



OFFICE OF THE VANDERBURGH
COUNTY PROSECUTOR

DIANA L. MOERS

BIENNIAL REPORT
2023-2024





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CITY & COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION


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Our Mission



The mission of the Office of the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor is to effectively and efficiently represent the State of Indiana in criminal court proceedings; maintain a fair and diligent pursuit of justice; invest in technology and training opportunities to fuel an innovative approach to prosecution; deepen partnerships and collaboration with law enforcement agencies; engage in community endeavors that work to better the circumstances of crime victims; partner with organizations who are working to combat crime and provide services to victims; and continue to protect, serve, and advocate for the citizens of Vanderburgh County.

FOREWORD

Time flies when you're doing what you love! 2023 and 2024 were phenomenal years personally and professionally, and I am proud of the work my team accomplished for Vanderburgh County. The deputy prosecutors secured convictions in hundreds of cases taking criminals off the streets; the victim advocates assisted crime victims by navigating them through the complicated justice process; the child support staff enforced child support for thousands of Vanderburgh County children; and the adult protective services unit investigated reports of abuse to our vulnerable senior population and other endangered adults.

One of the biggest accomplishments has been to raise the pay of the deputy prosecutors, whose salaries went from being among the lowest in the state to being much more competitive when compared to similarly-sized counties. This much-needed investment could not have been achieved without the support of the Vanderburgh County Council. I am especially pleased to announce the investment of over \$100,000 of forfeiture funds back into the community through organizations like Holly's House, Heartbeats for Heroes, Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Albion Fellows Bacon Center, the Evansville Police Foundation, and more.

My office continued to take an innovative approach to crime prosecution by ensuring our High Tech Crime Unit was fully equipped to conduct digital investigations; working with partner agencies to host a National Integrated Ballistic Information Network van, and establishing a Crime Gun Intelligence Center. In addition, my office reestablished and assumed leadership of the regional Sexual Assault Response Team. 2023 and 2024 were successful years, and I am honored to have served this community.



DIANA L. MOERS
VANDERBURGH COUNTY PROSECUTOR



Prosecutor's Office 2023



Prosecutor's Office 2024

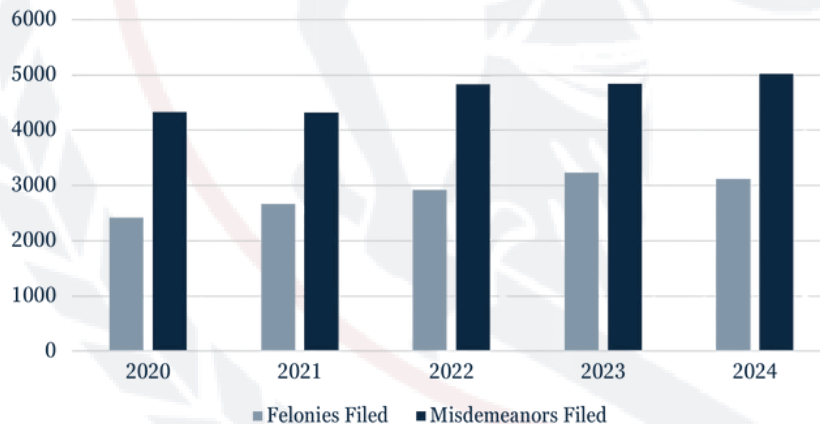
CASES BY THE NUMBER

The office has purposefully sought to (1) take cases to trial when a plea would not adequately hold criminals accountable for their actions; and (2) not just maintain but consistently improve upon its trial performance. Both goals have been successfully achieved due to investing in support staff to ensure trial preparedness, facilitating better communication with law enforcement officers and victims, placing a high importance on professional training, promoting specialization by deputy prosecutors in certain types of cases such as domestic violence, and advancing the use of cutting-edge technology and resources to investigate and prosecute cases.

CASES FILED

2023: 4835 misdemeanors and 3132 felonies. This was a **14% increase** from cases filed in 2020.

2024: 5020 misdemeanors and 3117 felonies.



FELONY JURY TRIAL WINS

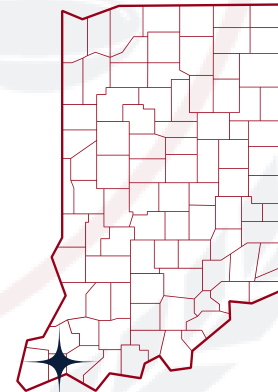
The office celebrated 29 felony jury trial wins in 2023 and 37 wins in 2024. In both 2023 and 2024, the office obtained a successful conviction in **100%** of its **murder trials**. In 2024, the office also had a **100%** conviction rate in **child molesting trials** and in **neglect resulting in death trials**.

MISDEMEANOR BENCH TRIAL WINS

In 2024, the office had a **84% conviction rate** in misdemeanor bench trials.

CLOSED CASES

The office closed **4466 misdemeanors** and **2958 felonies** in 2023. In 2024, the office closed **4630 misdemeanors** and **2861 felonies**.



VICTIM ASSISTANCE

The office has a statutory obligation to keep crime victims informed as to key legal proceedings. Our advocacy unit helps crime victims navigate the criminal justice process, keeps them apprised of case updates, connects them with shelter, medical, financial, counseling, and other resources in the community, and offers overall support and advocacy for the victim and their family in a very critical time.

VICTIM ADVOCACY AT-A-GLANCE

Full-time victim advocates: 7

Funding: **\$848,876.80** in federal grant funding in 2024, which was a **24% increase** from the 2022 award.

2023:

- **9,048 victims** received our advocacy services.
- Over **20,000 direct services** provided per quarter (in addition to existing clients).

2024:

- **9,368 victims** received our advocacy services.
- Over **24,000 direct services** provided per quarter (in addition to existing clients).

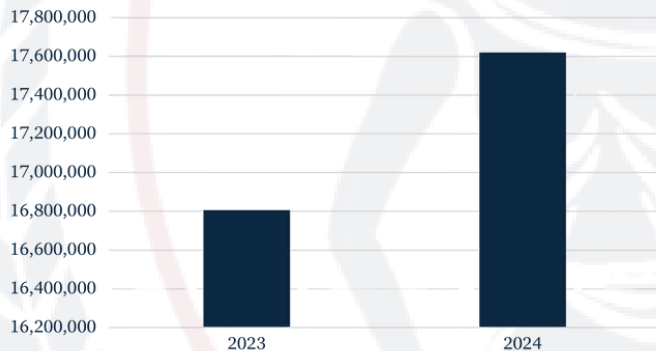


Victim advocates hand out resources in the Civic Center for National Crime Victims' Rights Week
April 19, 2023

CHILD SUPPORT

The Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office Child Support Unit is one of the largest child support enforcement offices in the state with a staff exceeding 25 employees. These attorneys and enforcement officers work diligently to ensure that children in Vanderburgh County are getting the financial resources they need to succeed. In 2023 and 2024 combined, the unit collected over **\$34 million** in child support.

