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PROSECUTORS
AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 17, 2014

DA ANDREW MURRAY JOINS PROSECUTORS ACROSS THE U.S. TO ANNOUNCE NEW COALITION TO CURB GUN VIOLENCE

Prosecutors Against Gun Violence to hold first-ever national summit in October to combat gun violence

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – In a groundbreaking effort to combat gun violence, Mecklenburg County District Attorney Andrew Murray has joined 22 prosecutors representing major jurisdictions throughout the United States to announce the formation of Prosecutors Against Gun Violence ([PAGV](#)), an independent, non-partisan coalition organized to identify and promote prosecutorial and policy solutions to the national public health and safety crisis of gun violence.

“All too often in our courtrooms, my prosecutors and I have seen the horrific impact of gun violence on victims and their families in our community,” says District Attorney Andrew Murray. “This coalition is an opportunity to share the innovative strategies we’ve implemented with our law enforcement partners here in Mecklenburg County to battle gun violence. I look forward to learning about successful strategies used by District Attorneys from major metropolitan regions throughout the nation – strategies that could be implemented in Mecklenburg County to make our community safer.”

Since taking office in 2011, District Attorney Murray has worked to target violent offenders. He instructed his prosecutors to place an emphasis on prosecuting felons in illegal possession of guns, and he has increased the number of prosecutors on his Habitual Felon Team and Homicide Team. He also created the Domestic Violence Team to exclusively prosecute crimes – often violent offenses – that occur between people in relationships.

PAGV was formed and co-chaired by Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer and Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance. The group will convene the first-ever prosecutorial summit on gun violence prevention October 21-22, 2014, in Atlanta, focusing on best prosecutorial practices, gang violence reduction, illegal weapons trafficking, the nexus between domestic violence and gun violence, the link between mental health issues and gun violence and other initiatives. PAGV will announce additional summit details shortly.



DA Andrew Murray

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The growing coalition includes prosecutors from Charlotte, Atlanta, Boston, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Manhattan, Miami, Milwaukee, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Portland, Queens, San Antonio, San Francisco, Seattle and Staten Island.

“For prosecutors, gun violence is not a partisan issue,” says Manhattan District Attorney Vance. “It’s a public health and safety crisis that claims lives and destabilizes communities in every jurisdiction in America. By coming together to share intelligence and advocate for pragmatic, non-partisan solutions, law enforcement officials can achieve lasting progress on gun violence.”

“Together, prosecutors across our nation can make a major impact on the gun violence afflicting our communities,” says Los Angeles City Attorney Feuer. “Our members will draw from our colleagues’ most effective strategies and join forces to advance policies that can save lives. Prosecutors have expertise and credibility that are hard to dismiss.”

To stay up to date with PAGV’s progress, join the mailing list at ProsecutorsAGV.org and follow PAGV on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

For more information about the Mecklenburg County 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.