

# 2017 Annual Report



## ***VIOLENT CRIME AND DRUG CONTROL COUNCIL***

*Submitted by  
Florida Department of Law Enforcement*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### ***Message from Commissioner Richard L. Swearingen***

The Florida Violent Crime and Drug Control Council, in partnership with state, county and local law enforcement, continues to play an integral role in supporting criminal investigations, helping ensure the safety and security of Florida's communities and visitors. Since its inception in 1993, the Council has initiated and supported legislation to improve the overall quality of life for Florida's citizens and visitors.

The Council oversees four individual funding categories: violent crime investigations, drug control and money laundering investigations, criminal gang investigations, and victim/witness protection reimbursement. Due to budgetary constraints, the Council has only funded victim/witness protection reimbursement requests since September 2008.

In 2017, the Legislature continued authorization for FDLE to use trust funds to support victim/witness protection reimbursement requests. The Council funded 29 victim/witness protection and relocation reimbursement requests totaling \$84,222.54 in 2017. These totals decreased compared to 2016 funding of 37 victim/witness protection reimbursement requests totaling \$86,947.94.

### ***Overview of Funding and Council Meetings***

Pursuant to Florida Statutes, the Council held one open conference meeting in June 2017 to address the future of the Council and victim/witness protection reimbursement cases funded.

The Council's six-member Victim and Witness Protection Review Committee held three closed conference meetings in March, June, and September 2017. The Committee approved 29 reimbursement funding requests for a total of \$84,222.54.

FDLE continues to maintain the Council's website as a valuable source of information for the public and law enforcement community. The website contains information on Council membership, upcoming meetings, regional contacts, online forms and applications, and step-by-step application procedures.

The website address is <http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/VCDCC/VCDCC-Home.aspx>.



# VIOLENT CRIME AND DRUG CONTROL COUNCIL

## ***General Membership***

Pursuant to Section 943.031, Florida Statutes, the Council is comprised of 14 members. Eight are standing members by virtue of their positions and six (two sheriffs, two police chiefs, one state attorney and one medical examiner) are appointed by the Governor. Council members receive no compensation, but are reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses. Standing members serve as long as they remain employed in the same capacity that served as the basis for their appointment and members appointed by the Governor serve two-year terms. FDLE continues to provide the support necessary to assist the Council in the performance of its duties.

### **Eight Standing Members:**

- Chief Financial Officer  
Honorable Jeff Atwater – Designee: Deputy Chief Financial Officer Jay Etheridge
- Attorney General  
Honorable Pam Bondi – Designee: General Counsel Jim Schneider
- Commissioner of Education  
Pam Stewart – Designee: Educational Policy Analyst Holly Edenfield
- Public Safety Policy Coordinator, Executive Office of the Governor  
Katie Cunningham
- Secretary of Juvenile Justice  
Christina Daly – Designee: Inspector General Robert Munson
- Secretary of Corrections  
Julie L. Jones – Designee: Director of Institutional Operations & Intelligence Samuel Culpepper
- Designee of the Florida Network of Victim/Witness Services  
Concetta Holmes
- FDLE Commissioner  
Richard L. Swearingen – Designee: Special Agent in Charge Donna Uzzell

### **Six Governor Appointed Members:**

- Sheriff A.J. “Tony” Smith – Franklin County Sheriff’s Office
- Sheriff William Snyder – Martin County Sheriff’s Office
- State Attorney Bernie McCabe – 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit
- Police Chief Robert Hicks – Leesburg Police Department
- Police Chief Christopher Elg – Tequesta Police Department
- Medical Examiner Russell Vega – District 12 Medical Examiner’s Office



## 2017 FISCAL SUMMARY

Florida Statutes require all agencies awarded Council funds to complete a report on all active/open violent crime and drug funded cases every six months. The completed report, which is provided to FDLE by the receiving agency, must detail the expenditure of Council funds during the reporting period. If a previously open/active case is closed during the reporting period, the agency must submit a final report and closing letter to FDLE. All unspent funds must be returned to the State of Florida. There were no open/active violent crime or drug cases in 2017.

The chart below summarizes the 2017 victim/witness protection reimbursement activity.

<b>Victim/Witness Protection Reimbursement Funding (January 1 - December 31, 2017)</b>		
March 2017 Awards	13	\$33,155.13
June 2017 Awards	7	\$28,471.31
September 2017 Awards	9	\$22,596.10
<b>Total Awards for 2017</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>\$84,222.54</b>

