



# **VISION SAFE ATLANTA**

Public Safety Action Plan

# OUR VISION

With more than 160 years of policing and a history filled with positive change and forward thinking initiatives, there have been several major turn of events in the life of the Atlanta Police Department.

We're blazing new trails by developing new strategies and training standards to enhance and maximize positive encounters among officers and citizens.

We also understand the importance of utilizing high-tech equipment as tools to help us fight and solve crimes. The Atlanta Police Foundation is at the forefront... making sure we utilize cutting edge, state-of-the-art technology. With more than 8,000 cameras integrated into the Loudermilk Video Integration Center we have enhanced our situational awareness.

Our people are the power behind the force which is why we only hire the best talent who understand and meet the needs of our city.

Juvenile crime is becoming a concern for many major metropolitan communities. However, we understand that we can't arrest our way out of juvenile crime. There must be a concerted effort to create new opportunities, growth and make a sound investments in our most valuable assets—our children and families.

Our mission is simple, to make Atlanta the safest large city in the nation, but we can't do this without unified support from community, business and civic leaders.

# PUBLIC SAFETY ACTION ITEMS



Technology & Innovation



Repeat Offenders



Community Initiatives &  
Juvenile Crime



Infrastructure



Staffing

# REPEAT OFFENDERS



# DEFINITION OF A REPEAT OFFENDER

- According to OCGA 17-10-7c (Official Code of Georgia Annotated)
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, any person who, after having been convicted under the laws of this state for three felonies or having been convicted under the laws of any other state or of the United States of three crimes which if committed within this state would be felonies, commits a felony within this state shall, upon conviction for such fourth offense or for subsequent offenses, serve the maximum time provided in the sentence of the judge based upon such conviction and shall not be eligible for parole until the maximum sentence has been served.



# CASE STUDY: Atlanta Repeat Offender Profiles

## Profile #1

- 24 years old
- Total Arrests: 15
- Total Convictions: 7
- Conviction History:
  - Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon
  - Possession of Controlled Substances
  - Battery (Family Violence)
  - False Imprisonment
  - Entering Automobile
  - Theft by Taking (2 counts)
  - Robbery (1 count)
  - Theft by Receiving Stolen Property (3 counts)
  - Financial Transaction Card Theft (3 counts)

## Profile #2

- 53 years old
- Total Arrests: 33
- Total Convictions: 10
- Conviction History:
  - Incarcerated eleven (11) times with GA DOC dating back to 1987 with the latest release in 2014.
  - Served a total of 10.5 Years
  - Smash & Grab Burglary (3 counts)
  - Criminal Trespass
  - 1988- Burglary - DeKalb
  - 1987 - Burglary
  - 1987 - Burglary
  - 1998 - Robbery
  - 2002 - Burglary
  - 2007 - Possession of Tools for Commission of a Crime
  - 2007 - Theft by Receiving Stolen
  - 2009 - Theft by Receiving Stolen Property



# CASE STUDIES

## CASE STUDY 1

- 53 arrests
- 12 felony convictions, over 20 misdemeanor convictions
- The offender's most recent arrest was an aggravated assault on a police officer in 2014 where he received a 10 year probated sentence to serve two years, but was only incarcerated for 3 months and 7 days (**Adjudicating Judge: Kimberly Esmond Adams**).
- He was released February 2016.

## CASE STUDY 2

- 43 arrests
- 7 felony convictions, 18 misdemeanor convictions
- The offender's most recent convictions were for aggravated assault and entering auto.
- Although he is serving two simultaneous probations, this offender was sentenced to confinement for these offenses, and is set to be released from prison in 2020 (**Adjudicating Judge: Craig Schwall**).

## CASE STUDY 3

- ▶ 20 Arrests
- ▶ 5 Felony convictions that escalated each time he offended
- ▶ The offender's most recent offense made national news when he allegedly murdered two young women and stuffed their bodies in the closet of an abandoned house in Zone 1.
- ▶ He has not yet been convicted, but is being charged with 13 different counts, including: murder, aggravated assault and sodomy, rape and concealing the death of another.
- ▶ While this offender is set to stand trial for his most recent offense, he has never been sentenced to confinement for any of his previous felony convictions
- ▶ **Judge Christopher Brasher will preside over his current murder charge**
- ▶ **Judge Todd Markle heard his previous felony cases where he sentenced the repeat offender to probation each time.**

## CASE STUDY 4

- ▶ 27 arrests
- ▶ 8 felony convictions (6 of 8 were for burglary)
- ▶ In February 2015 the defendant was released from prison, where he served a sentence on his eighth felony conviction. Less than 4 months after being released he was charged with another burglary that was reduced to a misdemeanor and this offender was given credit for one year time served and released after only being in jail 4 months (**Adjudicating Judge: Kelly Lee Ellerbe**).
- ▶ After being released, he was charged with two additional burglaries in March and April 2016, and is awaiting trial on both
- ▶ He is currently in jail.

