amendment was an important step in the overall effort to reduce gun violence on our streets.

Public Corruption & Prosecution of Public Employees

The battle against public corruption and dishonest public employees is a constant

effort fought to maintain the integrity of our governmental system. The decrease in violent crime allowed Ms. Fernandez Rundle to shift resources to public corruption by establishing an aggressive Public Corruption Unit. This Unit investigates and prosecutes those who use their public offices for their own or a third party's gain. Additionally, the Unit has special expertise in the prosecution of police and correctional officers who have abused their legal authority, and works hand-in-hand with the Internal Affairs detectives from the various 34 police departments in our community. It also coordinates many cases with the Public Corruption Inspector General, the Commission on Ethics, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Joint Federal Local Task Force on Public Corruption.

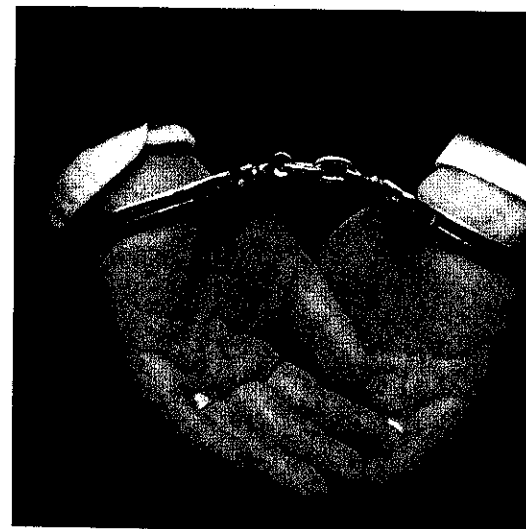
In the past two years this unit successfully prosecuted 160 individuals. Successful efforts in this area have included:

- Pursuit of Commissioner Joe Gersten led to his flight to Australia.
- The conviction and forced resignation from office of County Commissioner Bruce Kaplan for falsifying his state financial reports.
- In a case riddled with legal problems, Ms. Fernandez Rundle also convicted former County Commissioner Pedro Reboredo, and forced him from office.
- The arrest of 65 people in a fraudulent absentee ballot scandal that tainted the 1997 election in the City of Miami.
- The arrest, conviction and

incarceration of former City of Miami Commissioner Humberto Hernandez for voter fraud.

- The conviction of former Port of Miami Director Carmen Lunetta.
- The conviction of Hialeah Gardens Mayor Gilda Oliveros for voter fraud.
- The conviction of James Nabors, former Miami Airport Supervisor, who was incarcerated for accepting illegal gratuities at the Airport.
- The criminal prosecution of Opa-Locka City Manager Ernie Neal which led to his resignation from public office and to an ethics complaint.
- The charging of another County Commissioner, Miriam Alonso, also caused the Governor to remove her from office.
- The arrest of 14 Miami-Dade Department of Corrections employees for bribery and the introduction of contraband into a correctional facility.

Since the 2000 session of the Florida Legislature, Ms. Fernandez Rundle fought to get a new law passed that would assist in the fight against corruption. Finally, during the 2003 session, this law was passed and will go into effect October 1, 2003. "The Paul Mendelson Citizen's Right to Honest Government Act," named after her



deceased Deputy Chief Assistant State Attorney, Paul Mendelson, who worked tirelessly to encourage the Legislature to pass these laws, will toughen the penalties for Bribery and Bid-Tampering. In addition, this law will make it a crime for "Public Servants" to use their jobs for profit. Formerly, the majority of those who violated the public trust, as first-time offenders, faced maximum sentences of probation. After October 1, 2003, a conviction for most corruption charges may now actually include a jail sentence.

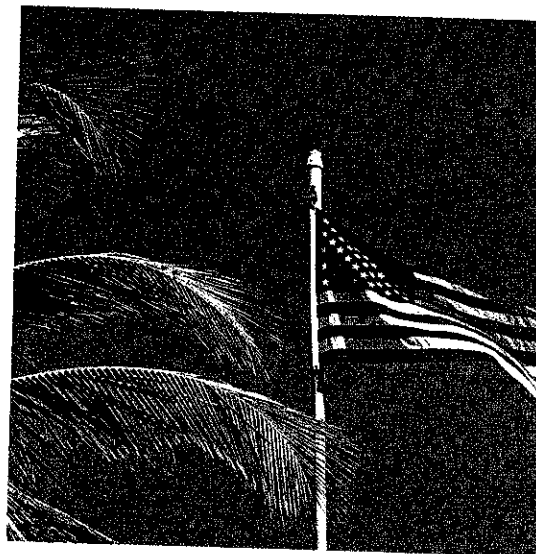
Gang Strike Force and Prosecutions

In recent years, criminal street gangs have established large-scale drug distribution networks and committed countless violent crimes to secure territory, instill fear and intimidate the residents of affected communities. In 1997, the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, in partnership with the Miami-Dade Police Department, the Miami Beach Police Department, the City

of Miami Police Department, the Coral Gables Police Department, the Hialeah Police Department, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, created the Multi-Agency Gang Strike Force to target, infiltrate and dismantle the most dangerous criminal street gangs in South Florida through the use of long-term proactive racketeering-style investigations and prosecutions. To date, the Gang Strike Force has dismantled nine criminal street gangs, investigated over five hundred crimes, and made over two hundred arrests. This success can be attributed to GSF's proactive investigation and prosecution strategy designed to promote maximum communication and coordination among the agencies involved in drug interdiction and gang suppression activities, while seeking maximum appropriate sentencing for criminal violations.

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

Although progress has been made in fighting violent crime in South



Florida, the problem of gun violence still remains intolerably high and its impact is particularly severe on our children. In January 2003, the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, in partnership with the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, the Miami-Dade Police Department, and Crime Stoppers, launched a new initiative to reduce gun violence in South Florida. Project Safe Neighborhoods is based on two principles: uncompromising, aggressive law enforcement of existing gun laws and community intolerance for gun violence. More importantly, Project Safe Neighborhoods incorporates and builds upon successful programs in our community and sends a clear message to criminals: *You will do hard time for gun crime.*

Auto Theft

The Auto Theft Unit investigated and supplemented the work done by the various police departments to help decrease the number of auto thefts in this county. Since 1993, prosecutors have been working hand-in-hand with the various police departments and with the Multi-Agency Auto Theft Task Force. This joint effort resulted in a 30% decrease in the rate of car thefts in Miami-Dade County.

