

# Criminal Justice Presentation

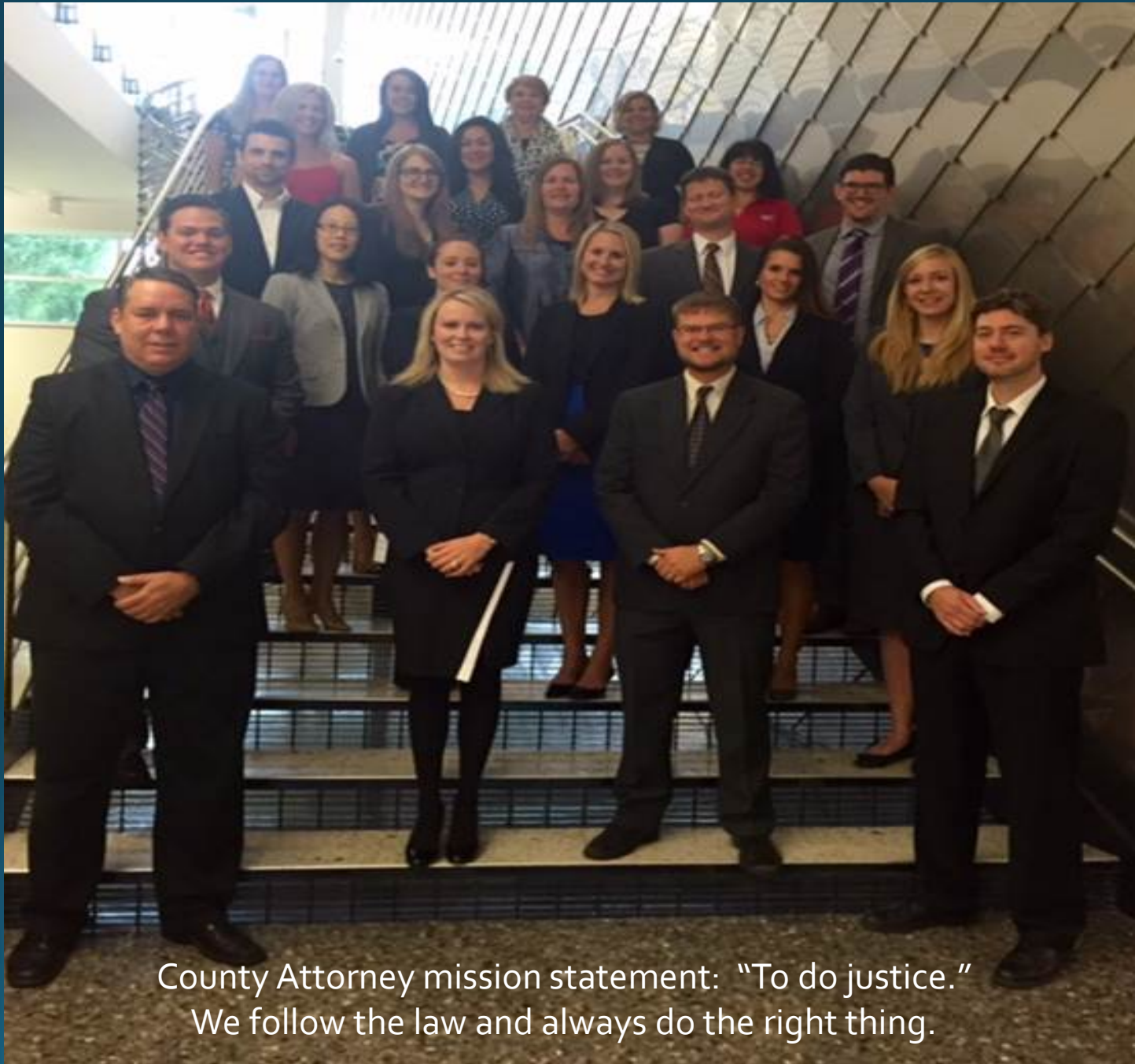
Chief Charles Cychosz  
Ames Police Dept.  
515 Clark Avenue  
Ames, Iowa 50010

Jessica A. Reynolds  
Story County Attorney  
1315 South B. Avenue  
Nevada, Iowa 50201



# Story County Attorney Office Overview

- 14 attorneys, 10 staff
  - Criminal division
    - 11 attorneys
    - Prosecute state crimes simple misdemeanors to Class A felonies
    - Prosecute county ordinance violations
  - Civil division
    - 1 attorney, PAAB hearings, SO firearm permit appeal hearings, employment law, contract review, advise al elected officials and Dept heads, defend lawsuits, sue on behalf of Story County.
  - Juvenile division
    - 2 attorneys, Child in Need of Assistance cases, delinquency cases, MH/SA committals
- 2 Office Locations
- \$2.3 Million Annual Budget
- 24/7 On-call county attorney
  - Initial appearances 24/7, 365 days/yr



County Attorney mission statement: "To do justice."  
We follow the law and always do the right thing.