# CASE STUDY: Joshua Coleman

## Felon who represented himself in Cobb trial gets life for carjackings

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Monday, Feb. 20, 2017

Cobb County

A 33-year-old felon convicted of numerous crimes throughout metro Atlanta will now spend the rest of his life in prison after representing himself in a Cobb County trial.

Joshua Coleman, 33 of College Park, was found guilty Friday of carjacking two Cobb car salesmen while on test drives in 2015, according to the county district attorney's office.

**Coleman has at least six prior felony convictions in DeKalb and Fulton counties for crimes including robbery, possessing marijuana and possessing a firearm as a felon. As a repeat offender, Cobb Superior Court Judge Mary Staley Clark gave Coleman the maximum sentence of life without parole plus 75 years.**

The trouble started Sept. 17, 2015, when Coleman was test-driving a Nissan Sentra at a CarMax. In the middle of the drive, he stopped the car, showed the salesman a gun and said "I know you like your job, but you need to get out of the car," the DA's office said in a news release. Then Coleman drove off.

Six days later, Coleman was test-driving a pickup truck at Steve Rayman Chevrolet in Smyrna when he told that salesman he had a gun and made a similar comment telling the salesman to get out. The truck was equipped with a LoJack vehicle recovery system, so police tracked the truck to Coleman's home on Jerome Road. When Fulton police got to the house, they saw Coleman get out of the pickup and run inside. SWAT team members used flash-bang grenades before swarming the home. Officers found Coleman hiding in the basement.

They found the Nissan several weeks later at Town Center Mall in Kennesaw when it was reported as abandoned. In the car, investigators also found several documents with Coleman's name and address.

Coleman gave both dealerships false identification before the test drives, said prosecutor Stephanie Adrean.





# REPEAT OFFENDERS: FINDINGS

## FINDING 1:

- ▶ Repeat Offenders are not consistently tracked through the Fulton County system from arrest to conviction, and they are not identified as “Repeat Offenders.” This contributes to ineffective communication across agencies, and the possibility that an offender’s record at each stage of the process is incomplete.

## FINDING 2:

- ▶ Based on examples of individual cases and research, many Repeat Offenders, following guilty pleas on current cases in Non-Complex Court, receive sentences that include little to no jail or prison time in favor of probation or a suspended sentence. Then, they are released back into the community, where they very often commit additional crimes. Many of the Repeat Offenders are chronically addicted to drugs and alcohol while many others suffer from mental illness; a significant number are both addicts *and* mentally ill. Despite the availability of Accountability Court Treatment Programs such as Drug Courts, Behavioral Health Courts, and Veterans’ Courts for the addicts and mentally ill, it appears that Repeat Offenders who would benefit from such treatment are not receiving it.

## FINDING 3:

- ▶ Currently, the State Probation Department is supervising, on average, low-risk offenders at a ratio of 495 offenders to one officer. Historically, the State of Georgia supervision average for low-risk offenders has been 234 offenders per officer. The State Probation Department is supervising, on average, high-risk offenders at a ratio of 84 offenders to one officer. In a September 2006 article, the American Probation and Parole Association suggested that cases to staff ratios should be 50:1 for high-risk and 200:1 for low-risk offenders.



# REPEAT OFFENDERS: FINDINGS

## FINDING 4:

- ▶ Many Repeat Offenders are serving multiple, simultaneous probations. Per state law, a repeat offender should serve the maximum time provided in the sentence of the judge based upon such conviction and shall not be eligible for parole until the maximum sentence has been served.

