



MILWAUKEE COUNTY DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOHN T. CHISHOLM



THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY  
PROSECUTION MODEL  
A VISION OF SMART, EFFICIENT, AND EFFECTIVE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT



## THE COMMUNITY PROSECUTION UNIT TEAM

**I. COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS.** A community prosecutor is an assistant district attorney who works directly in Milwaukee's communities. Milwaukee's community prosecutors are housed in each of the seven Milwaukee police district stations. The community prosecution model is a shift away from a response-driven model to an innovative and proactive crime-prevention law enforcement model; the focus is on an increase in quality of life in Milwaukee neighborhoods. Milwaukee County District Attorney John T. Chisholm has embraced the idea that communities are the central institution for crime prevention, and the success or failure of prosecutors, police, schools, and families are dependent on that community foundation. In the legal context, Milwaukee's prosecutors are now being asked to use their legal knowledge in the field and at crime scenes with police officers, use their communication skills to reach out to community members, use their courtroom and trial skills to prosecute the City's most violent criminals, and use their creativity to fashion appropriate and impactful alternative prosecutions of lesser offenders. As community prosecutors, assistant district attorneys do the following.

- A. Create Crime Prevention Initiatives.** A significant part of a community prosecutor's time is spent addressing the crime and quality of life issues facing our neighborhoods. As prosecutors, we are most often thought of as trial attorneys. As community prosecutors, however, we are asked to become part of a Milwaukee community, learn that community's strengths and weaknesses, communicate daily with residents and neighborhood associations and the Milwaukee Police Department, and then formulate appropriate crime prevention strategies. In every corner of the city of Milwaukee we have created plans to prevent prostitution, litter, burglaries, robberies, and violent crimes.
- B. Prosecute Violent Offenders.** Community prosecutors are also tasked with targeting each police district's most violent offenders, charging those targets with crimes, and prosecuting the targets to fullest extent of the law. As prosecutors, we use search warrants, subpoenas, and criminal trials to convict violent offenders and remove them from communities.
- C. Increase the Quality and Efficiency of the Criminal Justice System.** Efficient criminal justice that protects the community to the greatest extent requires thoughtful decisions on how to best use our limited law enforcement and court resources. Community prosecutors work closely with the police department, the courts, the Department of Corrections, community based organizations, residents, the City, and the State to improve our criminal justice system by making it cost-effective, fair, evidence-based, and just for the community it serves.

- D. Engage Community Based Organizations.** One of the greatest difficulties facing the criminal justice system is the limited resources available to address the substantial amount of crime that is funneled through the courts. Community prosecutors work tirelessly to form relationships with community organizations that are able to fill in the gaps by providing resources for alcohol and drug abuse treatment, mental health treatment, drug testing, crime victim needs, after-school programming, veterans' needs, domestic violence victims counseling, and much more.
- E. Abate Nuisance Properties.** Neighborhoods that are plagued by nuisance properties understand that non-criminal nuisances can be one of the most significant problems that decrease a community's quality of life. Community prosecutors work with residents to identify a neighborhood's most-problematic properties, and then use the force of the District Attorney's Office to command a positive change from homeowners, landlords, and businesses.
- F. Target Criminal Prosecution.** Beyond our work prosecuting the City's most violent criminals, community prosecutors also work with the community and police to identify those people who are a constant detriment to a neighborhood's quality of life. Using the force the District Attorney's Office, we can criminally charge these targets or find alternatives to criminal charges that will appropriately abate the issue. In using either method, we are focused on community safety and improving the quality of life for each neighborhood.
- G. Provide Community Outreach and Information Sharing.** Perhaps the most important part of a community prosecutor's day is communicating with residents, businesses, associations, and community organizations. The information provided by the community is invaluable to appropriate and efficient law enforcement. The community engagement also serves the purpose of empowering neighborhoods to take control of their streets, parks, and schools. Communities are the central institution for crime prevention, and the success or failure of prosecutors, police, schools, and families are dependent on that community foundation. Communities working together with community prosecution partners is the single strongest force in the fight against crime.
- H. Provide Officer and Community Training Programs.** With our legal backgrounds, community prosecutors are able to train police officers on best practices for investigations, constitutional search and seizure issues, report writing, and community relations. Also, our education and experience allows for us to train community members on such topics as the workings of the criminal justice system, crime prevention through environmental design, and target hardening techniques.
- I. Connect Government Agencies to Community Groups.** A challenge facing our City is that the many resources that we have are often in silos – there is a lack of communication between many important entities and the community. Community prosecutors work to open lines of communication between governmental agencies and the neighborhoods that they serve.
- J. Work with Reentry Programs.** Incarceration may be an effective method of stopping crime, but the vast majority of individuals incarcerated return to the community. Community prosecutors work with community organizations, the Department of Corrections, and the Milwaukee Police Department to ensure individuals released from incarceration are closely monitored, held accountable for their actions, and have appropriate resources that make recidivism less likely.
- K. Improve Public Schools.** The Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office has a specific community prosecution unit dedicated to the improvement of Milwaukee's public schools. Prosecutors are stationed in public school buildings and work everyday with administrators, teachers, and students.
- L. Instruct on Criminal Law at Local Educational Institutions.** Education of the public regarding the community prosecution model, prosecutors, and our criminal justice system is

