



SAO UPDATE

WINTER 2025

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

2024 RESTORING ACCOUNTABILITY TO BALTIMORE DATA ANALYSIS

Page 1

PUBLIC SAFETY

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES IN 2025

Page 2

STATE'S ATTORNEY BATES SECURES LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE

Page 2

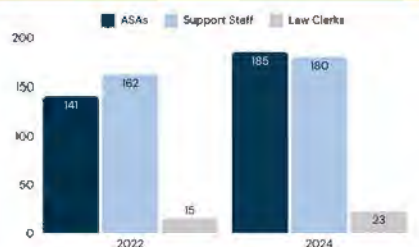
2024 RESTORING ACCOUNTABILITY TO BALTIMORE DATA ANALYSIS

Violent Repeat Offender Accountability Analysis		
	Previous Admin. 2021-2022	Bates 2023-2024
Felony Gun Charges	2186	2443
Dismissed	749	475
Plea Accepted	656	245
Incarcerated	781	1723
Federally adopted	98	135
Homicide convictions	159	271
Total held accountable	1038	2129

Numbers are approximate and based on available court data, in addition to internal disposition data.

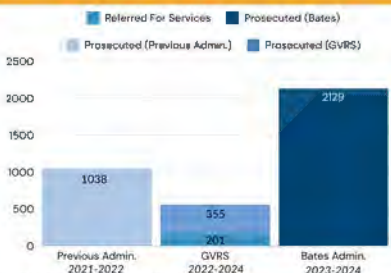
As fewer cases involving illegal possession of guns have been dismissed, more potential trigger-pullers are incarcerated, and more cases are referred for federal prosecution, the homicide rate has dropped.

STAFFING NUMBERS AT THE STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



Since July 2022, the State's Attorney's Office has added 70 more staff members to the team. This essential support has reduced caseloads, increased prosecutorial support, and enhanced services for victims and witnesses.

OVERALL VIOLENT CRIME-FIGHTING STATS 2021-2024



of 5 years without the possibility of parole, resulting in an average of 1064 violent offenders being removed from Baltimore's streets annually under the Bates Administration.

INSIDE THE COURTROOM

Page 1



Defendant Keith Curtis was given a sentence of 20 years, with the first 10 years ineligible for parole, for Robbery and Possession of a Firearm with a Felony Conviction. A Baltimore City judge sentenced the defendant above the guidelines, given his previous conviction for First-Degree Murder in 1995. ASA Noor Amin prosecuted this case. The defendant robbed his former employer, ACE Hardware, on the 600 block of Homestead Street.

Defendants Rasheed Morris, Omarion Anderson, William Clinton, and William Holloman were sentenced for their role in the fatal shooting of Efraim Gordon, who was visiting Baltimore for a family wedding in May 2021 when he was killed in an attempted robbery. Morris was given a sentence of Life, suspending all but 40 years, Anderson was given Life, suspending all but 25 years of incarceration, Clinton was given Life, suspending all but 30 years of incarceration, and Holloman was given Life, suspending all but 50 years of incarceration. Assistant State's Attorney Paul Crowley prosecuted these cases.

Defendant Robert Conley pled guilty to 42 counts of Animal Cruelty related to the seizure of 83 dogs from his property in Central Park Heights. The defendant was sentenced to 10.3 years, suspending all but time served, with three years of supervised probation, and ordered to pay restitution to the Baltimore Animal Rescue & Care Shelter (BARCS) in the amount of \$12,000 during his probation period. The defendant is also required to have no animals in his control or custody and to consent to random visits by animal control to ensure no animals are in his possession. Assistant State's Attorneys Alison Rajk and Robert Schenker prosecuted this case.



SAO UPDATE

Page 2

PUBLIC SAFETY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES IN 2025



District Court Commissioner Charging Process: The State's Attorney's Office will support Delegate Jackie Addison's bill HB0021, requiring an ASA to approve any warrants resulting from a criminal complaint to a court commissioner. This bill will ensure that people are not arrested without cause whenever a citizen files a complaint with the commissioner by confirming that there is sufficient cause to issue a warrant. The current law does not require an ASA to approve the warrant, meaning anyone can be arrested after a citizen files a complaint about them with a court commissioner.

Truancy Protection Program: The State's Attorney's Office is working with Delegate Mark Edelson to introduce legislation that will establish a robust truancy program to assist families struggling with getting their children to stay in school. Truancy in our city schools has been an epidemic in our city for quite some time. Establishing this program is critical to reducing the truancy rate, increasing graduation rates, and reducing juvenile crime.