## FINDING 5:

- ▶ Many of the defendants in the sample data set had missing criminal histories in GCIC (Georgia Crime Information Center), the main provider of criminal justice information on offenders throughout the state of Georgia. As a result of a review of the sample data set and discussions during the Repeat Offender Work Group, it was determined that missing histories in GCIC is a widespread issue. Missing criminal histories contribute to a number of problems including:
  - The ability to identify Repeat Offenders upon arrest
  - The ability of the Sheriff's Office to appropriately classify Repeat Offenders when they arrive at the jail
  - The inability of the District Attorney and Probation to provide judges with an offender's complete criminal history
  - The ability of judges to appropriately address bond
  - The ability of judges to make appropriate decisions (sentencing, etc.) throughout court proceedings



# TERMS & DEFINITIONS

- ▶ **ADJUDICATION:** the act of giving a judicial ruling such as a judgment or decree. The term is used particularly in bankruptcy proceedings, in which the order declaring a debtor bankrupt is called an adjudication.
- ▶ **CONFINEMENT:** Incarceration in a jail or prison
- ▶ **COMPLEX COURT:** The Complex Case Division provides constitutionally guaranteed effective assistance of counsel to indigents accused of felony criminal offenses in Superior Court.
- ▶ **DEAD DOCKET:** a case that has been taken off a trial docket with the option to be tried on a later date.
- ▶ **DISMISS:** When a judge determines not to hear a case based on a variety of circumstances.
- ▶ **NOLLE PROSEQUI (Nolle Pros):** "we shall no longer prosecute," which is a declaration made to the judge by a prosecutor in a criminal case (or by a plaintiff in a civil lawsuit) either before or during trial, meaning the case against the defendant is being dropped.
- ▶ **NON-COMPLEX COURT:** Effective legal representation is provided to clients that are charged with committing specific non-complex cases including drug offenses, theft offenses and property crimes in Fulton County. The cases are placed on a special track and are processed within sixty days from arrest to final disposition.
- ▶ **NOT GUILTY:** plea of a person who claims not to have committed the crime of which he/she is accused, made in court when arraigned (first brought before a judge) or at a later time set by the court
- ▶ **PROBATION:** n. a chance to remain free (or serve only a short time) given by a judge to a person convicted of a crime instead of being sent to jail or prison, provided the person can be good.
- ▶ **TIME SERVED:** the period a criminal defendant has been in jail, often while awaiting bail or awaiting trial. Often a judge will give a defendant "credit for time served," particularly when sentencing for misdemeanors.

# CURRENT CHALLENGES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Department	Recommendations
District Attorney's Office (DA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Current data shows that approximately 13 percent of repeat offender cases were nolle prossed, dead docketed or dismissed. Currently, the outcome of these cases is unclear; and we have not received information from Based on the recommendations from the original report, the DA should provide quarterly updates regarding dead docketed and nolle prossed cases as well as an explanation as to why these cases were dropped.</li> </ul>
Fulton County Sheriff's Office (FCSO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Based on the recommendations from the original report, the FCSO should coordinate warrant round ups with other AROC agencies to clear up the back log of outstanding repeat offender arrest warrants. It is also recommended that the FCSO coordinate with the DCS to streamline the current warrant process for probation violators.</li> <li>▶ Use resources to help other agencies by identifying /locating repeat offenders who have absconded.</li> </ul>
Atlanta Police Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ APD's ROTU must ensure repeat offender information is consistently disseminated to field operations, so beat officers and investigators are equipped to assist in the tracking and supervision of RO's. ROTU must also coordinate closely with DCS to monitor repeat offenders and assist in the immediate arrest of probation violators.</li> </ul>
Department of Community Supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Need to significantly increase staffing to provide specific oversight and supervision of repeat offenders.</li> <li>▶ DCS must embed a probation officer into the ROTU for consistent sharing of information and collective supervision of repeat offenders.</li> <li>▶ Need to work with other AROC agencies to create a more streamlined warrant process to immediately arrest repeat offenders who violate probation.</li> <li>▶ Case loads have been stratified and a geographic supervision model is being deployed.</li> </ul>
Fulton County Superior Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Ensure all repeat offenders are sentenced to the full extent of the law.</li> <li>▶ Ensure all repeat offender probation violators are assigned to the previous sentencing judge.</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Need a concerted effort to change legislation</li> <li>▶ GBI needs support/funding to continue clearing up missing dispositions in GCIC</li> </ul>

