



# Fighting Crime in Buckhead & Fulton County

Presentation By

**Fani T. Willis**, Fulton County District Attorney

**March. 23, 2022**

**Murders in Fulton County have  
increased by**

**48%**  
Since 2020



**Murders in the City of Atlanta  
have increased by**

**64%**  
Since 2019



**"I think that gangs contribute to upwards of 70% of the crimes that we're seeing in the city of Atlanta and the state of Georgia,"**

**- Chief Rodney Bryant**

Source: Fox 5 Atlanta (April, 2019)

Meanwhile, Fulton County DA Fani Willis increased gang-charging rates since taking office in 2021. Her office proposed enhancements to the gang laws empowering all GA prosecutors to better tackle gang crime.

-Insider Advantage, 3/24/22

# Georgia's Gang Membership

**71,000**  
Statewide

Source: GGIA- Georgia Gang  
Investigators Association

**50,000**  
Metro Atlanta

Source: FBI-Federal Bureau of  
Investigation

**70-90%**  
Violent Crime

Source: GBI- Georgia Bureau of  
Investigation

**400,000** juveniles in the United States join gangs annually

Source: 57 Fam. Ct. Rev. 243 (April, 2019)

**Juveniles** in gangs were responsible for the majority of crimes recorded in 15 states including Georgia

Source: 57 Fam. Ct. Rev. 243 (April, 2019)



**Girls** who become gang members are used to recruit new young girls into trafficking

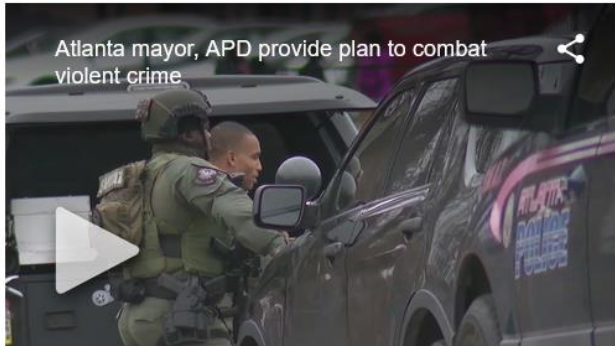
Source: 20 Wash. & Lee J. Civil Rts. & Soc. Just. 591 (Spring, 2014)

**Violent** gang crime has spread to all corners of Fulton County



f t i e  
**Atlanta crime: Police recruiting, street racing, catching repeat offenders are public safety priorities**

By FOX 5 Atlanta Digital Team | Published March 15, 2022 | Atlanta | FOX 5 Atlanta



Atlanta mayor, APD provide plan to combat violent crime

There have been 33 homicides in Atlanta in 2022. Mayor Andre Dickens and Police Chief Rodney Bryant outlined ways the city is targeting violent criminals.



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Latest News

Suspects stole credit card, bought \$11,000 in merch from Best Buy, police say



Inside Bob Saget's hotel room: Photos released of comedian's Orlando Ritz-Carlton suite



# Metro sex-trafficking sting rescues nearly 160 children, authorities say

By Mike Petchanik, WSB-TV

NORTH FULTON COUNTY, Ga. — A sting on the sex-trafficking trade in metro Atlanta netted dozens of arrests and the rescue of dozens of children forced into sexual servitude, the FBI announced this week.

Operation Safe Summer was a collaborative effort between the FBI's Atlanta field office and 38 law enforcement agencies in six metro counties.

The background features a complex, repeating geometric pattern of overlapping squares and rectangles in various shades of blue, creating a sense of depth and movement. The pattern is most prominent in the upper half of the image and fades into a solid dark blue at the bottom.

# **How** we combatted crime in 2021

**One**

**Increased Funding  
for DA's Office Staff by 240+ people**

**Two**

# **Restructured Office to Create Specialized Units**

**Addressing - Gang, Trafficking Crimes Against  
Children and Domestic Violence**

**Three**

# **Two Grand Juries**

**Running two Grand Juries  
simultaneously for First time in history**

**Four**

# **Tracking Repeat Offenders**

**Working with APD and the Atlanta Police Foundation to Dedicate Staff to a Repeat Offender Tracking Unit**



**Five**

# **1.6 million Felony records**

**Partnered with Metro Chamber of Commerce  
to update 1.6 million felony records in GCIC**

**Six**

**Received a \$1 Million Grant  
to address gang hotspots in metro Atlanta**

Seven

**50,000+**  
Cases closed



**Eight**

**Building State-  
of-the-Art  
Evidence Storage  
Facility**

**Nine**

# **Gang Training**

**For All FCDA prosecutors and investigators**

**Ten**

**Created Justice Liaison  
position to rebuild relationship with police**

**Eleven**

# **Technology Investigators**

**Create specialized technology unit**

The background features a complex, overlapping geometric pattern of blue squares and rectangles, creating a sense of depth and movement. The colors range from a deep navy blue to a lighter, vibrant cyan.

# **Goals** for combatted crime in 2022



## Goal 1

**Sponsor  
Legislation  
to strengthen the Gang Laws**



# SB 359: “Safe and Secure Georgia Act”

Working with primary sponsor Senator John Albers, passed Senate with bipartisan vote, pending in House

Strengthens gang prosecution powers of DAs

Evidence code provision targets repeat offenders

Helps cases move more efficiently through courts

Targets felons caught in possession of a firearm

## Goal 2

**Partnership with  
Fulton County Schools  
to create justice classes for  
referred youth in target middle  
and high school students**



## Goal 3

**500+**  
**Enrolled in**  
**Diversion programs**



## Goal 4

# Court Watch

as part of the Repeated Offend Tracking Unit to ensure transparency with bonds and sentencing



## **Goal 5**

# **Partnerships**

**Partner with Atlanta Police Foundation @promise centers to refer 90 youth at risk of joining gangs**



## Goal 6

# Formulytics

**Purchase Formulytics to  
assist in gang cases**



**HOW** can you help?



**Amplify your voice with state legislators, county commissioners and city council members to properly support criminal justice**



**City funded prosecutors**



**Resources for Fulton County DA's Office**



**Crime Fighting Technology for DA, APD and Sheriff**



**Fulton County Jail**



**Strong Gang Legislation at the Capitol**

# Community-Business Partnerships



**Sponsor**  
youth programs



**Mentor**  
at risk youth with  
charges, including  
those in the  
juvenile system



**Internships**  
and Job Training to  
youth offered to  
reduce repeat  
offenses



**Support  
Housing  
Programs**  
for at risk youth  
and families