Escaped Florida Murderer Recaptured. The Department, working in conjunction with the Department of Corrections (DC) and the US Marshals Service, located a fugitive who had escaped from Union Correctional Institution in 1979 by climbing three perimeter fences during a power outage. Frederick Barrett was arrested at his home in Montrose County, Colorado. At the time of his escape, Barrett was serving a life sentence for the 1971 murder of a traveling companion on the Florida Turnpike. He is currently incarcerated in the Florida State Prison and faces escape charges, as well as local charges related to the marijuana grow house and firearms found in his home at the time of the arrest. Barrett’s case was featured on billboards and in the press in 2009 during a “12 Days of Fugitives” campaign designed to capture violent cold case fugitives sponsored by FDLE and DC.

Expansion of Florida Computer Crime Center. Effective July 1, 2011, 19 child exploitation investigator positions were transferred from the Attorney General’s Office to FDLE’s Florida Computer Crime Center (FC3) as a result of the passage of House Bill 5401. The merger was aimed at creating specialized units throughout the state to more efficiently and effectively focus on investigating internet sex crimes against juveniles in Florida. FC3 was established in 1998 to investigate complex computer crimes, train law enforcement personnel in computer crime investigations, provide Cybercrime safety information to the public and remain current with emerging trends and technology. FC3 now has more than 40 analysts and agents dedicated to Cybercrime and five vans that support the squads with digital forensic capability on scene. The unit is working to strengthen Cyber/High-Tech Crime task forces that partner with local, state and federal agencies.

One of the first investigations involving the Cyber/High-Tech Crime task forces, Operation Amalgamate, resulted in the arrest of 48 child predators throughout Central Florida. This operation found child sex predators in chat rooms, utilizing instant messaging, texting, dating sites, social networks and even online classified ads. FDLE agents, in partnership with local law enforcement agencies, arrested 48 suspects in 17 Florida counties.

DNA Database Solves Cold Case. Crime scene evidence recently submitted to FDLE’s DNA Database by the Taylor County Sheriff’s Office led to the arrest of Kenneth Knight for the murder of Sandra Espinoza in Taylor County 14 years ago. Knight, whose DNA sample matched crime scene evidence, confessed to murdering the 22-year old woman and dumping her body along US 27 in Perry. The Taylor County Sheriff’s Office recently reexamined old crime scene evidence and submitted the sample. Florida’s DNA Database is an effective tool for law enforcement, generating 3,600 hits last year. In 2011, expansion of the law allowed the Department to begin collecting DNA samples of individuals arrested for homicide, assault, battery and sex crimes.
**Statewide Drug Enforcement Strike Force Results.** On March 28, 2011, Governor Rick Scott and Attorney General Pam Bondi announced a statewide law enforcement response plan to confront criminal drug trafficking in Florida, including, but not limited to, the criminal distribution of prescription drugs. This included creation of a Statewide Drug Strike Force to assist local law enforcement agencies by providing intelligence, analytical and investigative support. Commissioner Bailey serves as the statewide coordinator of the strike force and regional teams are co-led by Florida’s sheriffs and police chiefs. The plan allocated grant funds to provide support for the strike forces throughout the state. Through the end of June 2012, law enforcement made 2,835 arrests (including 46 doctors), seized 723,172 pharmaceutical pills, 90 vehicles, 474 weapons, and $9.7 million. Additionally, 254 clinics have been closed.

**“If You See Something, Say Something” Launched.** Commissioner Bailey joined Governor Rick Scott and domestic security officials for Florida’s launch of the “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign, a US Department of Homeland Security initiative encouraging citizens to report suspicious activities and threats. The Florida campaign will include television and radio public safety announcements and billboards and displays in airports, at bus stops and in malls. Tips to report suspicious activity, which may be provided through a statewide, toll-free hotline or online reporting form, will go to the Florida Fusion Center, a 24-hour watch desk at FDLE. Intelligence analysts will assess the information and take action in conjunction with the state’s Regional Domestic Security Task Forces.

**New Eyewitness Identification Standards Developed and Adopted.** The Department, in partnership with the Florida Police Chiefs, Sheriffs and Prosecuting Attorneys Associations, developed and adopted new standards to ensure neutrality, impartiality and consistency in eyewitness identification. The Standards are designed to improve eyewitness identification procedures, while at the same time allowing law enforcement agency heads flexibility in crafting policies that best meet the needs of the agencies. Law enforcement agencies were called upon to conform to the standards by November 1, 2011.

Lineups are conducted by including a potential suspect in an array of multiple photos (displayed either sequentially or simultaneously) or a live lineup of individuals. The new standards call for law enforcement agencies to adopt specific policies for conducting lineups that detail:

- The creation, composition, and utilization of the photo array or lineup, including documenting how the witness indicated any positive identification has been made and how the witness acknowledged the standard instructions.
- The standard instructions to be used to instruct the witness prior to a photographic or live lineup, which include: indications that the person of interest might or might not be in the photo array or lineup, that the witness is not required to make an identification, that it is as
important to exclude innocent persons as it is to identify the perpetrators, and that the investigation will continue with or without an identification.

- Directions to the investigator conducting the photographic or live lineup to avoid any conduct that might directly or indirectly influence the witness’s decision, and to avoid comments or actions that suggest the witness did or did not identify the suspect.
- How to discern the level of confidence in an identification as expressed by the witness.
- How to document the procedure and outcome of the photographic or live lineup, including noting the witness’s response and exact words.
- The method(s) of presenting the lineup.
- Required training on the agency policy by any agency personnel who will be administering a photographic or live lineup.

It was also recommended that agencies use an independent administrator (someone who does not know the suspect) or a functional equivalent procedure (using an administrator who does not know the order the photos are being presented to the eyewitness) to ensure neutrality.

Initially developed and issued on March 1, the standards were revised following input and finalized on June 15. The current standards incorporate model policies of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, reflect extensive input from Florida’s law enforcement community, include recommendations based on legislative consideration of the issue in the 2011 Session as well as suggestions from the Florida Innocence Commission, and adopt the state law enforcement accreditation requirements.

Previously, specific eyewitness identification policies and protocols varied from agency to agency. While many law enforcement agencies across the state already have procedures in place consistent with the new standards, adopting them statewide will ensure uniformity and consistency, promotes accountability at the agency level, yet at the same time will not mandate additional financial obligations on agencies. In conforming to the standards, an agency will be promoting fairness in eyewitness identification regardless of the particular method of identification utilized.

**Department investigation results in lengthy prison sentence.** A U.S. District Judge sentenced James Richer to 20 years in prison for his role in an elaborate Ponzi scheme that started in 2007 and bilked investors out of more than $17 million. Targeting Polk County teachers, police officers, retired Publix employees and local businessmen, the hedge fund manager convinced investors he could get a promising gain for investments. In reality, he only invested a small portion of the over 100 victim’s money, using the majority of the funds for personal enrichment items such as diamond jewelry and luxury cars. In September 2011, Richer pled guilty to mail fraud, money laundering and engaging in an illegal monetary transaction. In addition to the prison sentence, he was sentenced to three years of probation upon his release and ordered to pay $17.8 million in restitution.