# Community Outreach

- “Start by Believing” Campaign
- Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- Crime Victims’ Rights Award



# Law Enforcement Training

- Attorney designated liaison to each law enforcement entity in Story County (monthly meetings).
- Regular law enforcement lunch and learns sponsored by the Story County Attorney's Office.
- Provide written legal updates about changing case law, specialized trainings to each department during their patrol shifts.



# TRAINING TO WORK IN A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

## Department Wide Training Examples

- Begins with who we hire/how we hire.
- Iowa Law Enforcement Academy-Diversity, Special Populations, FIP
- Fair and Impartial Policing-2016/2017 Sgt. Marshall-Certified FIP Trainer
- Cultural Diversity-2014 The New Human Terrain of Iowa-Mark Gray (UNI)
- Understanding Class in Law Enforcement-2011-Jodi Pfarr
- Diversity Training-2009 Ric Martinez
- Diversity Training-Cultural Competency- 2008 Preston Daniels

# TRAINING TO WORK IN A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

- Individual Training Examples:

Teaching Diversity,

Cultural Diversity/Racial Profiling;

Beyond Cultural Sensitivity;

Community Conversations/Diversity Roundtable, etc.

Everyday contact with a diverse community-both on and off the job.



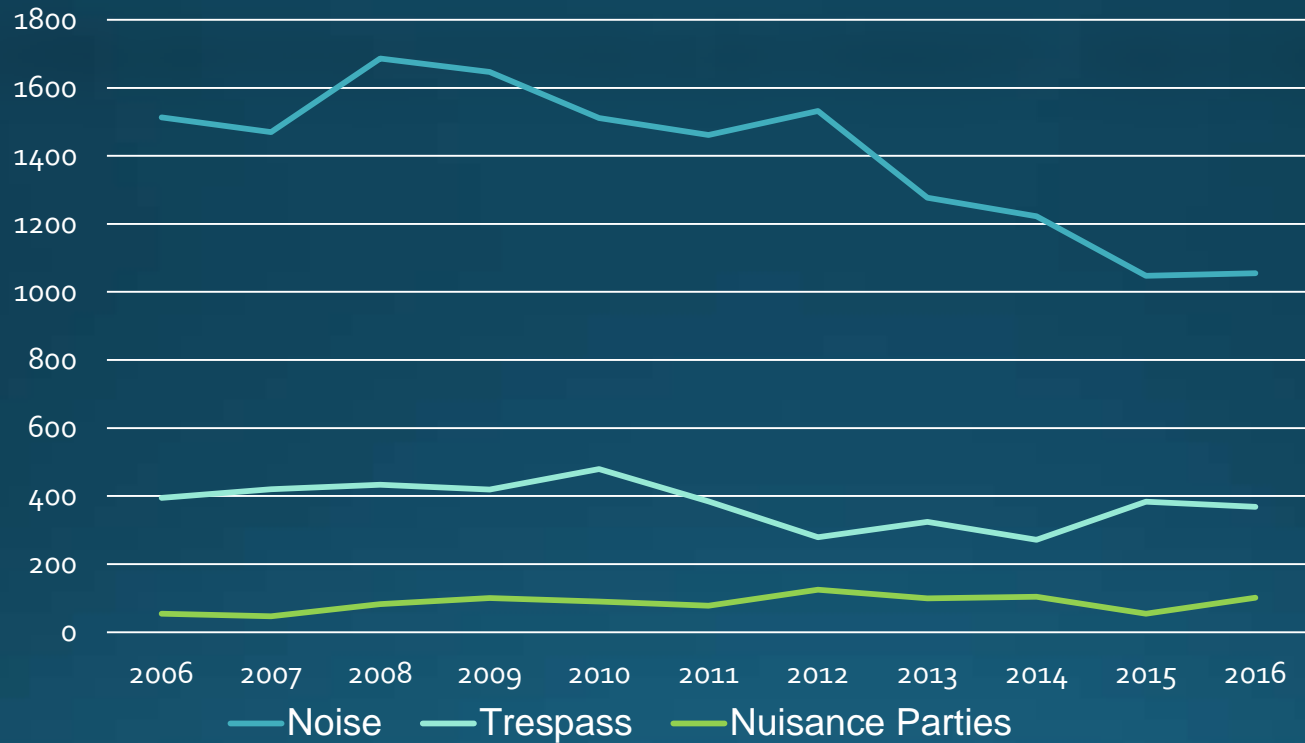
# Local Crime Trends

October 2017





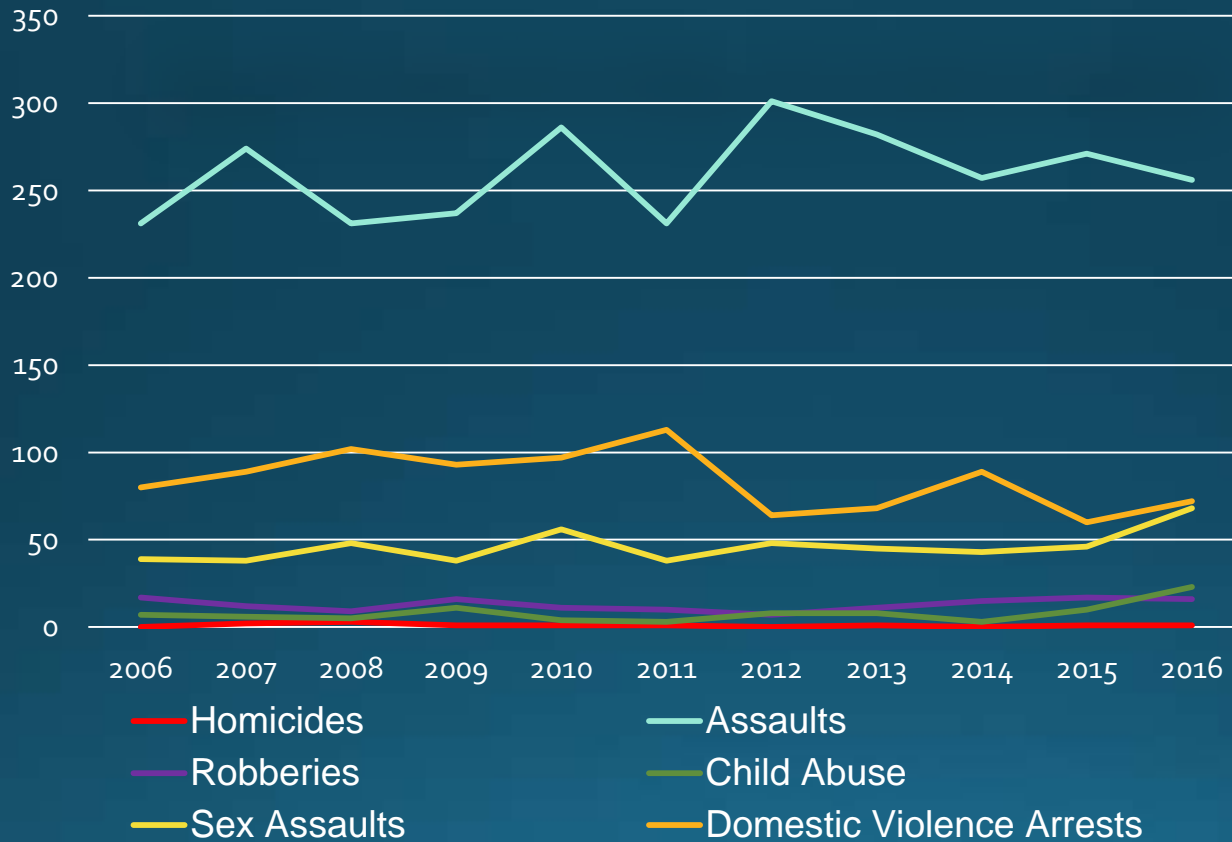
# Neighborhood Quality of Life



# Action

Safe Neighborhoods Team  
Crime Free Housing  
CPTED

# Personal Crimes



# Action

Investigators

Drug Task Force

SART

DART

Victim Witness Support

# Property Crimes



# Action

Drug Task Force  
Restitution/Recovery  
Electronic Resale Monitoring  
ID Theft  
Scam Alerts  
Regional Retail Collaboration

# Early Intervention/Diversion

Underage alcohol

Intoxication

Liquor violations/bar environments

MH Outreach

DV - non arrest CFS

# Ames City Attorney Story County Attorney

- Roles and responsibilities
- Collaboration



# Drugs as a Dimension of Personal and Property Crime

- Increase in robbery/theft cases (drug related).
- Methamphetamine
- Opioids
- Drug court – SCAO applied for DOJ grant to implement a drug court in Story County but was not selected as a grant recipient.