essential to a functioning democracy. Our community members need to understand the workings of the criminal justice and that the system is for the people of this City. Community prosecutors participate in a number of educational programs at colleges and universities across the State.

**M. Participate in the Homicide and Shooting Review Commission.** Community prosecutors participate in a review and evaluation of every homicide and shooting that occurs in the City in an effort to prevent violence in the future.

**N. On-Call 24 Hours, 7 Days Per Week.** Crime never stops, therefore, our community prosecutors are asked to be on-call for law enforcement at all times. Whether its answering a legal question, reviewing a search warrant, or being called to a crime scene, our prosecutors are available for Milwaukee's police officers.

## **II. COMMUNITY PROSECUTION POLICE OFFICERS**

**A.** Each Milwaukee police district has between 2-8 police officers focused on proactive community police work.

**B. Neighborhood Nuisance Unit.** Officers work with businesses, landlords, and homeowners to abate neighborhood nuisances.

**C. Neighborhood Response.** Officers provide immediate communication and response to community members' concerns.

**D. Community Liaison Officer.** Each district has 2-4 police officers specifically designated to community outreach and long-term neighborhood problem solving.

**E. District Crime Analyst.** These police officers focus on compiling and analyzing crime statistics and trends in each police district.

**F. Late Power Tavern Car.** This patrol is used to address the nuisance issues at local bars and restaurants.

**G. Beat Officers.** Visible officer presence and a relationship with a neighborhood residents is essential to crime prevention strategies.

**H. Anti-Gang Units.** Community prosecution officers work in tandem with specialized police forces focused on gang activity and violence reduction.

**I. Knock and Talks.** Community prosecution officers walk in crime-challenged and investigate crime and drug houses.

**O. Violent Criminal Target List.** Working with the community prosecutors, community prosecution officers analyze crime data and create the target list of a community's most dangerous criminals. These officers then aid other police officers in the arrest and detention of these targets.

**P. Community Outreach and Information Sharing.** Perhaps the most important part of a community police officer's day is communicating with residents, businesses, associations, and community organizations. The information provided by the community is invaluable to appropriate and efficient law enforcement. Communities working together with community prosecution partners is the single strongest force in the fight against crime.

**Q. On-Call 24 Hours, 7 Days Per Week.** Just like our community prosecutors, our Milwaukee Police Officers are asked to be on-call at all times to serve our communities.

## **III. COMMUNITY PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AGENTS**

**A.** Combination of high risk and traditional caseloads, reflecting the priorities maintained at the police districts.

**B.** Full-time coverage at police districts, focused on police district's most violent offenders.

**C.** Facilitate information sharing between community, law enforcement, and the Department of Corrections.

**D.** Proactive investigation/supervision.

#### **IV. COMMUNITY PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES AGENTS**

- A.** New Special Enforcement Division focused in specific neighborhoods.
- B.** Thirteen special enforcement inspectors throughout the City.
- C.** Assigned to geographic territories aligned with police districts.
- D.** Charged with addressing quality of life issues in each neighborhood
- E.** Special inspectors to address complex property placed problems.

#### **V. COMMUNITY PROSECUTION COORDINATORS**

- A.** Coordinate the Neighborhood Safety Team.
- B.** Coordinate strategic planning.
- C.** Act as the information repository for the Neighborhood Safety Team.
- D.** Community contact and information source.
- E.** Ensures that the Neighborhood Safety Team is acting strategically and assures follow-up is completed.
- F.** Maintain records for reporting and evaluation.
- G.** Community outreach.

#### **VII. COMMUNITY CITY ATTORNEYS**

- A.** Three city attorneys assigned to the City.
- B.** Provide circuit court litigation regarding drug/gang houses, public nuisance actions, condemnation cases.
- C.** Manage licensing committee and administrative board litigation.
- D.** Address property owners, landlords, business owners, commercial licensees and other third party stakeholders to respond to public safety threats.
- E.** Prosecute municipal court citations relative to neighborhood quality of life issues.

