

NEWS

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More Information? Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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U.S. Attorney
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Federal Law Enforcement Offers
Additional Assistance to Camden Police

(More)

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CAMDEN – U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie, along with U.S. Marshal James Plousis, DEA Newark Field Division Special Agent in Charge Michael Pasterchick, FBI Philadelphia Division Special Agent in Charge John C. Eckenrode, ATF Philadelphia Field Division Special Agent in Charge Mark W. Potter, Camden City Police Chief Edwin Figueroa, Camden County Prosecutor Vincent P. Sarubbi, and Camden County Sheriff Michael W. McLaughlin, announced today a cooperative effort to assist local law enforcement in their mission to combat crime in the City of Camden.

The cooperative effort between the U.S. Attorney's Office, ATF, DEA, FBI and U.S. Marshal's Service with local, county and state law enforcement will be coordinated through the Weed Subcommittee of the federal Weed & Seed Program, which is chaired by Chief Figueroa.

Authorities announced several new initiatives, plus continued and increasing support for task forces already in place. U.S. Attorney Christie and Prosecutor Sarubbi announced that their offices are working closely together to identify appropriate gun cases for federal prosecution. Federal laws provide longer prison terms and no parole upon conviction of firearm related crimes. The effort, seeks to reduce gun violence by combining local law enforcement programs targeting gun crime and federal resources and statutes. The effectiveness of the effort is based on the ability of federal, state and local agencies to cooperate in a unified offensive against gun violence and dangerous felons.

“The people of Camden are entitled to a better life in their city,” Christie said. “At a minimum that means being able to walk the streets safely without fear of gunfire and drug dealers. This is an important, cooperative approach to provide and coordinate the necessary resources from local, state and federal law enforcement to help Camden and the surrounding communities.”

U.S. Marshal Plousis announced that the Marshal's Fugitive Task Force has begun working in the City of Camden to target the city's top 50 most dangerous fugitives. Plousis stated that the U.S. Marshal's Office is offering a \$1000 reward for information leading to the capture of each of the fugitives. The cases which have been identified by the Camden Police, Camden County Prosecutor and Camden County Sheriff are fugitives that are charged with first and second degree violent crimes. “I am confident the expertise of the Marshal's Service fugitive hunting will assist Camden in ridding the streets of the most dangerous people,” said Plousis.

At a news conference at the federal courthouse in Camden, Special Agent in Charge Mark W. Potter, ATF Philadelphia Field Division, stated that ATF will be assisting Camden Police and the Camden Shoot Team to expedite firearms identification, sources and transportation networks. "We will bring the unique resources of ATF, and work with our

law enforcement partners, to have an impact on firearms violence in the City of Camden,” said Potter.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Eckenrode pledged to continue to support the South Jersey Violent Crimes Task Force. The task force, which consists of FBI special agents and detectives from the Camden Police Department and the Camden Prosecutor’s Office, operates out of the South Jersey Resident Agency of the FBI and has been very successful in disrupting and dismantling violent criminal enterprises operating in the Camden area since 1993. “The information generated and shared among law enforcement agencies during these Weed and Seed sub-committee meetings will be invaluable to task force members,” said Eckenrode.

The DEA, which has partnered with local law enforcement in the past, has offered to increase its tactical support to augment its current investigations targeting the illegal drug trade in Camden.

"I am pleased that our law enforcement partners at the federal level are offering additional resources at a time of need, with a renewed commitment to improve the quality of life for Camden residents by measurably reducing crime. We welcome their assistance and look forward to working closely with them to contribute to the city's revitalization," said Prosecutor Sarubbi.

Chief Figueroa said, “As always, the Camden city Police Department doors are open to anyone who shares our mission to reduce crime. Realize crime reduction success hinges on the open communication and collaboration of the criminal justice and law enforcement community.” I want to thank U.S. Attorney Christie and our federal law enforcement partners for their support and together we will succeed in improving the quality of life for the residents of Camden,” said Chief Figueroa.

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