

Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley

October 8, 2021



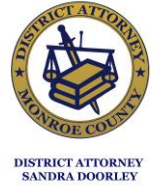
Contact Us

Monroe County District
Attorney's Office

47 S. Fitzhugh Street
Rochester, NY 14614
(585) 753-4780

Monroe County District Attorney's Office

Weekly Newsletter



Welcome to the weekly newsletter from Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley.

Message from Sandra Doorley

Campaign Finance Plea

On Monday, October 4, 2021, Mayor Lovely Warren, Albert Jones Jr., and Rosalind Brooks-Harris pled guilty to Election Law 14-126(5). This law states that "any person who knowingly and willfully contributes, accepts or aids or participates in the acceptance of a contribution in an amount exceeding an applicable maximum specified shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor." In this case, that maximum number was \$8,557.

The District Attorney's Office waived the pre-sentence investigation and deferred sentencing recommendations to the Judge. At the time of sentencing, Judge Leone sentenced all three defendants to one year of conditional discharge. While this was not our request, this is a common resolution for first-time offenders on non-violent charges. The additional requirement was Mayor Warren's resignation. This resignation, while at the end of term, is part of the Mayor's acknowledgment that her previous election cycle was not above board.

There have been many questions and confusion about the details of this plea. I stand by this plea and I believe it is appropriate given the charges. It is common to satisfy multiple indictments or cases with one plea offer and it is even more common to satisfy a Class E felony with a Class A misdemeanor, which is one step below the original charge.

Moving forward, the ramifications of the Mayor's conduct spans beyond the criminal justice system. The most important factor in the campaign finance case is that all three defendants take responsibility for knowingly breaking election law. These laws exist for a reason and without such laws, there are not fair and free elections.

I often tell the community, 'plea deal' is not a dirty phrase. Pleas are necessary for a functional criminal justice system. When a plea is offered, we look at what is best for each case. What are we trying to accomplish? In this unusual case, I am content with the resolution. We sought accountability and I believe we accomplished this with all three codefendants accepting responsibility for their actions.



Homicide Update

So far in 2021:

City of Rochester Total: 62

Monroe County Total: 70

Monroe County Heroin Task Force Update

September 2021:

57 Recorded Overdoses

14 Recorded Fatalities

Year to Date:

525 Recorded Overdoses

105 Recorded Fatalities



The end result is that Lovely Warren will no longer be our Mayor and will not serve out the entirety of her term. She broke the law. She acknowledged her guilt. She resigned because of her actions. It is time for the community to move forward to promote a safe, healthy and ethical Rochester, and I look forward to being a part of the solution.

Sandra

Highlights from the MCDA's Office

Jesus Hernandez was convicted of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree by a Monroe County jury. On March 11, 2020, Jesus Hernandez was stopped by New York State Police Officers as part of Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE). This is the defendant's third violent felony conviction and he faces a range of 16 years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections to 25 years to Life. This case was prosecuted by ADA Robin Catalano, Deputy Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau.

Eddie Williams pled guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for causing the shooting death of Trenton Cook. On June 14, 2020, Eddie Williams exited his apartment and confronted the victim who was outside the apartment building. After a verbal argument, Eddie Williams retrieved his shotgun from his apartment and shot Trenton Cook, causing his death. Williams will serve 20 years in the New York State Department of Corrections and 5 years of post-release supervision. This case was prosecuted by ADA Michael Harrigan, Deputy Chief of the Major Felony Bureau.

Long-Term Investigation

On Thursday, October 7, 2021, ADA Jennifer Hyatt and ADA Matthew Hogestyn, both of the Special Investigations Bureau, attended a press conference announcing the preliminary results of a long-term investigation. Led by the Rochester Police Department with assistance from ADAs Hyatt, Hogestyn and other law enforcement partners, 34 guns were seized, 6 kilos of cocaine fentanyl were retrieved, \$148,500 was seized and 26 individuals were arrested. More information on this successful operation will be provided in the near future.



MCDA in the Community

District Attorney Sandra Doorley participated in the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police's podcast about cannabis reform. To listen to the entire podcast and learn now about the Association and its newsletter, check out the webpage at:

<https://www.nychiefs.org/assets/ChieflySpeaking/Chiefly%20Speaking%20Newsletter%20October%202021.pdf>.

MCDA in the News

<https://www.whec.com/rochester-new-york-news/mayor-warrens-campaign-finance-trial-begins-monday/6259331/>

<https://13wham.com/news/local/father-cousin-accused-in-kidnapping-of-greece-children-in-court>

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2021/10/06/rochester-mayor-lovely-warren-misdemeanor-plea-questions-answered/6004413001/>

<https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/politics/2021/10/05/rochester-leaders-weigh-in-after-mayor-warren-issues-resignation-letter#>

<https://www.whec.com/rochester-new-york-news/rochester-police-26-people-facing-drug-and-gun-possession-charges-as-part-of-multi-agency-investigation-/6263061/?cat=565>

Welcoming Fall in Style!

Three of our Local Court Assistant District Attorneys, Aliyah Fowler, Bridget Morgan and Brandon Gonzalez were ready for court this week in their finest fall colors! They promise this was not planned.





WE'RE HIRING

If you are a recent law school graduate or an experienced attorney and are interested in a career in criminal law and public service, apply with us today! More information is available on monroecounty.gov/da.