# REPEAT OFFENDER JUDGES

## Superior Court Judges

- ▶ Judge Kimberly M. Esmond Adams
- ▶ Judge Jerry W. Baxter
- ▶ Judge Jackson T. Bedford, Jr.
- ▶ Judge Christopher S. Brasher
- ▶ Judge Tom Campbell
- ▶ Judge Alford J. Dempsey, Jr.
- ▶ Judge Doris L. Downs
- ▶ Judge Kelly Lee Ellerbe
- ▶ Judge Ural Glanville
- ▶ Judge John J. Goger
- ▶ Judge Shawn Ellen LaGrua
- ▶ Judge Melwey Leftridge
- ▶ Judge Todd Markle
- ▶ Judge Robert C.I. McBurney
- ▶ Judge Henry M. Newkirk
- ▶ Judge Constance C. Russell
- ▶ Judge Craig Schwall
- ▶ Judge Wendy L. Shoob

## Magistrate Judges

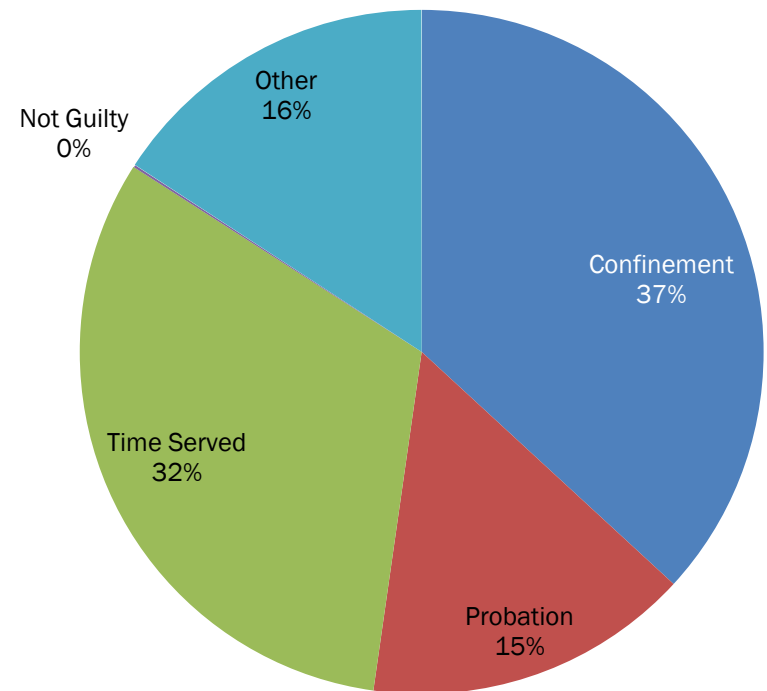
- ▶ Judge Joann Bowens
- ▶ Judge Richard Hicks
- ▶ Judge Karen Smith Woodson
- ▶ Visiting Magistrate Judges

# 2016 REPEAT OFFENDER ARREST DATA

- 1331 Cases
- 345 Sentenced to Confinement
- 144 Sentenced to Probation
- 298 Released with Time Served
  - *May include a treatment program*
- 1 Not Guilty
- 148 Cases Other
  - *Includes nolle prosequi, dead docketed, and/or dismissed cases*
- 395 Cases Still Active (*excluded from chart*)
  - *192 already assigned to judges*
  - *203 unassigned*