Annual Child Support Collections



CASELOAD SNAPSHOT

On December 31, 2024, the child support unit was managing a caseload of **7,984**. That is a reduction from **8,359** open cases on December 31, 2023.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES WITH THE INVEST PILOT PROGRAM

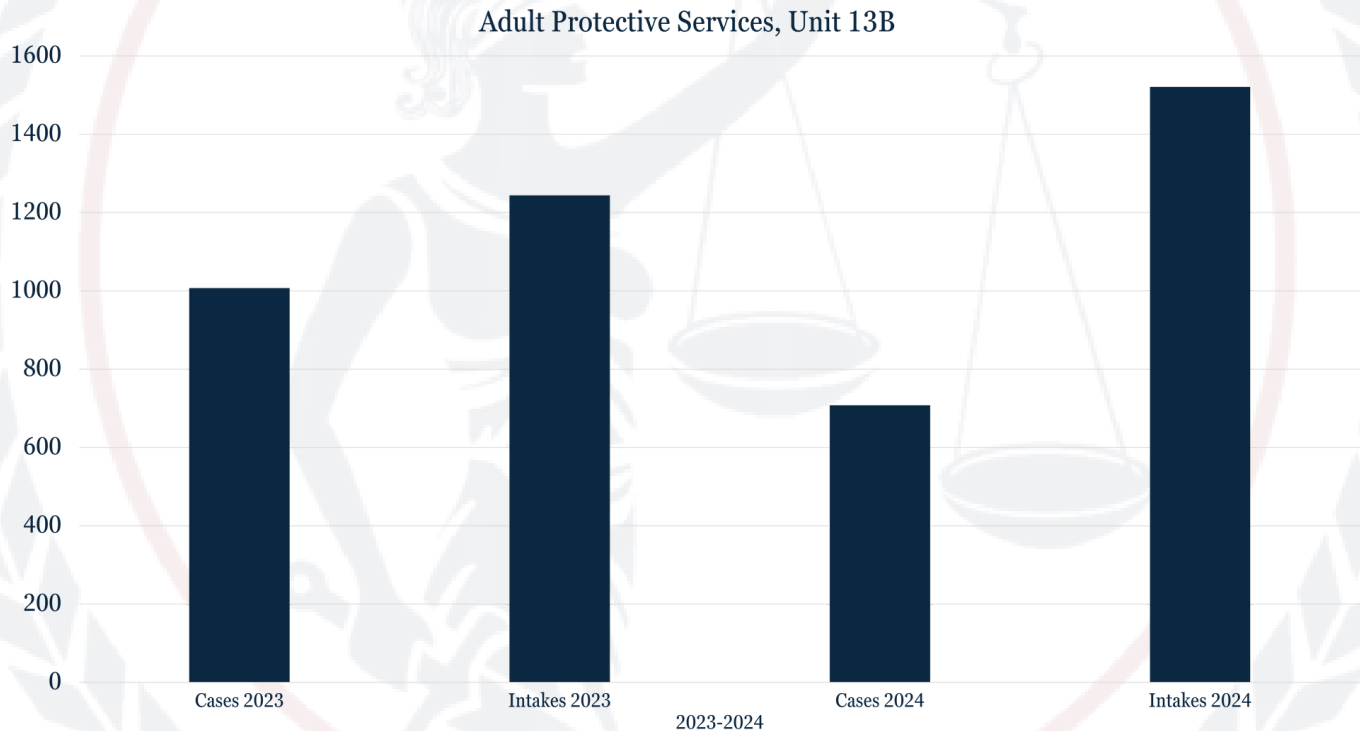
Vanderburgh County was one of three pilot counties in the state who participated in the INvest pilot project. INvest was to be Indiana's new and improved child support enforcement computer system. Unfortunately, the system was defective and did not function properly for any of the pilot counties. The staff did an amazing job diving into issues with INvest and were able to articulate, clearly and repeatedly, to the Indiana Child Support Bureau and the product vendors why INvest did not work in a myriad of aspects and was fundamentally flawed.

The staff stood united with the other two pilot counties and successfully convinced the State of the necessity of ending the INvest pilot before its planned rollout to the other 89 Indiana counties. The Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council provided a great amount of support to argue for transition back to the prior system.

At the start of September 2023, our INvest cases moved back into the ISETS program. The staff did an exemplary job with the roll-back process and prevented further issues for the families we serve.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Adult Protective Services Unit 13B is a division of the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office. The APS unit receives and investigates reports regarding endangered adults and covers multiple counties including Vanderburgh, Warrick, Posey, Gibson, Perry, and Spencer. If the APS unit determines that an endangered adult is being abused, neglected, or exploited, it may coordinate a proper response to protect them.



INNOVATION & INITIATIVES

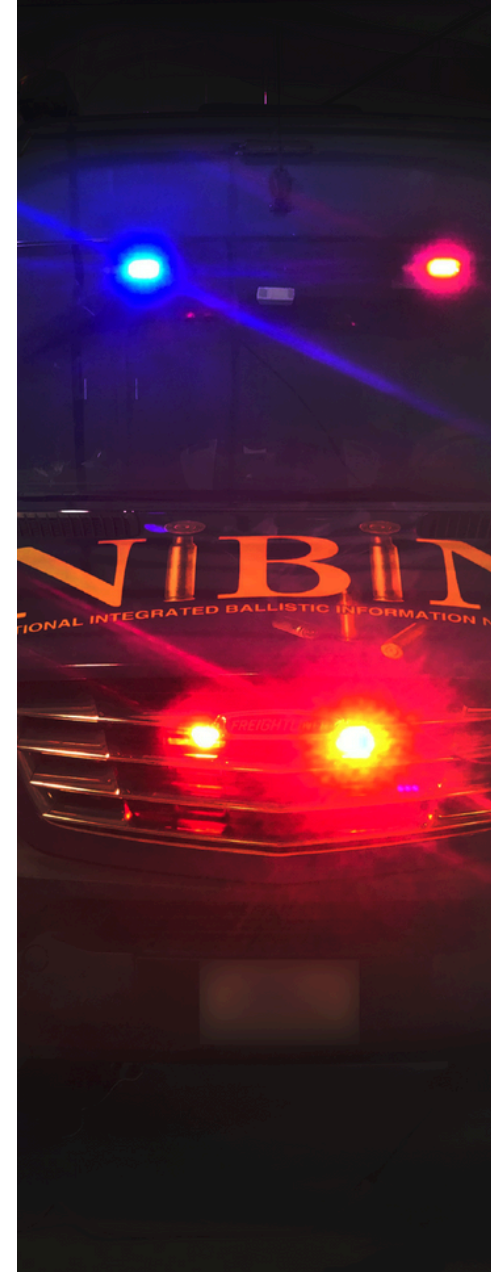
FIGHTING GUN CRIME - NIBIN

In 2023, the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office partnered with federal and regional law enforcement agencies to establish a NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistics Information Network) initiative in Evansville to specifically combat the rapidly rising rates of gun crime.