#### **VIII. COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND SAFE & SOUND COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

- A.** Partnerships vary by geographic area.
- B.** Provide vital information to and from the residents.
- C.** Provide a myriad of community services.
- D.** Employ organizers to help interact with the neighborhoods.

#### **IX. COMMUNITY PROSECUTION DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATE – SOJOURNER FAMILY PEACE CENTER**

- A.** Receive referrals from the district police officers when they respond to domestic violence-related incidents.
- B.** Receive referrals from agencies and organizations regarding domestic violence-related incidents.
- C.** Upon receipt of all referrals, attempt to contact each victim (crisis intervention, support/advocacy services, referral and resource information, court support, etc.).
- D.** Liaison for victims of domestic violence with the criminal and civil justice systems - Work closely with the officers and supervisory staff within police districts regarding various victims/offenders that are in need of additional police resources and assistance, assistance legally (within both the criminal and civil system).
- E.** Liaison for victims of domestic violence with additional community agencies.
- F.** Utilize the assistance of the Community Prosecution Unit within the district when necessary for a client.
- G.** Provide information, resources, and education to the community and to advocacy staff regarding police response to domestic violence.
- H.** Assist the officers with any questions/concerns that they may encounter regarding domestic violence situations.
- I.** Provide on-site support to clients that come into the district.
- J.** Ensure that the Community Domestic Abuse Advocacy Program staff within police districts 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 are maintaining the goals, objectives and mission of Sojourner Family Peace Center while working effectively with the Milwaukee Police Department.



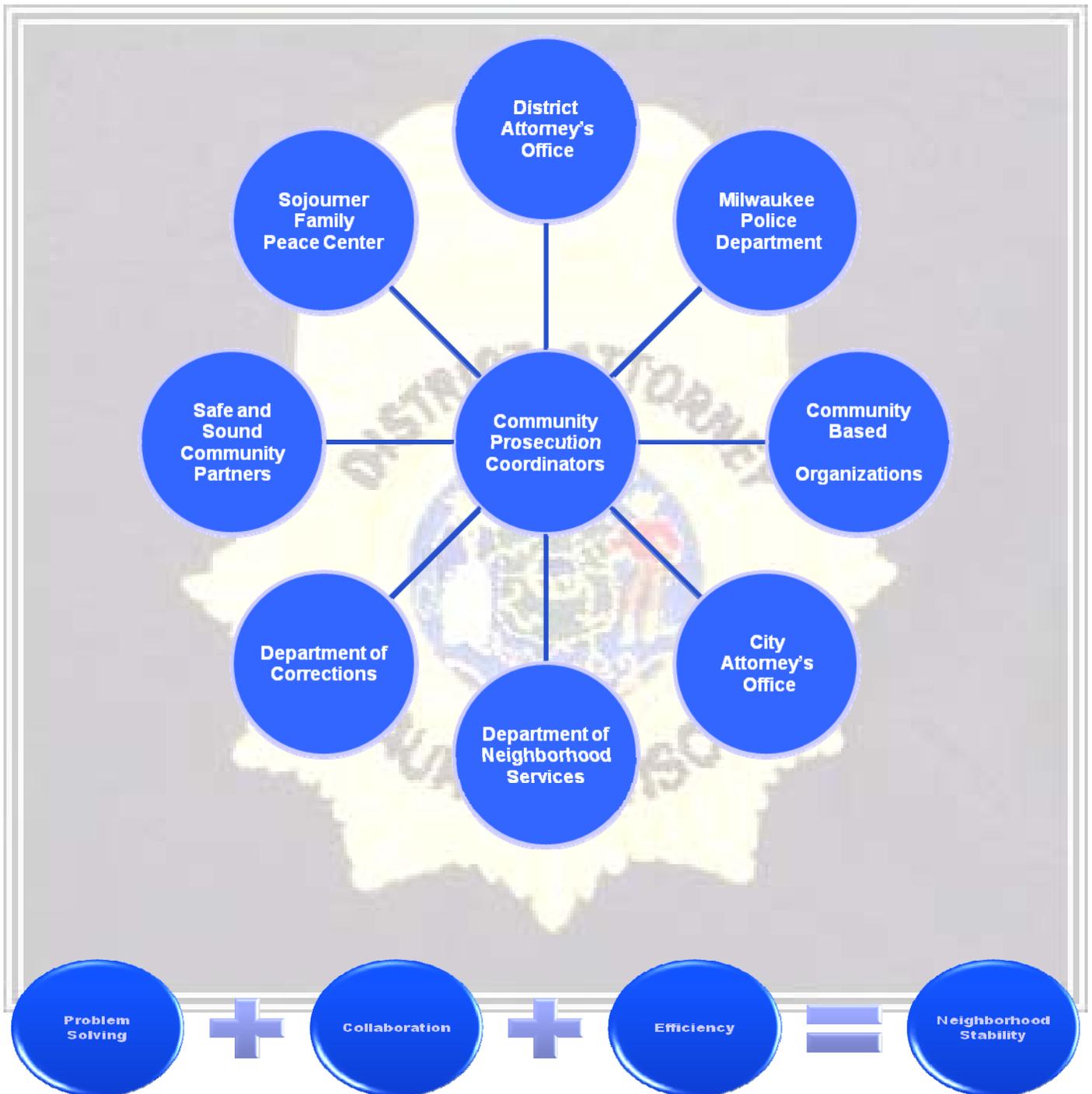
District Attorney John Chisholm addresses Marquette University student volunteers who helped improve the vacant home problem in Milwaukee.