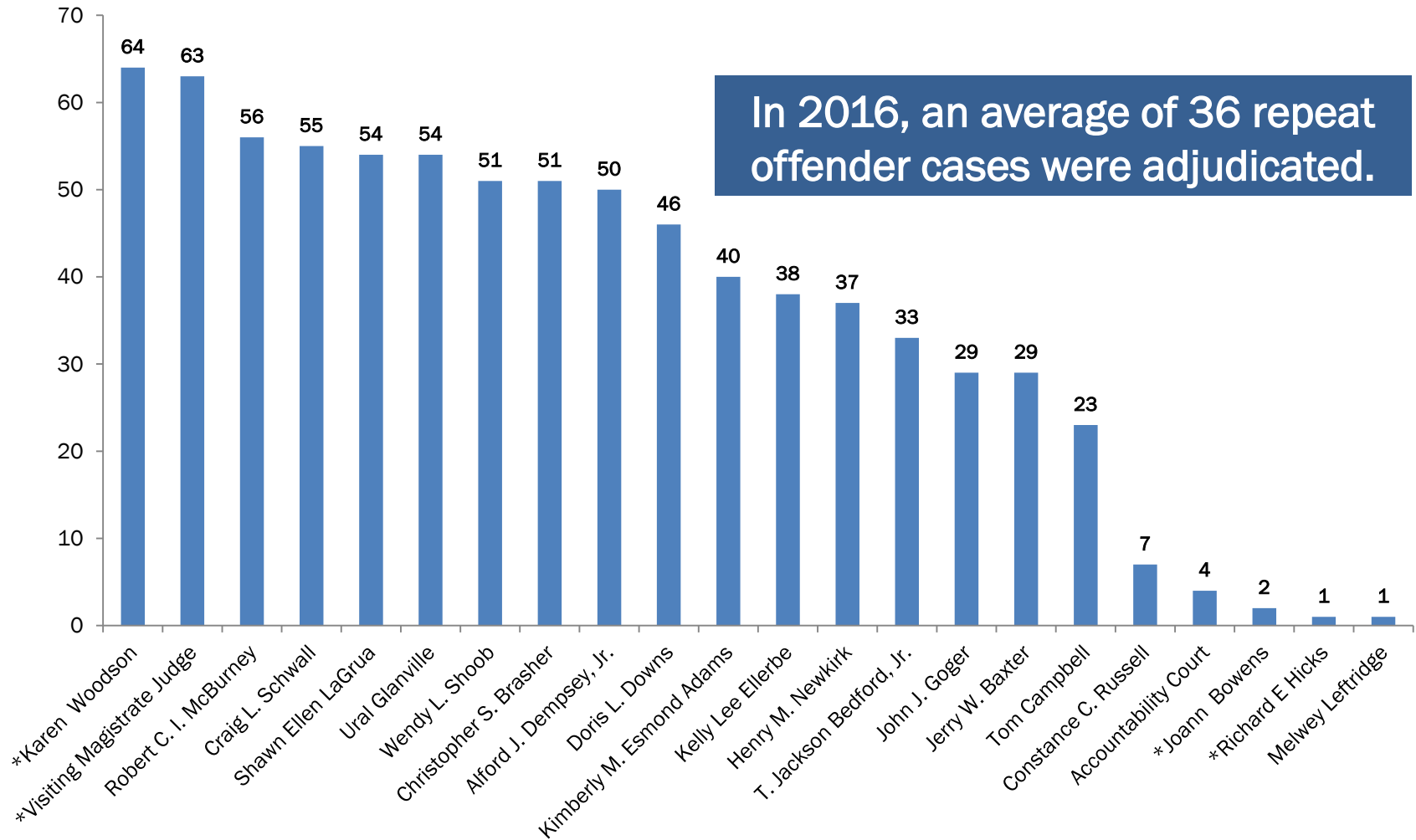
**37% of all repeat offenders arrested were sentenced to confinement.**