As part of this initiative, Prosecutor Moers worked to secure a mobile NIBIN van in Vanderburgh County—one of only four mobile vans in the entire country. The van was available for use by law enforcement to enter casings (each gun produces unique marks on shell casings) and obtain leads. Staffing was supplied by the office and the Indiana State Police. The van was in operation from August 15 through November 15, 2023.



NIBIN Press Conference
November 15, 2023





INNOVATION & INITIATIVES

CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE CENTER (CGIC)

In the fall of 2023, the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office was awarded a federal grant in the amount of nearly \$700,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice to establish a local law enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC).

The office is one of only two prosecutor's offices in the country to take the leadership role for their region's CGIC.

The goal of the Vanderburgh County Crime Gun Intelligence Center is to specifically target and address the amount of gun crime in Vanderburgh County by sharing and focusing intelligence, analysis, and resources among agencies for the swift identification and apprehension of suspected criminals and later successful prosecution.

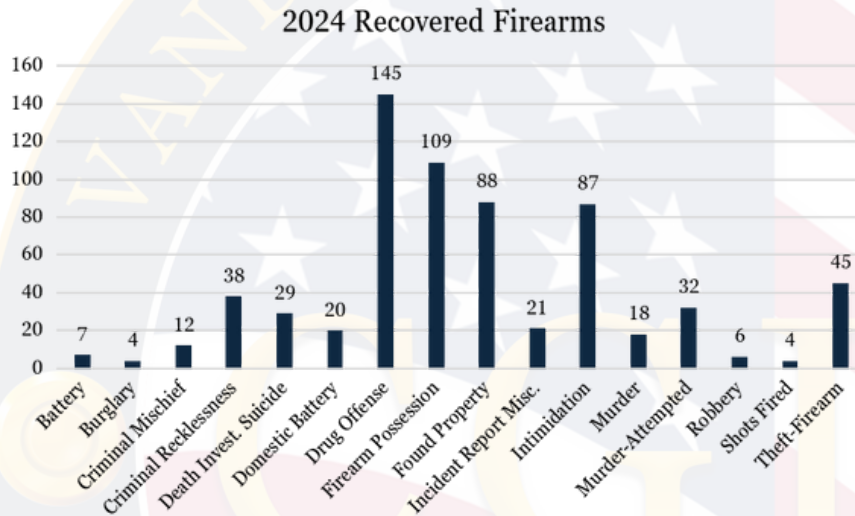
"As the Prosecutor, I felt it was important to apply for this grant because of the precipitous increase in violent crime and specifically gun-related crime in recent years in Vanderburgh and surrounding counties in Southern Indiana. The crime rate in Vanderburgh County is unacceptable—particularly as it relates to shots fired—and my office got to work right away to do something about it," stated Prosecutor Diana Moers.

The **Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office**, **Evansville Police Department**, and **Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office**, with significant assistance from the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives**, collaborated to expand the efforts of an existing task force, which had previously been formed to investigate drug and gun cases, into the CGIC. This catalyzed a fresh, focused approach to investigations of gun crimes through timely collection of shell casings (either left at the crime scene or test-fired from crime guns) and submitting them to a national database maintained by the ATF. If there is a match, then a lead is generated that can point to guns used in the commission of crimes and link them to suspects. Law enforcement are then able to make quick arrests that take dangerous criminals off the streets and prevent additional violence.



INNOVATION & INITIATIVES

CGIC STATS



AUG-DEC 2023 STATISTICS

- Number of Firearms Recovered: 208
- Number of Casings Collected: 172

2024 CGIC STATISTICS

- Number of Firearms Recovered: 665
- Number of Casings Collected: 565



Federal partners from the National Policing Institute visit the CGIC
May 21-22, 2024

CGIC STUDENT INTERNS

In 2024, the CGIC hired two student interns. The internship program is designed to train them in digital investigations, firearms and narcotics related crimes, and pattern recognition and analysis. The interns are exposed to an array of learning opportunities, including electronic evidence collection and digital analysis, open-source intelligence search, and intelligence analysis process.

The addition of two student interns complements the CGIC's mission to combat gun violence by generating leads for local law enforcement. It is also a fantastic opportunity to develop a pipeline of future analysts for the CGIC and invest in the next generation of law enforcement.

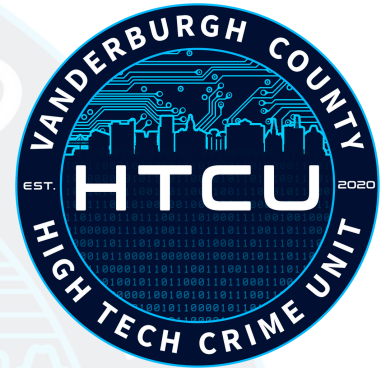
INNOVATION & INITIATIVES

HIGH TECH CRIME UNIT (HTCU)

The High Tech Crime Unit is located in the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office and is a regional leader in digital investigations.

Established in 2020, the HTCU is a small but highly-trained unit of investigators who are able to extract digital evidence from devices such as cell phones, computers, vehicles, and gaming stations in a remarkable turn-around time of **less than 3 business days**.

The HTCU uses cutting edge technology and has an **82% successful extraction rate**, which means law enforcement has far greater access to timely actionable intelligence. Over 40 different law enforcement agencies from 11 different states, including the United States Secret Service, have benefited from the expertise of the investigators in the HTCU. The HTCU has transformed the digital intelligence landscape in the Southern Indiana region and contributed to an ever-increasing number of successful convictions for the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office.



14 News Press Story on the HTCU
May 2024

INNOVATION & INITIATIVES

HTCU BY THE NUMBERS

At the end of 2024, the Vanderburgh County High Tech Crime Unit has processed over **2860 devices** and **110 terabytes of digital evidence** since its inception.

