



SAO UPDATE

SPRING 2024

The Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office • State's Attorney, Ivan J. Bates

CRACKING DOWN ON JUVENILE CRIME

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STATE'S ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES TAKEDOWN OF 20 JUVENILES FOR CARJACKINGS

State's Attorney Ivan J. Bates and his Major Investigations and Juvenile units were joined by Baltimore Police Commissioner Richard Worley and a new BPD Task Force, along with several Community Relations Council members, to announce the takedown of a juvenile carjacking group operating across seven of the nine police districts in the city.

"There can be no question that this group contributed significantly to the uptick in juvenile crime and carjackings that Baltimore experienced in 2023," said State's Attorney Bates. "While arrests were made during this period, the BPD task force worked tirelessly with my office to identify the juveniles involved in these crimes across jurisdictions and connect the dots as to how the group operated. I thank both teams for making today's announcement possible and restoring accountability to our streets."

An instrumental part of this takedown was a newly created BPD task force led by Deputy Commissioner Kevin Jones, Lt. Col. John Herzog, Detective Melissa Warczynski, Detective Victor Liu, Sergeant Ryan Messimer, and Sergeant John Riker. The task force utilized cross-jurisdictional coordination to identify the 20 juveniles involved in these repeated armed carjackings and related offenses.

The 15-week investigation, which began in mid-October, conducted by the SAO's Juvenile and Major Investigations units in partnership with the BPD task force, began after complaints and reports of armed carjackings came into the office.

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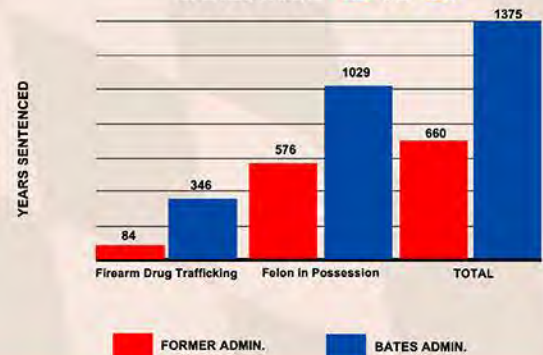
CONVICTIONS SKYROCKET UNDER BATES' ADMINISTRATION

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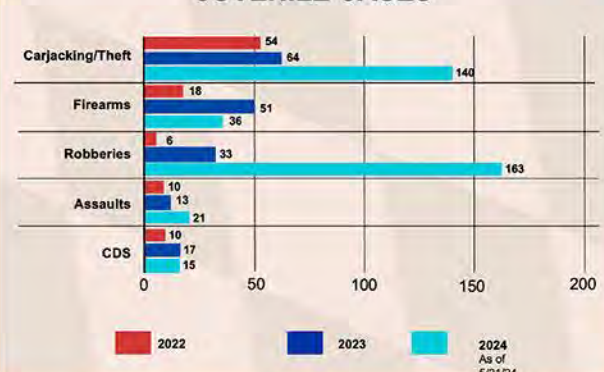
Since taking office, State's Attorney Bates has hired more experienced ASAs who are delivering successful prosecutions across all divisions.

In his first year, the office experienced a considerable jump in juveniles charged with serious crimes and secured more than 1,375 combined years of incarceration for adult defendants convicted of illegal firearm possession.

MANDATORY MINIMUM HANDGUN GUIDANCE '22 vs '23



JUVENILE CASES



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LEGISLATIVE REPORT CARD

Juvenile Justice Reform



Pava Marie LaPere Act



Organized Crime Bill



Victim Compensation Fund



Definition of Consent Bill



Second Look Act



SAO GETS MAJORITY OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA PASSED

The 2024 Legislative Session in Annapolis witnessed several pieces of legislation introduced on behalf of the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, while State's Attorney Bates played a pivotal role in helping craft, lobby, and support other bills that were a part of the office's overall vision for this session.

HB814, the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, contained language and provisions from several bills introduced by Delegate Dalya Attar on behalf of the SAO, which sought to extend probation periods for juveniles, ensure the Department of Juvenile Services provided notice to the SAO and courts within 24 hours of a youth violating their GPS home-monitoring agreement and shortening the timeframe in which our office received the charging documents for youth from DJS. The democratic leadership introduced this bill on behalf of Governor Wes Moore's administration and was strongly supported by SA Bates and the Maryland State's Attorneys Association.

Delegate Elizabeth Embry led the efforts on behalf of the SAO to introduce legislation that sought to eliminate diminution credits for those convicted of first-degree rape. HB301, known as the Pava Marie LaPere Act, named after the Baltimore tech CEO allegedly murdered by a repeat offender, was introduced in the Senate by Judicial Proceedings Chairman Will Smith as SB1098 and was passed on the last day of the session.

TAKEDOWN OF 20 JUVENILES FOR CARJACKINGS

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The SAO is currently in the process of charging 113 cases for 53 incidents involving this group of 20 juveniles, whose ages range from 12 to 17. Those who are eligible will be charged as adults. The investigation found that this group was committing offenses in sub-groups of two to eight members at a time, with the majority of crimes occurring over a six to eight-week period between October and November of 2023, impacting seven of the nine police districts in the city.

The alleged offenses include armed robbery, armed carjacking, assault, and handgun violations. Many of the juvenile offenders have histories of non-compliance with GPS and electronic monitoring. In roving groups, they would commit upwards of 16 incidents of armed robberies and armed carjacking in just one night. The investigation found that crime sprees would start in one district before moving through the city, with the juveniles committing crimes as they went.





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ABOUT THE OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR BALTIMORE CITY:

The mission of the Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City is to create true public safety through partnerships with elected officials, law enforcement, and our residents.

The Office fulfills this goal through the successful prosecution of all crimes in Baltimore City.



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