



# FROM THE DESK OF DA MERRIWEATHER

The District Attorney's Office is responsible for the prosecution of criminal offenses in Mecklenburg County. Each month, this newsletter provides information about court happenings, initiatives being used to combat crime, the DA's work in the community, and more.



## Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office

### AWARENESS

#### Shining a light on domestic violence

Domestic violence plagues all communities and has only worsened due to increased isolation during the pandemic. This month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the DA's Office is working to raise awareness of this crisis, which affects all people regardless of race, economic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, or nationality.



At the DA's Office, our Special Victims Team includes prosecutors and legal assistants who are trained to handle the sensitive nature and complexities of these cases. We work to support survivors and hold abusers accountable. During a court session last month, the team convicted 15 defendants, including a man who fired gunshots at his ex-girlfriend's vehicle and tried to burn down her mother's home.

DA Merriweather is working with partners to establish a [Family Justice Center](#), providing a one-stop location to help survivors and their families access law enforcement, prosecutors, counselors, healthcare, housing assistance, and more when they need it most. This year, our coalition took a step forward in this endeavor by opening the [Survivor Resource Center](#), a smaller-scale operation that assists high-risk survivors.

Every single one of us can help end domestic violence. Consider volunteering with an organization such as [Safe Alliance](#), [The Jamie Kimble Foundation for Courage](#), or [Men For Change](#). If you suspect a loved one is in an abusive relationship, reach out and [offer support](#). Talk with young people in your life about what it means to have [healthy relationships](#). If you witness abuse, call 911 immediately. Follow us on social media this month for more info and resources!

### IN COURT

The District Attorney's prosecution teams are working diligently to utilize all available court time. In a recent trial led by our Homicide Team, a jury [convicted the driver](#) of a vehicle involved in a drive-by shooting that killed 30-year-old Tony Jamarr Russell. Another jury found a man guilty of [trafficking heroin](#) after a trial by the DA's Felony Crimes Team. Court operations remain limited due to COVID-19, and at present, there is only one Superior Court trial courtroom open for felony trials. The DA's Office is advocating for the safe resumption of additional operations.

### HERITAGE

As the community and the nation celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, the DA's Office has been highlighting on social media some of our Hispanic and Latinx staff members, who have helped build a justice that serves all people. [Assistant District Attorneys Caino](#) and [Pelot-Hernandez](#) and [Legal Assistant Villagrana](#) shared their perspectives on what it means to have representation in our courts and the importance of being able to understand and appreciate the experiences of our Hispanic/Latinx community members when pursuing justice. Read their full stories on our Facebook page!



### FAQ: What is the statute of limitations?

In criminal law, "statute of limitations" refers to the amount of time that may pass between the commission of a crime and when someone is charged with the crime. In North Carolina, there is no statute of limitations for felonies, meaning that one can be charged years—even decades—after a crime. For most misdemeanors, there is a [two-year statute of limitations](#). If someone is going to be charged with a misdemeanor, it must be done within two years of the offense. There are some misdemeanors (namely misdemeanor crimes against children), however, that have a 10-year statute of limitations.

Visit [www.charmeckda.com](http://www.charmeckda.com) for the latest news, information about the courts and more. Follow @charmeckda on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