788 CASES ADJUDICATED



# JUDGES COMPARISON

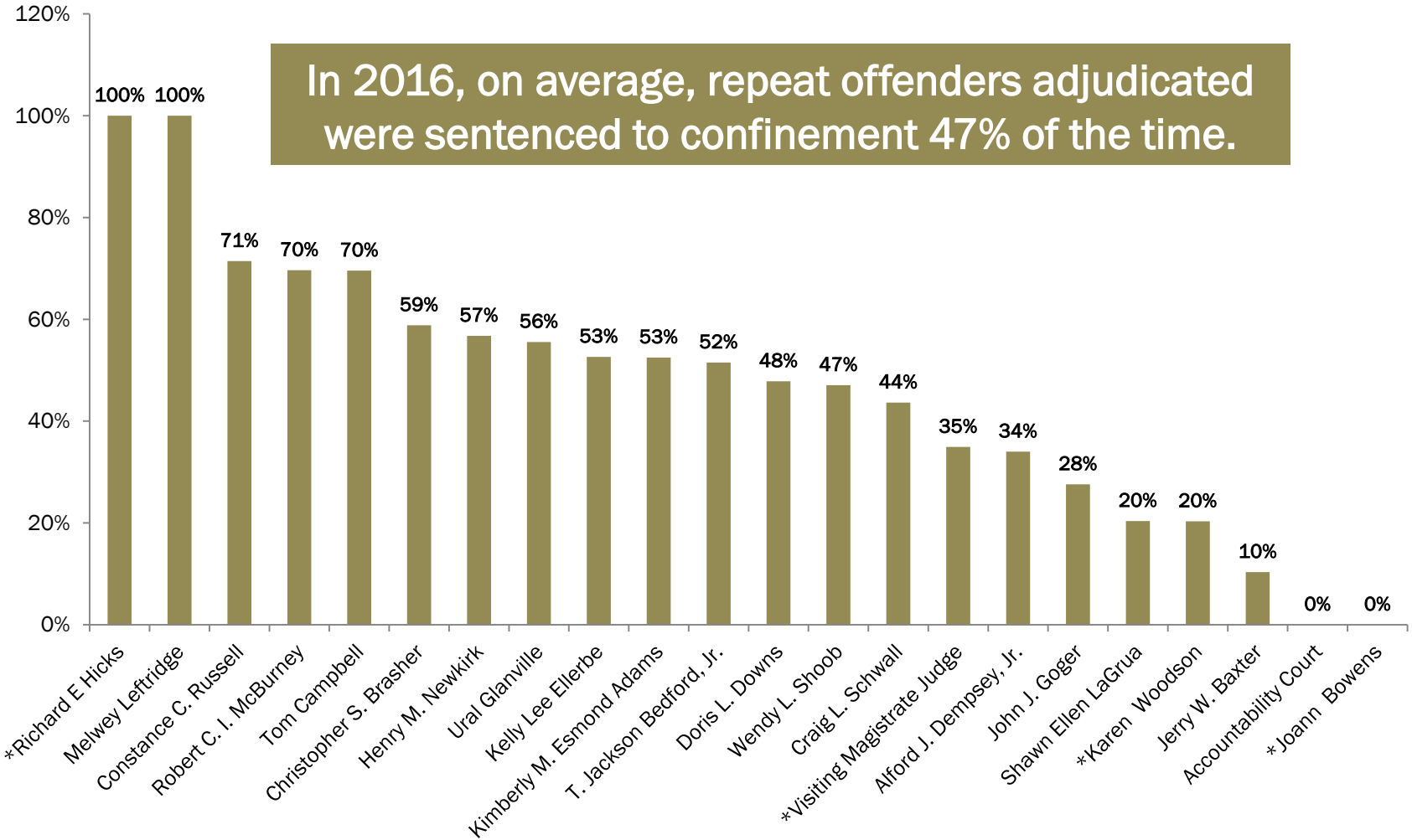
## TOTAL REPEAT OFFENDER CASES HEARD PER JUDGE



- ▶ The above graph outlines the number of repeat offender cases adjudicated by each judge in 2015. City of Atlanta only.
- ▶ \* Denotes a Magistrate Judge
- ▶ Drug Court and Felony Diversion Court are part of the Accountability Courts