Firearms Safety and Protections: The State's Attorney's Office will support a firearms bill that will hold people accountable who leave a legal firearm unsecured in the vicinity of children. In partnership with Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy, we will also support legislation targeting "switches" that turn firearms into semi-automatic weapons that cause mass destruction.

Excessive Force Statute: The State's Attorney's Office will be supporting a bill to add criminal penalties when police officers fail to intervene and/or prevent their fellow officers who are unlawfully and intentionally violating the Use of Force law on individuals, and/or those who fail to offer first-aid to the victim of that excessive use of force.

Second Chance Act: The State's Attorney's Office will once again push for the passage of the Second Chance Act, allowing individuals who have served 20 years or more in prison the opportunity for a reduced sentence and re-entry into society upon meeting certain obligations. In a similar bill, we will also be supporting the Geriatric and Medical Parole efforts to allow elderly and chronically ill inmates to get the care they need outside of a prison setting and spend the end of their lives with their loved ones.

STATE'S ATTORNEY BATES SECURES LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE IN DOUBLE MURDER CASES



At the end of 2024, State's Attorney Bates announced that defendant Gordon Staron was sentenced to Life without the possibility of parole, plus three years, and an additional Life sentence to run concurrently, for the murders of Keith Bell and Javarick Gantt. Staron was convicted by a Baltimore City Jury of First-Degree Murder, First-Degree Assault, Second-Degree Assault, Openly Wearing and Carrying a Dangerous Weapon, and Second-Degree Murder for killing Keith Bell, age 66, at a bus stop with an axe on the 1400 block of E. Monument Street. While incarcerated for that offense, the defendant then fatally strangled his deaf cellmate, Javarick Gantt, in Baltimore City's Central Booking and Intake Facility. In that case, Staron pled guilty to First-Degree Murder.

"While justice has now been delivered to two families who have lost their loved ones because of this defendant's violent and unconscionable actions, no sentence can bring back their family members and restore what was tragically taken from them," said **State's Attorney Ivan J. Bates**. "I thank ASA LaPolla for her skillful prosecution of the defendant's first case and her support with the plea we secured in his second case. Today's outcome ensures that Gordon Staron will never be free to roam our streets and attack vulnerable lives."

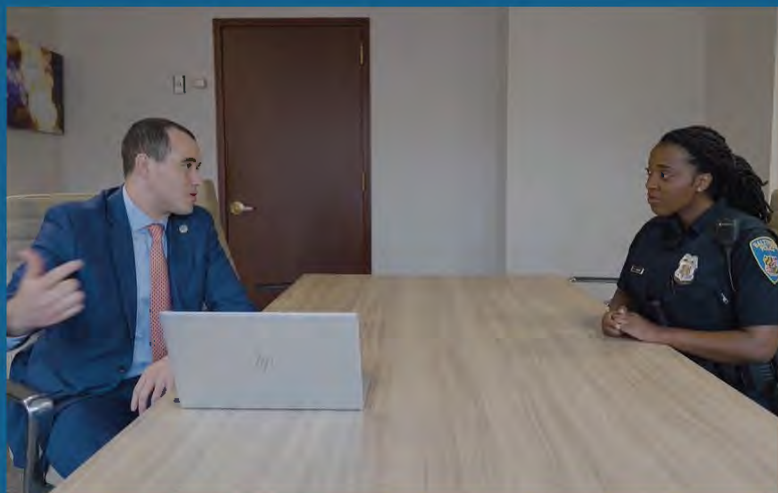
In January, State's Attorney Bates entered his appearance in one of Mr. Staron's cases, the first Baltimore City case to be prosecuted by a sitting State's Attorney in nearly a decade.



SAO UPDATE

OUT & ABOUT WITH THE SAO

Page 3



In November, the State's Attorney's Office launched the office's first workforce recruiting advertisement. For employment opportunities at the SAO, visit stattorney.org/careers-training.



The State's Attorney's Office donated toys for the holiday season that were distributed by Sgt. Rivera and Officer Washington of BPD's Southern District.



The SAO, led by its Major Investigations Unit, joined the Governor's Office, the Mayor's Office, BPD, DEA, ATF, and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland to announce charges against nearly 40 individuals for drug trafficking and firearm offenses that occurred throughout southwest Baltimore City.



State's Attorney Bates and the External Affairs Team hosted a community walk in the Cherry Hill neighborhood. To have a community walk hosted in your neighborhood, email externalaffairs@stattorney.org.

FOLLOW US:



@BALTIMORESASO



SAO UPDATE

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



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.



Subscribe for updates at stattonney.org