# Public Events



# Fines Recovery Program

**This brings the deposits into Story County's general fund to over \$1,892,269.67 since the program was started in 2009.**

into the county general fund. In calendar year 2015 Story County received \$262,018.41 into its general fund from the program.

# Benefits of Fines Recovery Program

- Crime Victims
  - Defendants
  - Taxpayers

# Truancy Task Force

- Collaboration of public schools in Story County, Story County Attorney's Office, DHS, JCS. Involve school resource officers in the team.
- Meet as a team with the child and their family before it becomes a truancy case.
- Identify barriers to attendance, identify services to overcome the barriers, work collaboratively to solve the issue and get kids attending school.

# Domestic Violence Crimes

- High lethality rate.
- Collaborative effort from the start of the investigation.
- Investigate assuming we will have no victim at trial.
  - Dispatcher
  - Talk to neighbors/family/friends.
  - Document injuries at the scene (photos), go back days later to continue to document injuries.
  - Encourage medical treatment at the scene.
  - Expert witnesses at trial explaining the cycle of violence and power/control dynamics.

# Murder Cases

- Overlap with serious violent crime and drugs.
- Heavy on resources.
  - Costly to prosecute.
  - Time consuming to prosecute.

# What We Do

State v. Lepon 





# Appeals court affirms conviction of Ames man in 2013 murder

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Story County Attorney's Office

2017

Crime Victims' Rights Week

Award of Recognition:

**Nyaroma Gatawas**

Sister & Hero



# May 22, 2015

## Ames, Iowa at midnight

- ▶ Nyaroma (13 y.o.) is asleep in her basement bedroom, when she awakes to a flashlight in her face and hears someone in her room. At first, she thinks it's her sister.
- ▶ She hears the person trip and realizes it's not her sister.
- ▶ She goes to the basement living room to investigate and hears her brother Kai's (5 y.o) voice.



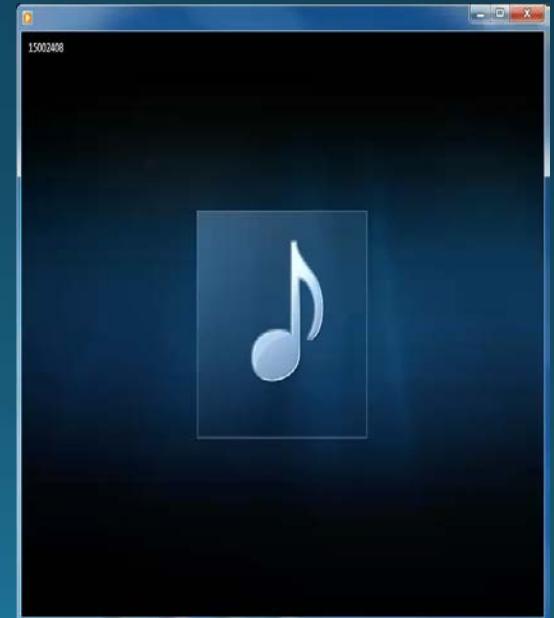
# “Kai’s being kidnapped!”

- Nyaroma sees her brother’s legs being pulled up out of the window well.
- She starts screaming to wake family members.
- She runs up the stairs, out the front door, and all the way around the house, chasing the suspect and yelling Kai’s name.



# “He pulled my brother out the window.”

- ▶ The man drops Kai momentarily while jumping the fence.
- ▶ Nyaroma catches up to them, rescues her brother, and carries him back to her family inside the house.



# Nyaroma:

- Testified at trial.
- Testified in a deposition.
- Her testimony led to the conviction of the defendant as charged of Child Stealing, Burglary in the First Degree, Assault while Participating in a Felony. Investigating agency was Ames PD – lead by Sgt. Elijah Hansen
- Ensured this will not happen to anyone else as the defendant was sentenced to 27 years in prison.
- Saved her brother's life.

Law enforcement in Story County - It's a team effort!