# JUDGES COMPARISON

## PERCENTAGE OF REPEAT OFFENDERS SENTENCED TO CONFINEMENT

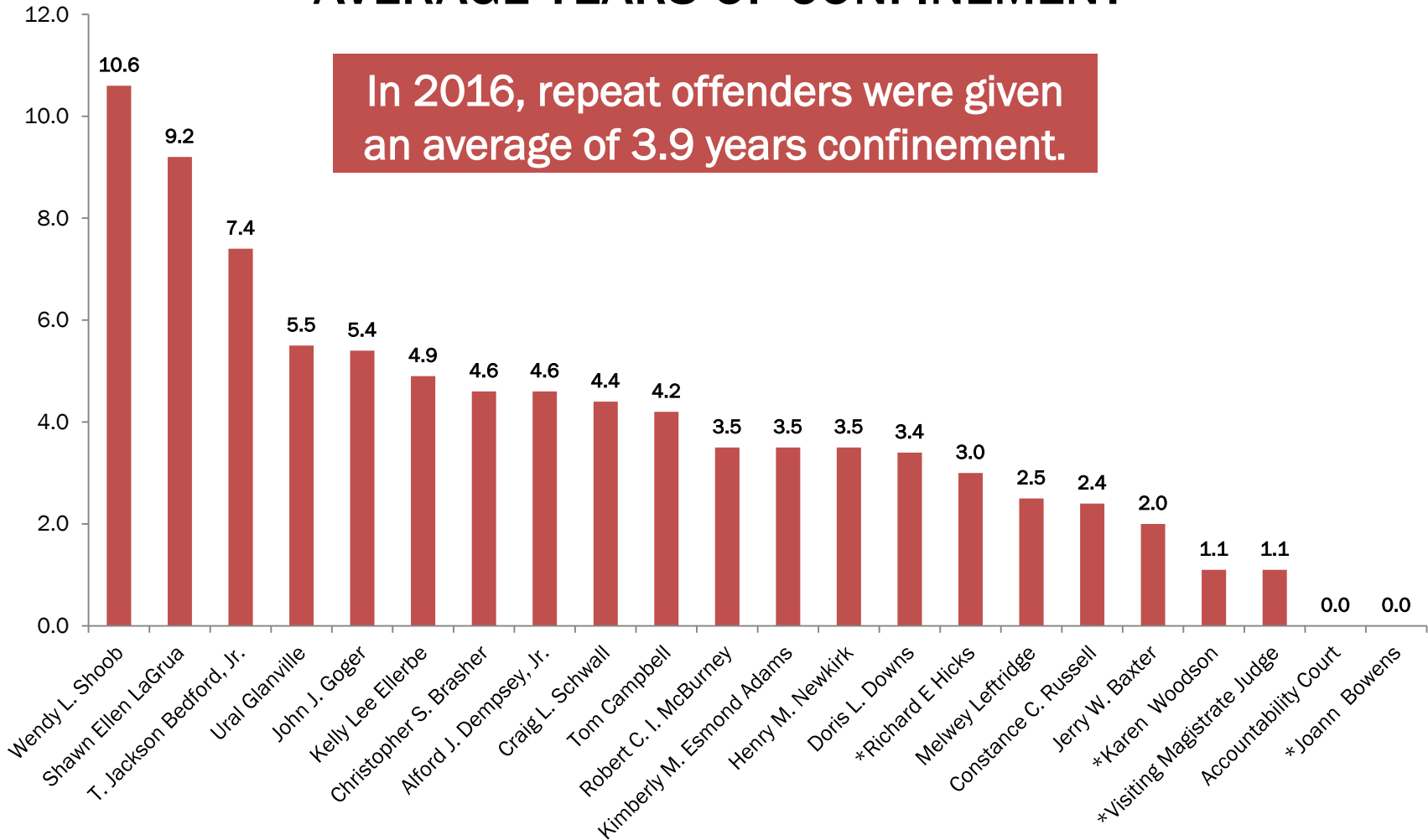


- ▶ This graph outlines the percentage of confinement sentences.
- ▶ \* Denotes a Magistrate Judge
- ▶ Drug Court and Felony Diversion Court are part of the Accountability Courts



