

NEWS RELEASE

Spencer B. Merriweather III
District Attorney

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DA Merriweather creates new teams to help victims, target violent crimes

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – In his first major initiative since taking office last week, Mecklenburg County District Attorney Spencer B. Merriweather III will restructure two of his office's prosecutorial teams to tackle the rising rate of violent crimes and support victims of sexual assault and family violence.

The change will result in the creation of a Violent Crimes Team and a Special Victims Team at the District Attorney's Office.

Previously, the DA's Crimes Against Persons Team prosecuted felony assaults, robberies and sex crimes while the Domestic Violence Team prosecuted a range of crimes exclusively stemming from domestic violence. Those two teams will be restructured, becoming the Violent Crimes Team and the Special Victims Team.

Now, the Assistant District Attorneys who serve on the Violent Crimes Team will prosecute felony crimes such as robberies, felony assault and discharging a firearm into occupied property. The Special Victims Team will prosecute felony cases of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

DA Merriweather believes this change will better serve the community and improve the management of cases within the District Attorney's Office. The creation of a Violent Crimes Team reflects DA Merriweather's commitment to combat the rate of violent crimes affecting all members of the community. Meanwhile, the Special Victims Team will bring together a strong team of prosecutors and legal assistants who are trained to address the needs of victims who have suffered the trauma of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse.

The transition, which will likely takes months to fully implement, begins this month.

DA Merriweather will be available for media interviews today to discuss this new initiative. To schedule an interview, please contact Meghan McDonald at meghan.c.mcdonald@nccourts.org.

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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