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Press Release

The York County District Attorney's Office Partners with the United States Attorney's Office, the City of York and York College with a Common Goal of Sustainable Reductions in Violent Group Crimes in York City.

York, PA – The GVI Prosecution and Diversion Project represents a partnership between The York County District Attorney's Office (YCDA), York City Police Department (YCPD), The York County Human Services Family Engagement Unit (FEU), and York College of Pennsylvania (YCP), to address the common goal of sustainable reductions in violent/group crimes in York City. Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) funding procured through a grant application will support the addition of a specialized Group Violence Intervention (GVI) Prosecutor; defray YCPD's Group Violence Intervention strategy contract and overtime costs; and fund a Research Partnership between YCDA and YCP.

Over the past three years, YCPD has successfully employed the evidence-based Group Violence Intervention strategy supported through National Network for Safe Communities at John Jay College. The strategy has a proven record in violence prevention by focusing on groups with the most risk of victimization and offending. Foundational components include education, community support and appropriate swift enforcement. Due to the nature of the work, officer overtime frequently becomes necessary to effectively execute the strategy. YCPD will continue to perform GVI activities throughout the project period with guidance from National Network for Safe Communities provided for by contract.

The GVI Prosecutor's core responsibilities include Felony and Group Member Involved (GMI) GVI caseload from pre-charging through disposition. The role includes non-GMI youthful offender diversion referrals to FEU. FEU involvement results in family plans designed to present youthful offenders and their support systems with opportunities to engage in services in lieu of filing criminal charges. Services are designed to mitigate risk factors of future violence. Project activities are expected to provide the following outcomes: increase in GVI conviction rates; prevention of perpetual cycles of violence by addressing gaps in protective factors to mitigate youthful offenders' risk factors. The GVI Prosecutor's ultimate responsibility is to ensure uniform, equitable and expeditious pursuit of justice within GVI caseload.

York College of Pennsylvania has committed to a Research Partnership for the purposes of collecting and analyzing project data to provide real-time, action-based strategy modification recommendations. YCP staff will use evidence-based models and statistical packages to perform project activities. Activities will culminate in the production of a final report that will potentially prove or refute the success of the prosecutorial strategy developed through this project. A successful outcome will result in the potential dissemination and replication of the proven strategy throughout the Commonwealth and the Country.

District Attorney Dave Sunday said, "We are excited to partner with these outstanding organizations in an effort to complement the GVI strategy which is proven nationwide. This grant award and its strategic partnerships allows my office to be involved in a proactive approach to combat and address the senseless gun violence that plagues our community."