2023: **873 devices** (73/month), **31.8 TB of data** (2.7 TB/month)

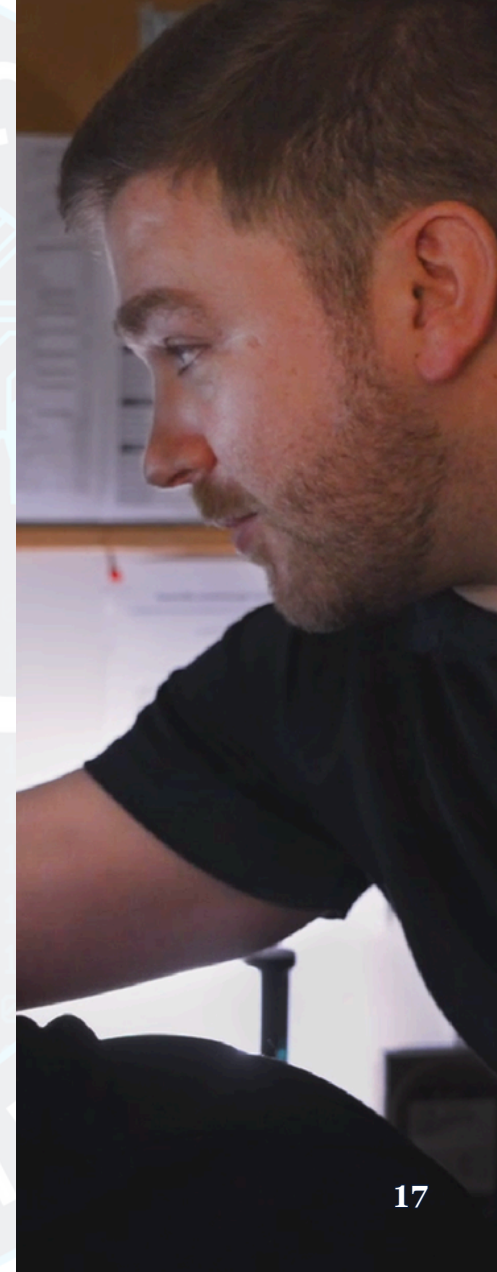
2024: **809 devices** (68/month), **35.8 TB of data** (3.0 TB/month)

ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

Through the award of a new grant in 2024 from the U.S. Department of Justice and the support of the Vanderburgh County Council, the personnel costs of the HTCU are now permanently sustained and the necessary licenses for its technology have been renewed for the next several years.

Importantly, the HTCU has invested in the next generation of investigators by hiring student interns in partnership with local universities—the University of Evansville and the University of Southern Indiana. These student interns assist the investigators by delving into case investigations, conducting forensic computer examinations, forensically imaging digital evidence, and conducting cellular telephone examinations. Several interns have found permanent positions within the Prosecutor's Office.

Through the new grant, the HCTU is developing a novel curriculum for use in a more formal student internship program in this cutting-edge field of study.



INNOVATION & INITIATIVES

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM

VANDERBURGH COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TAKES LEADERSHIP

Prosecutor Moers proudly reinvigorated the regional Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) for Vanderburgh, Warrick, Posey, and Gibson counties. Indiana law dictates that the county Prosecutor shall establish the SART and, due to the need to address the prevalence of domestic violence and sexual assault in the community, Prosecutor Moers took steps to assume leadership of the SART and enhance its effectiveness.

The Vanderburgh, Warrick, Posey, and Gibson County Sexual Assault Response Team consists of representatives from prosecutor's offices, law enforcement, the Indiana State Police Forensics Lab, advocacy services, medical services and sexual assault nurse examiners ("SANE"), SANE training services, universities, and other partners. Each discipline works together to carry out the mission of responding more effectively to sexual violence in the region and reducing the incidence of such cases.



“My goal is to work with this great team of trained professionals to increase public awareness of available resources in the region for victims of sex crimes, increase communication between each discipline who works to respond to sexual assault reports and serve victims, and conduct regular case reviews to identify gaps and increase effectiveness in response protocol going forward. Victims of sexual assault can rest assured we will assist—they are not alone,” stated Prosecutor Moers.

SART Press Conference
October 4, 2024

CIVIC CENTER



October 4, 2024

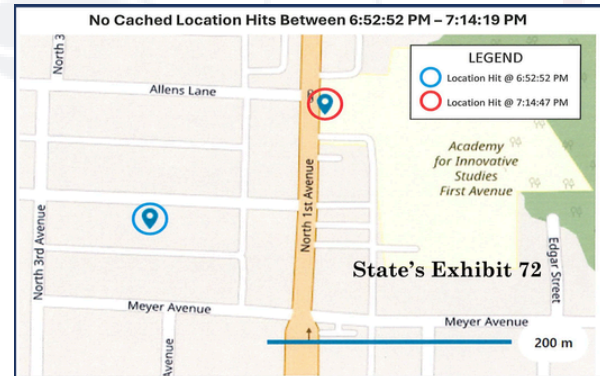
INNOVATION & INITIATIVES

COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY

Providing the technology and resources for our deputy prosecutors to be successful in trial was another goal achieved in 2023. The Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office purchased ELMO PX-10 projectors to use during trials. These projectors have made it easier and more effective for deputy prosecutors to present physical evidence and demonstrative materials to the jury, which makes for a more seamless trial process.

The deputy prosecutors have also worked on honing their skills in the presentation of digital forensic evidence gathered by the HTCUC. In an age where juries expect investigations to be cutting-edge, the office has endeavored to make the most of out the technology available to it, which has produced dividends as forensic evidence has helped clinch guilty verdicts in many trials.

The office will continue to seek out and adopt the best practices for presentation of evidence to juries in an increasingly digital landscape.



Prosecutor Moers presents digital evidence to the jury in the murder trial of State v. Fox-Doerr
May 2024

COLLABORATION WITH THE JUDICIARY

TREATMENT COURTS

Vanderburgh County is fortunate to have a judiciary that is passionate about problem-solving courts, which seek justice while also addressing any special circumstances or needs defendants may have. The Prosecutor's Office has assigned deputy prosecutors to these courts where defendants are still held accountable.

MENTAL HEALTH COURT

The Mental Health Court serves those who have committed misdemeanor violations, or referrals of low-level, non-violent felony cases. The court is dedicated to helping those whose mental health issues bring them into contact with the criminal justice system, oftentimes repeatedly. From 2023 through 2024, the court had 144 referrals, 70 admitted participants, and 25 graduates.

VETERAN'S COURT

The Veteran's Court is a unique opportunity specifically tailored for those who have served our country to reclaim their lives and identities after committing low-level, non-violent crimes. The goal of this court is to provide treatment and rehabilitative support to service members with the hopes of improving quality of life for participants as well as their families and reducing the likelihood of reoffending. From 2023 through 2024, the court had approximately 60 admitted participants and 20 successful graduates.

