

NEWS RELEASE

R. Andrew Murray
District Attorney

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3 ADAs receive Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Three Mecklenburg County Assistant District Attorneys were recognized this week for their work alongside Charlotte-Mecklenburg police to combat financial crimes and establish a program to help officers identify suspects with a history of assaultive behavior.

During the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's annual awards ceremony, Chief Kerr Putney presented the Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing to Assistant District Attorneys Maria Caino, Bruce Lillie and Sheena Gatehouse, as well as the teams of investigators who led these projects to protect the community.

ADA Caino was recognized for her contributions to CMPD's investigation into a string of significant identity theft crimes in which victims' personal information was used to open credit accounts. ADA Caino is a prosecutor who works with the DA's Crimes Against Property Team. She is also a member of a unit that specializes in the prosecution of financial crimes.



ADAs Sheena Gatehouse, Bruce Lillie and Maria Caino received the Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing.

In 2016, CMPD and the District Attorney's Office collaborated to target defendants who have a history of committing misdemeanor assaults. A database, which police can access from their patrol cars, was created to allow officers who are investigating a misdemeanor assault to search a suspect's name and ascertain whether the suspect has previously been accused of assaults. Doing so enables them to determine whether a suspect should be charged with habitual misdemeanor assault, a felony charge that carries harsher punishments. ADA Lillie, who supervises the DA's Crimes Against Persons Team, and ADA Gatehouse, who supervises the DA's Misdemeanor Team, worked with police to establish the process by which cases would be prosecuted when defendants were identified as habitual misdemeanor assault offenders.

Note: For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit www.charmeckda.com. For updates and other information, "like" the DA's Office on Facebook at www.facebook.com/charmeckda and follow us on Twitter: @CharMeckDA.

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