

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

VIOLENT CRIME AND DRUG CONTROL COUNCIL



Submitted by
The Florida Department of Law Enforcement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Message from Commissioner Rick Swearingen

The Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council, in partnership with state, county and local law enforcement, continues to play an integral role in supporting criminal investigations, helping ensure the safety and security of Florida's communities and visitors. Since its inception in 1993, the Council has initiated and supported legislation to improve the overall quality of life for Florida's citizens and visitors.

The Council oversees four individual funding categories: violent crime investigations, drug control and money laundering investigations, criminal gang investigations, and victim/witness protection reimbursement. Due to budgetary constraints, the Council has only funded victim/witness protection reimbursement requests since September 2008.

In 2015, the Legislature continued authorization for FDLE to use trust funds to support victim/witness protection reimbursement requests. The Council funded 32 victim/witness protection and relocation reimbursement requests totaling \$85,279.89 in 2015. These totals decreased compared to 2014 funding of 42 victim/witness protection reimbursement requests totaling \$119,341.62.

FDLE also supported the Council by monitoring the status of two active drug control and money laundering investigations funded by the Council prior to 2015. During 2015, one of the two active drug cases was successfully closed.

Overview of Funding and Council Meetings

Pursuant to Florida Statutes, the Council held one open conference meeting in March 2015 to address the following topics:

- Active Drug Funding Reports for the July-December 2014 reporting period;
- Active Drug Funding Reports for the January-June 2015 reporting period; and
- Victim/Witness Protection Reimbursement cases funded.

The Council's six-member Victim and Witness Protection Review Committee held four closed conference meetings in March, June, September and December 2015. The Committee approved 32 reimbursement funding requests for a total of \$85,279.89.

FDLE continues to maintain the Council's website as a valuable source of information for the public and law enforcement community. The website contains information on Council membership, upcoming meetings, regional contacts, online forms and applications, and step-by-step application procedures.

The website address is <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Content/VCDCC/Home.aspx>.



VIOLENT CRIME AND DRUG CONTROL COUNCIL

General Membership

Pursuant to Section 943.031, Florida Statutes, the Council is comprised of 14 members. Eight are standing members by virtue of their positions and six (two sheriffs, two police chiefs, one state attorney and one medical examiner) are appointed by the Governor. Council members receive no compensation, but are reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses. Standing members serve as long as they remain employed in the same capacity that served as the basis for their appointment and members appointed by the Governor serve two-year terms. FDLE continues to provide the support necessary to assist the Council in the performance of its duties.

Eight Standing Members:

- Chief Financial Officer
Honorable Jeff Atwater – Designee: Deputy Chief Financial Officer Jay Etheridge
- Attorney General
Honorable Pam Bondi – Designee: General Counsel Jim Schneider
- Commissioner of Education
Pam Stewart – Designee: Executive Director Mary Jane Tappen
- Public Safety Policy Coordinator, Executive Office of the Governor
Katie Cunningham
- Secretary of Juvenile Justice
Christina Daly – Designee: Inspector General Robert Munson
- Secretary of Corrections
Julie L. Jones – Designee: Inspector General Jeffery Beasley
- Designee of the Florida Network of Victim/Witness Services
Concetta Holmes
- FDLE Commissioner
Rick Swearingen – Designee: Special Agent in Charge Donna Uzzell

Six Governor Appointed Members:

- Sheriff Ben F. Johnson – Volusia County Sheriff's Office
- Sheriff William Snyder – Martin County Sheriff's Office
- State Attorney Bernie McCabe – 6th Judicial Circuit
- Police Chief Jeffrey A. Chudnow – Oviedo Police Department
- Police Chief Christopher Elg – Tequesta Police Department
- Medical Examiner Russell Vega – District 12 Medical Examiner's Office



2015 FISCAL SUMMARY

Florida Statutes require all agencies awarded Council funds to complete a report on all active/open drug funded cases every six months. The completed report, which is provided to FDLE by the receiving agency, must detail the expenditure of Council funds during the reporting period. If a previously open/active case is closed during the reporting period, the agency must submit a final report and closing letter to FDLE. All unspent funds must be returned to the State of Florida. Chart 1 is a summary of the 2015 drug cases and Chart 2 summarizes 2015 victim/witness protection reimbursement activity.

Chart 1: Drug Investigation Funding
(January 1 - December 31, 2015)

Beginning Number of OPEN Cases	2
Number of Cases CLOSED this Period	1
Ending Number of OPEN Cases	1
Unspent Funds for OPEN Cases	\$128.10
Returned Funds from CLOSED Cases	\$0

Chart 2: Victim/Witness Protection Reimbursement Funding
(January 1 - December 31, 2015)

March 2015 Awards	2	\$7,090.00
June 2015 Awards	11	\$32,248.68
September 2015 Awards	12	\$24,963.77
December 2015 Awards	7	\$20,977.44
Total Awards for 2015	32	\$85,279.89