DRUG COURTS

There are three distinct programs in drug treatment court: Vanderburgh County Day Reporting, the Forensic Diversion Program, and Re-entry Drug Court. In 2023, there were 322 active participants, and 301 active participants in 2024. An applicant undergoes an interview and evaluation process by a drug court case manager/case worker. The interview and evaluation process is used to ascertain the individual's frequency of drug use, the kind of drugs used, how long they have used drugs, housing and living situation, and more. The defendant receives intense supervision and treatment to break the cycle of drug addiction and criminal activity.

TRAINING & CONTINUING EDUCATION

A leading goal of the office is to provide top-notch training for deputy prosecutors and staff, all in furtherance of ensuring that the office is effectively serving the community with best practices and a strong command of the law.

Twenty nine of our deputy prosecutors, child support enforcement officers, investigators, victim advocates, and administration—**totaling 40% of the entire staff**—attended over 15 external trainings through the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, National District Attorneys Association, United States Secret Service, and other federal and local agencies in 2023.

Specialized trainings such as Top Gun, ChildFirst, Evidence Boot Camp, Trial Advocacy, Cross Examination, De-escalation, Mobile Device Examiner, and others allowed deputy prosecutors to be more knowledgeable about novel and developing topics, and better equipped to carry out their duties.



Prosecutor's Office attends Child First Training
in Jasper, IN
March 27-31, 2023



Prosecutor's Office attends ATF Training in
Indianapolis, IN
October 23, 2023

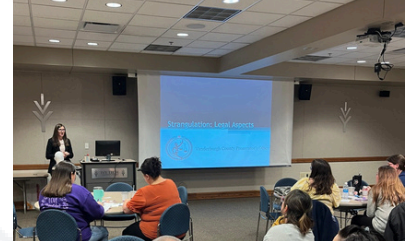
TRAINING & CONTINUING EDUCATION

This tradition of investing in training continued into 2024 with the office prioritizing partnerships with other agencies to facilitate training opportunities.

In March 2024, the **STOP Domestic Violence Deputy Prosecutor**, who specializes in the prosecution of domestic violence and sex crimes, was invited to instruct a training session on the Legal Aspects of Strangulation at the **Medical and Legal Aspects of Traumatic Strangulation and Trial Preparation Course** hosted at Ivy Tech Community College.

In December 2024, the **HTCU investigators** were asked by the U.S. Department of Justice to present on the HTCU at the **National Public Safety Partnership Conference**. HTCU investigators outlined the history of the unit, successes in court, challenges with technology updates and data encryption, the internship program, and guidance for any prospective agencies.

Twice in both 2023 and 2024, the office led sessions at the **Southwestern Indiana Law Enforcement Academy** to teach police cadets about the legal aspects of their job and how the courts and law enforcement work in tandem to bring justice.



Deputy Prosecutor Honaker
instructs on strangulation
March 1, 2024



Prosecutor Moers and Chief
Deputy Lin present to SWILEA
February 12, 2024



Prosecutor Moers provides
legal updates to the VCSO
May 2024

TRAINING & CONTINUING EDUCATION

COLLABORATION WITH THE EBA

The **Evansville Bar Association's** (EBA) mission is “to enhance the practice of law, cultivate professional excellence, promote high ethical standards and uphold the honor of the profession.” Because of the importance of this philosophy to the ethical and effective prosecution of criminals, Prosecutor Moers encouraged her deputy prosecutors to join the EBA and covered their membership dues for the first time in the office’s history!

In 2024, Prosecutor Moers joined the **Board of Directors** of the Evansville Bar Association to further strengthen the office’s partnership with EBA. In addition, **\$7,000** was donated to the EBA from 2023-2024. “This funding allows the EBA to advance its critical mission, meaning lawyers will have access to training opportunities and additional resources they need to practice the law with excellence; and further, the citizens of Vanderburgh County will continue to receive the representation and advocacy they deserve in the courtroom,” stated Prosecutor Moers.



Prosecutor Moers presents a check to the Evansville Bar Foundation
January 18, 2024

PUBLIC ACCESS & TRANSPARENCY

PRESS RELEASES

The Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office has focused on increasing public awareness of the critical function the office plays in the criminal justice system and community. To advance that goal, the office has issued more than **50 press releases**. These press releases inform the community about certain high-profile guilty verdicts, sentencing, community updates, and office initiatives. In addition, the office has participated in press conferences and other media updates to ensure that the public is aware of its activities and initiatives.



OFFICE OF THE VANDERBURGH COUNTY PROSECUTOR
DIANA L. MOERS

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For Immediate Release
September 11, 2024

*****MEDIA ALERT*****

CONTACT: Winston Lin
Phone: 219-242-2417

FATHER OF INFANT SEVERELY WOUNDED BY RATS **FOUND GUILTY AS CHARGED**

Evansville, IN – Prosecutor Diana Moers announces that on September 13, 2024, David Anthony Schonabaum was found guilty of 3 felonies related to the neglect and



Prosecutor Moers
speaks to News Makers
September 10, 2024



Chief Deputy Lin
addresses the press in
the federal building
February 26, 2024



PUBLIC ACCESS & TRANSPARENCY

ABC 20/20

On June 17, 2024, Prosecutor Moers and Deputy Prosecutor Stan Levco were interviewed by ABC News for the 20/20 episode ***Fire and Vice***. The episode aired on November 8, 2024, and covered the ***State v. Elizabeth Fox Doerr murder trial*** which Moers and Levco successfully prosecuted in May of 2024. The case highlighted the murder of beloved Evansville firefighter, Robert Doerr, by his wife, Elizabeth Fox-Doerr, in a conspiracy.



