

2023 Annual Report



VIOLENT CRIME AND DRUG CONTROL COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1993, the Florida Violent Crime Council was established to financially assist local law enforcement agencies in extraordinary violent crime cases. After Florida's crime trend slightly shifted from violent crime to drug crimes, the 2001 Legislative Session approved the expansion of the Council to include funding for drug investigations. Renamed the Violent Crime and Drug Control Council (Council), the Council was given the ability to provide supplemental funding to local and state law enforcement agencies working violent crime, major drug and money laundering investigations, and victim/witness protection and relocation efforts. The Legislature supports the funding of the Council on a year-to-year basis. Due to budgetary constraints, the Council has only funded victim/witness protection reimbursement requests since September 2008.

FDLE did not submit a legislative budget request for FY 2023-24 to fund reimbursement grants for the upcoming fiscal year and FDLE did not fund this program for the current fiscal year.

Overview of Funding and Council Meetings

The Council did not hold an open conference meeting during 2023.

The Council's six-member Victim and Witness Protection Review Committee did not meet in 2023 as there were no funds to disburse.

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/VCDCC/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 (per statute)

- Chief Financial Officer
Honorable Jimmy Patronis – Designee: Director Simon Blank
- Attorney General
Honorable Ashley Moody – Designee: *Vacant*
- Commissioner of Education
Manny Diaz Jr. – Designee: Program Specialist Julie Collins
- Public Safety Policy Coordinator, Executive Office of the Governor
Vacant
- Secretary of Juvenile Justice
Eric S. Hall – Designee: Inspector General Robert Munson
- Secretary of Corrections
Ricky D. Dixon – Designee: Assistant Deputy Secretary of Institutions - Hope Gartman
- President of the Florida Network of Victim/Witness Services or designee
This organization no longer exists.
- FDLE Commissioner
J. Mark Glass – Designee: Special Agent in Charge Mike Phillips

Six Governor Appointed Members:

- Sheriff A.J. “Tony” Smith – Franklin County Sheriff’s Office
- Sheriff William Snyder – Martin County Sheriff’s Office
- State Attorney - Vacant
- Police Chief Robert Hicks – Leesburg Police Department
- Police Chief – Vacant
- Medical Examiner Russell Vega – District 12 Medical Examiner’s Office



Status of Membership

All of the members listed below continue to serve, even though their terms have expired. Applications for new members and those wishing to continue to serve currently reside in the Governor's gubernatorial office awaiting approval.

- State Attorney – Vacated in January 2021
- Medical Examiner Dr. Russell Vega, District 12 Medical Examiner's Office – *term expired on 6/30/2017*
- Police Chief – Vacated in 2017
- Police Chief Robert Hicks, Leesburg Police Department – *term expired on 6/30/2019*
- Sheriff A.J. "Tony" Smith, Franklin County Sheriff's Office – *term expired on 6/30/2019*
- Sheriff William Snyder – Martin County Sheriff's Office – *term expired on 6/30/2019*

2023 FISCAL SUMMARY

Florida Statutes require all agencies awarded Council funds to complete a report on all active/open violent crime and 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. There were no open/active violent crime or drug cases in 2023.

No funds were awarded to agencies for victim/witness protection reimbursement in 2023.