District Attorney John Chisholm often meets with community members and local police to discuss community-driven crime prevention techniques.

# COMMUNITY PROSECUTION STRUCTURE

## THE NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY TEAM



## NEIGHBORHOOD HOT SPOTS

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES A BETTER AND SAFER PLACE TO LIVE  
HOT SPOT FORMS HELP THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY AND COMMUNITY PROSECUTION UNIT IDENTIFY PROBLEMS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

**I have witnessed (check all that apply):**

<u>CRIMINAL</u>	<u>CIVIL</u>	<u>ENVIRONMENTAL</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence <input type="checkbox"/> Drug Activity (sales/use) <input type="checkbox"/> Gang Graffiti <input type="checkbox"/> Prostitution <input type="checkbox"/> Guns/Shootings <input type="checkbox"/> Fights	<input type="checkbox"/> Loitering <input type="checkbox"/> Loud Music/Dogs Barking <input type="checkbox"/> Public Drinking <input type="checkbox"/> Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> Gang Activity <input type="checkbox"/> Entry/Thefts	<input type="checkbox"/> Garbage/Junk <input type="checkbox"/> Broken Windows <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned Auto <input type="checkbox"/> Overgrown Grass/Weeds <input type="checkbox"/> Loose Animals <input type="checkbox"/> Overcrowding <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/In & Out

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Problem Address/ specific location: \_\_\_\_\_

Apartment number: \_\_\_\_\_  Upper  Lower  Front  Back

Describe in detail the nuisance or criminal activity: \_\_\_\_\_

How long has the activity been observed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date last observed: \_\_\_\_\_

Most active hours:  Nighttime  Daytime  Weekends  Parties  Other \_\_\_\_\_

If drug related, selling is done at:  Door Front/ Side/ Back  Window Front/ Side/ Back  Street  Alley

At the problem property, are there:  Guns/weapons  Dogs  Children  Elderly  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Who is coming to location:  Males  White  Black  Hispanic  Other

Ages \_\_\_\_\_

Females  White  Black  Hispanic  Other

Ages \_\_\_\_\_

Suspects' names/nicknames: \_\_\_\_\_

Male  Female  White  Black  Hispanic  Other Ages: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Hair Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Gang Member:  No  Yes What Gang: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle: Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_

License Plate: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Information/ Concerns:**

If you choose, please provide the following information so that we can contact you if we have questions or updates. Your contact information will not be released without prior consultation. Thank you for your willingness to help.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send To: Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, 821 W. State Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233**

**COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT**  
**Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office**  
**Community Prosecution Unit**  
**821 W. State Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233**

State of Wisconsin vs. \_\_\_\_\_ Case # \_\_\_\_\_

Sentencing Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Offense Address: \_\_\_\_\_

A COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT is presented at sentencing and is your opportunity to discuss the effects that this crime has had on you. This Community Impact Statement will be shared with the judge, the District Attorney's Office, and the defendant and his/her attorney. The following questions are a guide to help you prepare your statement.

Due to the recent illegal activity in your neighborhood, have you, your family, or your neighbors been assaulted or hurt? Has anyone been robbed, mugged or shot?

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How has your neighborhood changed due to this recent activity? Has your safety been affected? How is the neighborhood different?

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Has this activity in your neighborhood caused financial loss? Has anything been stolen from your home, apartment or business? Has an act of vandalism, such as damaged property or graffiti, taken place?

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If the defendant is found guilty or pleads guilty, do you have an opinion as to the conditions of his/her sentence such as restitution; a No Contact Order; length of incarceration, probation, counseling, community service, etc.?

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Feel free to use additional space if necessary. Please return this form as soon as possible to the address above.

# THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE'S COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS

**MPD District 1 – Laura Crivello**

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