Prosecution and investigation team after the Fox-Doerr guilty verdict
May 2024



Evansville Policeman's Ball
September 21, 2024



Holly's House Brian Turpin Service Awards
October 27, 2023

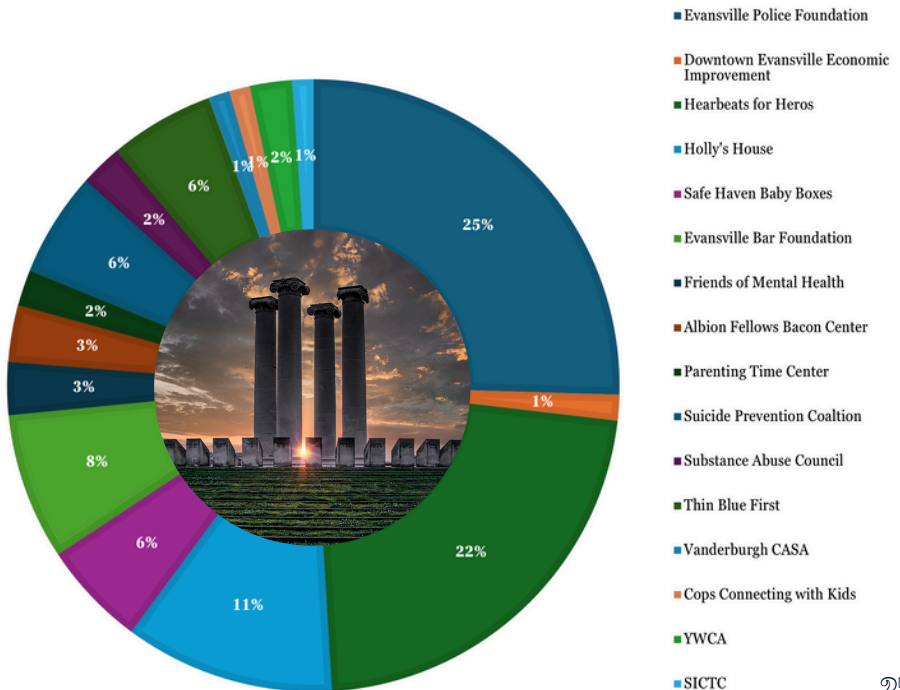


Evansville Policeman's Ball
September 23, 2023

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

From 2023 through 2024, the Prosecutor's Office donated more than **\$119,000** back into the community and law enforcement partners and sponsored **16 events**. Over **\$92,000** of this went to organizations in the community that align with the office's mission and statutory duties, and the remaining was invested in law enforcement.

The Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office has made it a goal to reinvest forfeiture money—monies seized from criminal activity—into organizations in the community that fight crime, deter criminal activity, or better the lives of crime victims.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

FUTURE WOMEN OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Another goal has been to invest in the next generation of law enforcement. Whether through novel internship opportunities, partnerships with the local universities, or speaking to classes in the community, the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office prioritizes paving the way for any students interested in criminal justice.

On November 12, 2024, the office sponsored the **Future Women of Criminal Justice** event hosted by the **Southern Indiana Career and Tech Institute**. The overwhelming majority of students in Mr. Jeff Hand's Criminal Justice class are females, and that inspired this great instructor and his students to host this inaugural event. This provided an excellent opportunity for deputy prosecutors, law enforcement officers, FBI agents, magistrate judges, investigators, the mayor, and other professionals to connect and share advice with these exceptional students. Many thanks go to Taylor Merris of the Evansville Police Department who assisted to host a truly inspiring event.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

HEARTBEATS FOR HEROS

In 2023 and 2024, the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office gave **\$20,000** to **Heartbeats for Heroes**, a volunteer organization headed by Margaret Musgrave and Nancy Drake, to purchase **Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)** for the Evansville Police Department. These AEDs are vital to the safety of our officers and the safety of any members of the community who they may encounter during their constant patrol on the streets. Because of this donation, more patrol cars will now have an AED for anyone who may witness a life-threatening cardiac event.



Prosecutor Moers gives remarks at
Heartbeats for Heroes fundraiser
July 12, 2024



Prosecutor Moers presents AEDs to
the Evansville Police Department
November 14, 2023



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

SAFE HAVEN BABY BOXES

Indiana's Safe Haven Law allows a mother to anonymously surrender her baby 30 days old or younger, and **Safe Haven Baby Boxes** is a secure way to do so. The Prosecutor's Office interest in this organization is to target the infant mortality rates in Vanderburgh County due to improper care from parents.

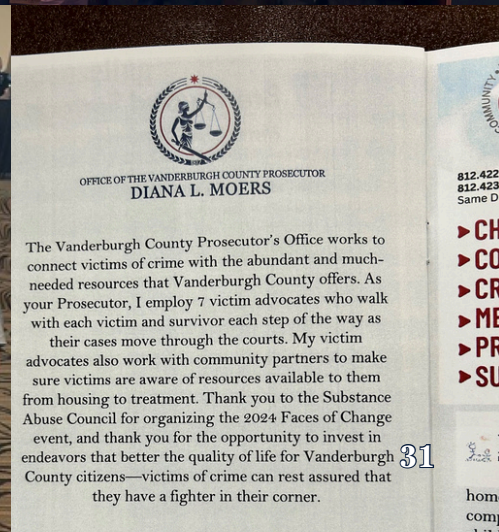
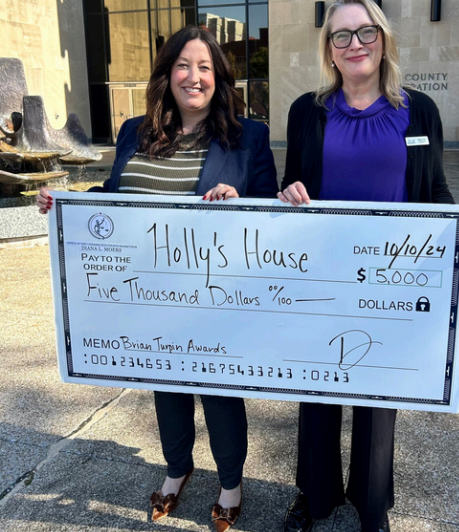
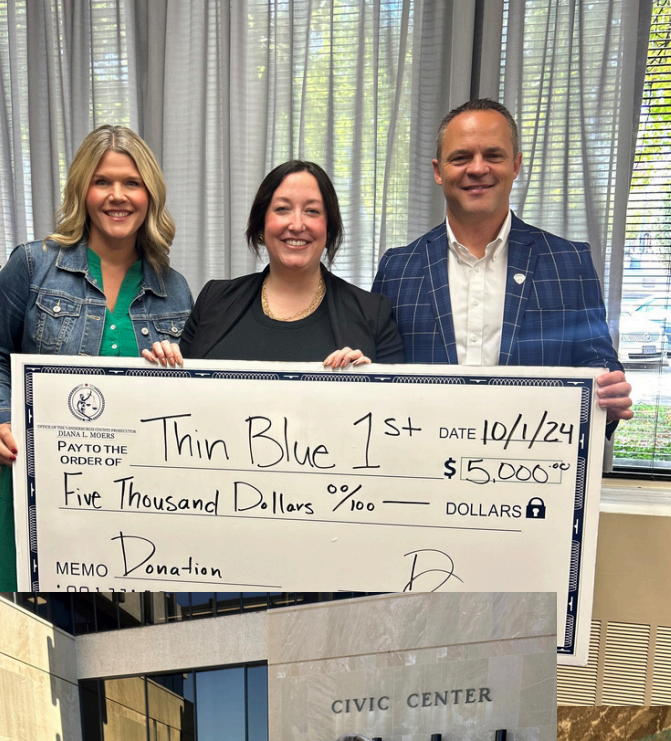
On February 6, 2024, Prosecutor Moers was given a demonstration of a Safe Haven Baby Box that is at a local **Evansville Fire Department Station** and was happy to donate \$5,000 to this cause. Jennifer Savage with Safe Haven Baby Boxes is also part of the investigations team in the Prosecutor's Office - cultivating a great partnership.



