



Fall 2022

Battling Organized Crime

The Organized Crime Unit at the State Attorney's Office, known as OCU, is working to make our community safer by partnering with law enforcement on major narcotics operations that target gangs across Palm Beach County.

In the past year, these efforts led to racketeering cases against two different gangs responsible for a series of shootings and widespread drug activity.

West Palm Beach's 4th Street Gang was busted in February, following an 18-month investigation dubbed "Operation Goodfellas." Charges against 19 individuals include racketeering, drug sales, gun violations and attempted first-degree murder. Police seized at least 30 guns, along with narcotics, vehicles, properties and cash. These suspects face a combined total of 3,725 years in prison.

"This was so brazen that you could see this with a naked eye from the courthouse," said State Attorney Dave Aronberg.

Last fall, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office gang unit announced the arrests of eight men and one juvenile from an investigation called "Operation No Face, No Case." Criminal activities including heroin trafficking, drug and firearm offenses were observed in and near Riviera Beach and West Palm Beach.

OCU is a specialized group of four senior attorneys and three support staff who assist law enforcement from the outset of an investigation of some of the most high-profile targets within our community. The unit assists investigators with wire taps, securing warrants and advising on best practices for collecting evidence against violent offenders and high-level narcotics traffickers suspected of state and federal crimes. OCU's chief is also an expert on social media, as it can provide key evidence in gang prosecutions and violent offenses.

Following publicized arrests, prosecutors work tirelessly to ensure appropriate sentences for these criminals and securing forfeiture on ill-gotten gains.

"These efforts will continue to clamp down on violent crimes," Aronberg said. "We have made real progress and realize there is more work to do."