ADDRESSING INFANT MORTALITY

The Prosecutor's Office is an active member of several boards and initiatives that work to tackle child abuse and infant mortality including the MDT meetings organized by **Holly's House** and regular communication with the **Department of Child Services**.

Further, the office has dedicated and empowered deputy prosecutors to prosecute crimes against children through specialized training opportunities, coordinating with other agencies, and developing expertise through prosecutions of similar subject matter.



SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

Not including the donations to the Evansville Police Foundation, the Prosecutor's Office has spent nearly **\$27,000** on law enforcement needs. Whether it is drone equipment, sleeves and crates for the K9 unit, or Flock Cameras, the office has made it a priority to make sure that law enforcement are equipped to serve and protect Vanderburgh County.



K9 Officer Cash and his Sgt. C. Offerman visit the
Prosecutor's Office to discuss equipment needs
March 13, 2024



Prosecutor Moers
joins EPD and VCSO
at the Fall Fest
Parade
October 2023



SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

GUN LIAISON TRAINING

May 2023



On May 23-24, 2023, members of the Evansville Police Department, Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office, Warrick County Sheriff's Office, Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office and ATF attended a **Gun Liaison Training**. This training was administered by the Indiana Crime Gun Task Force out of Indianapolis and taught law enforcement personnel how to collect and process firearms. The participants learned how to properly recover DNA, take photographs, and fingerprint recovered guns. The class was sponsored by the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office and the ATF.

November 2024



On November 18-19, 2024, the Prosecutor's Office took the lead in organizing another gun liaison training and donated evidence collection bags to the participants. The two-day intensive training was put on with the partnership of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Indiana State Police, ATF Task Force Officers, and the U.S Attorney's Office to ensure best practices for stronger cases.

May 2023



This training was part of the Vanderburgh County Crime Gun Intelligence Center's objective to ensure law enforcement are well-trained and equipped to investigate gun crimes, which is enhanced by being able to collect DNA and ballistic evidence on the spot.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS



Prosecutor's Office
visits community
partner, Brentwood
Springs
May 31, 2023



Prosecutor's Office sponsors
the Dog Day Downtown and
hands out resources on
reporting animal abuse
September 16, 2023



Prosecutor's Office partners
with the Sheriff's Office for
the Faith and Blue Event
October 9, 2023



Prosecutor's Office
volunteers at the
Lifesavers' Suicide
Prevention Walk
September 9, 2023



Prosecutor's Office
recognizes the success
of its Peacemaker
Youth Initiative
September 27, 2023

COMMUNITY OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS



Prosecutor and Chief Deputy hand out candy and “Spooky Drug Facts” at the DEA’s “Drugs are a Trick not a Treat” event
October 26, 2023



Prosecutor’s Office joins other offices for an EBA event
July 18, 2024



National Night Out
August 6, 2024

Prosecutor’s Office presents at the Crime Scene Investigation Night hosted by the EPD Foundation
April 11, 2024



Chief Deputy Lin joins Sheriff Robinson and the Honorable Judge Shively in a City-County Observer panel discussing crime trends
August 1, 2024

COMMUNITY OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS



Prosecutor's Office
meets with Now
Counseling
August 7, 2024



Prosecutor's Office
participates in the City-
County Observer Awards
luncheon
September 20, 2024



Prosecutor's Office
participates in Coffee
with a Cop
October 2, 2024



Prosecutor's Office
shows support at the
Lifesavers' Suicide
Prevention Walk
September 14, 2024



Prosecutor's Office
sponsors the Dog Day
Downtown and hands
out resources on
reporting animal abuse
September 21, 2024

BEYOND VANDERBURGH COUNTY

For Prosecutor Moers and her office, the vision has always been extended beyond not just the betterment of Vanderburgh County but also ways in which we can partner with surrounding communities and agencies to create a more prosperous and safer region. Whether advocating for the needs of our Victim Assistance unit to **legislators in Washington D.C.**, connecting with **Attorney General Merrick Garland**, or meeting with **Indiana Supreme Court Justices**, “we never miss an opportunity to let others know what’s going on in Vanderburgh County and discuss issues concerning us all,” states Prosecutor Moers.



The Honorable Chief Justice Loretta Rush, the Honorable Judge Leslie Shively, Prosecutor Diana Moers, and Chief Deputy Winston Lin chat after Chief Justice Rush’s Traveling Lecture Series
September 24, 2024



United States Attorney
General Merrick Garland
and Prosecutor Moers
December 10, 2023



Prosecutor Moers meets with Congressman Jim Banks, Congressman
Larry Bucshon, and former Senator Mike Braun in Washington, D.C. to
advocate for the Victim Assistance program
January 30, 2024



BEYOND VANDERBURGH COUNTY

UNITED NATIONS

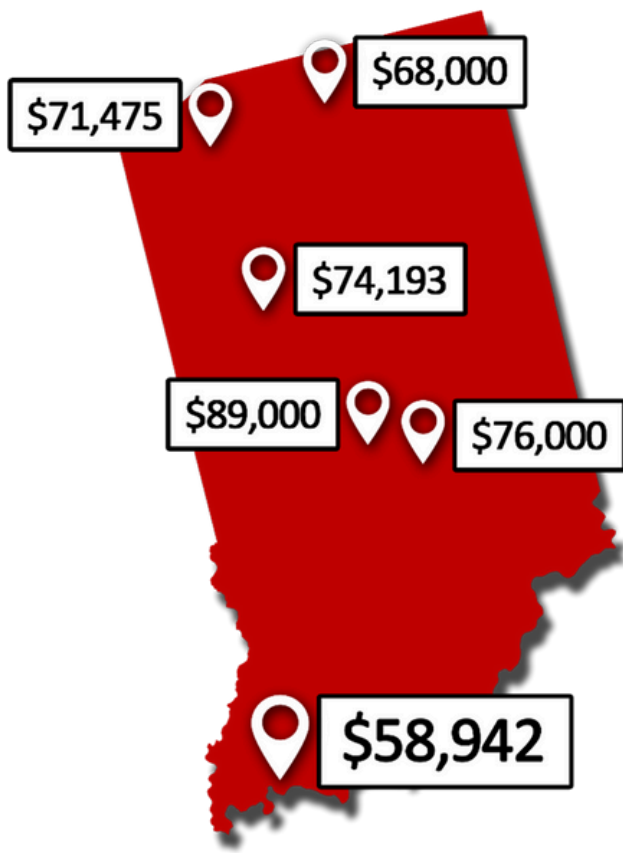


On November 14, 2024, through the invitation of Holly's House, Prosecutor Moers attended a meeting at the United Nations in New York City. The meeting was conducted by the Princess of Sweden concerning the amount of violence against children (physical, sexual, and emotional) around the world and served as an opportunity to express the concerns of Vanderburgh County on a global stage.

BUDGET IMPROVEMENTS

WORKING WITH COUNTY COUNCIL

DEPUTY PROSECUTOR SALARIES



One of the first goals was to address the salary discrepancy between deputy prosecutors in Vanderburgh County and the rest of the state. Prosecutor Moers worked alongside the **Vanderburgh County Council** to review the current salaries and advocate for increases. The starting salary for DPAs in Vanderburgh County was **\$58,942**, which was the **lowest rate** out of Indiana counties with comparable populations. Concurrently, the Prosecutor's Office has handled a growing number of cases over the last several years.

From 2020 to 2022, the number of felonies filed rose 20.5% and the number of misdemeanors filed rose 11.5%. Despite this, salaries remained well below those of comparable counties. After strategic planning and research proposals during the county budget sessions, deputy prosecutors starting in the office in 2024 have a base salary of **\$70,540**, which is increased to **\$76,339** after 6 months.

This approximately **20%** increase in salary was targeted to retain the legal talent already in the Prosecutor's Office and attract new talent to the county. As of the end of 2024, the office is proud to report that we have a **full staff of attorneys!** Thank you to the Vanderburgh County Council for approving these raises, and thank you to the deputy prosecutors who work diligently to serve this county!

BUDGET IMPROVEMENTS

GRANT FUNDING SUCCESS

FEDERAL AND STATE INVESTMENT IN VANDERBURGH COUNTY

In 2023 and 2024, the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office was awarded a total of **\$2,404,868.77** in grant funding to support its many initiatives like the Crime Gun Intelligence Center, High Tech Crime Unit, Victim Assistance Unit, STOP Domestic Violence deputy prosecutor, and drug prevention initiatives. These successful applications are due to the excellence of the Prosecutor's Office programs. For example, in 2024, VOCA funding saw a 40% cut nationally, but the office received a 24% increase in 2024 VOCA funding compared to 2022.

These federal and state grants are in addition to the state funding the Prosecutor's Office receives to fund its Adult Protective Services Unit and nearly 75% of its annual Child Support budget.

2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)
\$194,937.00

2024 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)
\$162,230.89

2023 STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant (STOP)
\$55,202.33

2024 STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant (STOP)
\$86,136.75

2024 Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant (VOCA)
\$848,876.80

BJA FY 23 Local Law Enforcement Crime Gun Intelligence Center
Integration
\$698,805.00

BJA FY24 Smart Prosecution – Innovative Prosecution Solutions
\$350,000.00

2023 Substance Abuse Council Grant - Enforcement
\$3,480

2023 Substance Abuse Council Grant - Prevention
\$1,200

2024 Substance Abuse Council Grant - Enforcement
\$4,000

TOTAL GRANT MONIES AWARDED IN 2023-2024:

\$2,404,868.77

STAFF WELL-BEING

FIGHTING BURNOUT

Deputy prosecutors and those who work alongside them are regularly subject to high levels of stress. They are routinely involved in intense cases and exposed to violent and graphic content—yet they continue to faithfully and professionally carry out their duties to ensure criminals are taken off the streets of Vanderburgh County. Prosecutor Moers has made it her goal to invest in healthy work habits and a balanced work life for her staff of over 70 employees.

In 2023, the office started a bi-weekly office **meditation practice** where a local instructor leads the office in stress-relieving meditation. The office has also brought in medical professionals to present on **Stress Management**, hosted **Question, Persuade, Response (QPR) Suicide Prevention** training which outlines ways to identify signs and risk factors for those in crisis and how to respond, and partnered with university researchers to host a **Burnout Training**.



Dr. Garland Gerber with
Northeastern University presented
on fighting burnout
July 30, 2024



Dr. Stephanie Hirons and Julie
Morrow with Ascension St. Vincent
presented on Stress Management
February 27, 2024



CELEBRATE WINS

An important part of a healthy office culture is cheering on your colleagues and celebrating their wins. In October 2024, newly hired deputy prosecutor **Abraham Lampthey** was admitted to the Indiana Bar, and the office joined together to celebrate his achievement!

OFFICE AWARDS

In December of 2023 and 2024, the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office gave awards to employees for their excellence. These awards were decided based upon nominations from the office.

Team Player Award: Judy Reeb (2023), Morgan Richardville (2024)

For exemplifying extraordinary collaboration, communication, and encouragement to all colleagues while carrying out the duties and mission of the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office.

Champion Award: Joshua Hutcheson (2023), Candra Loehrlein (2024)

For recognition of overall excellence in skill, leadership, and selfless service in carrying out the duties and mission of the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office.

Leadership Award: Kelly Smith (2023), Sharon Ashley (2024)

For excellence in providing direction and innovation while working with colleagues to carry out the duties and mission of the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office.

Special Recognition: Avis Green (2023)

For making every day better from our first step into the office, being our luminous face to the public and stalwart defender, and your 12 years of service to the Vanderburgh County Prosecutor's Office.

Special Recognition: Audrey Beckerle (2024)

For her quiet and unwavering dedication to victims and fellow colleagues and her relentless pursuit of justice and personal improvement in the practice of law.



On October 25, 2024, **Robyn Mastison**, Director of Victim Assistance, won the Brian Turpin Service Award for her excellence and dedication to serving victims of crime. Audrey Beckerle, deputy prosecutor, was also nominated for this prestigious award.



Thank You

A huge thank-you to the Vanderburgh County Council for their support and work in allocating the funding my office needs to serve and protect the citizens of Vanderburgh County. It is a pleasure to work alongside the council to both cut unnecessary funding while ensuring our office has the resources needed not only to operate but to excel for the continued benefit of public safety in Vanderburgh County; they are truly dedicated to public safety and have been a critical partner in our success. In addition, I extend my deepest gratitude to my amazing staff of attorneys, investigators, and professionals, the judiciary and court staff, our law enforcement partners, community service providers and universities, and our partner agencies for their commitment and dedication to law enforcement and justice. It has been a true honor to serve alongside these great partners for the past two years—and we are just getting started! I also want to thank the people of Vanderburgh County for trusting my office to fight on their behalf for justice. I hope you found this biennial report interesting and informative. I promise to continue to carry out the important mission of this office with integrity, fairness, and strength for the benefit of us all.



Vanderburgh County Council
October 2024

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to the author of the letter.



OFFICE OF THE VANDERBURGH COUNTY PROSECUTOR
DIANA L. MOERS