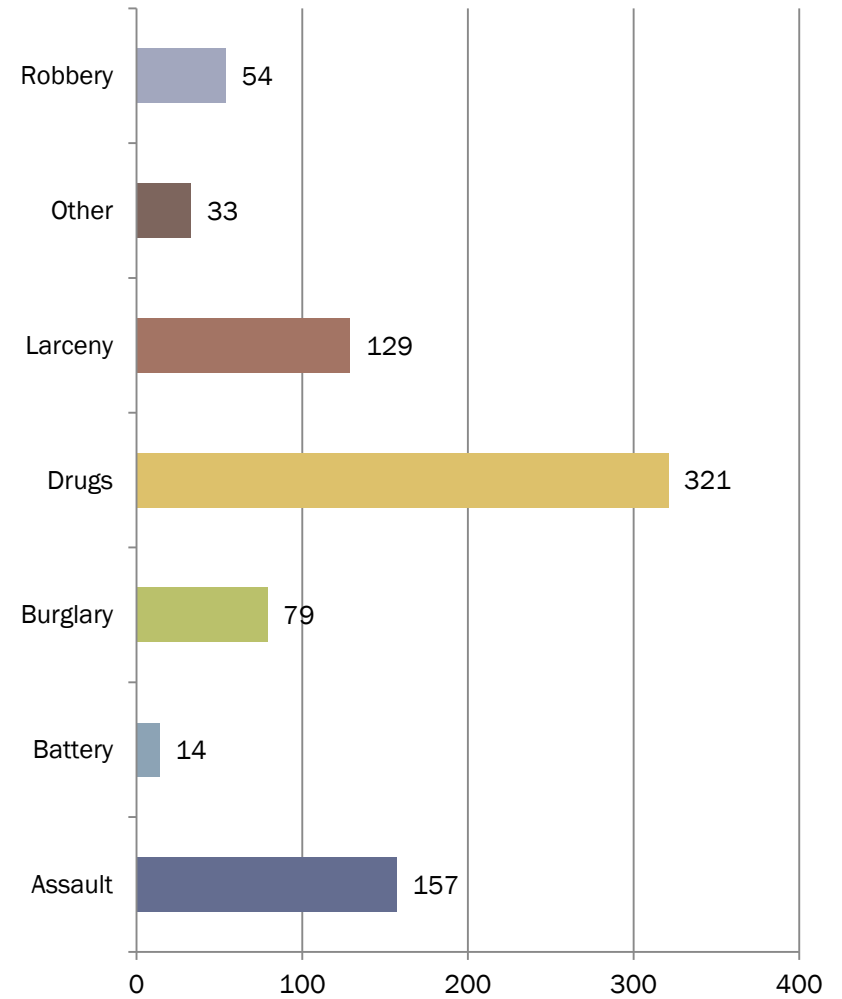
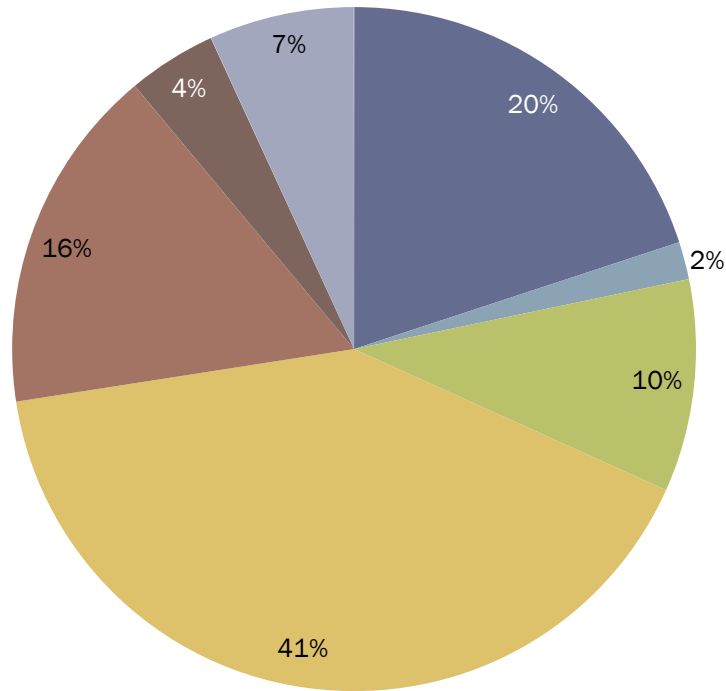
# JUDGES COMPARISON

## AVERAGE YEARS OF CONFINEMENT



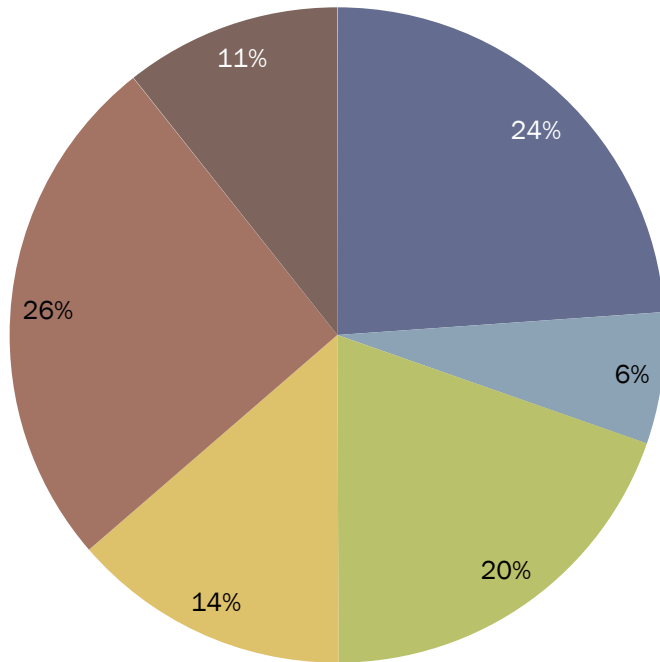
- This graph outlines the average annual confinement sentence given by judge.
- \* Denotes a Magistrate Judge
- Drug Court and Felony Diversion Court are part of the Accountability Courts

# 2016 ADJUDICATED CASES BY CHARGE

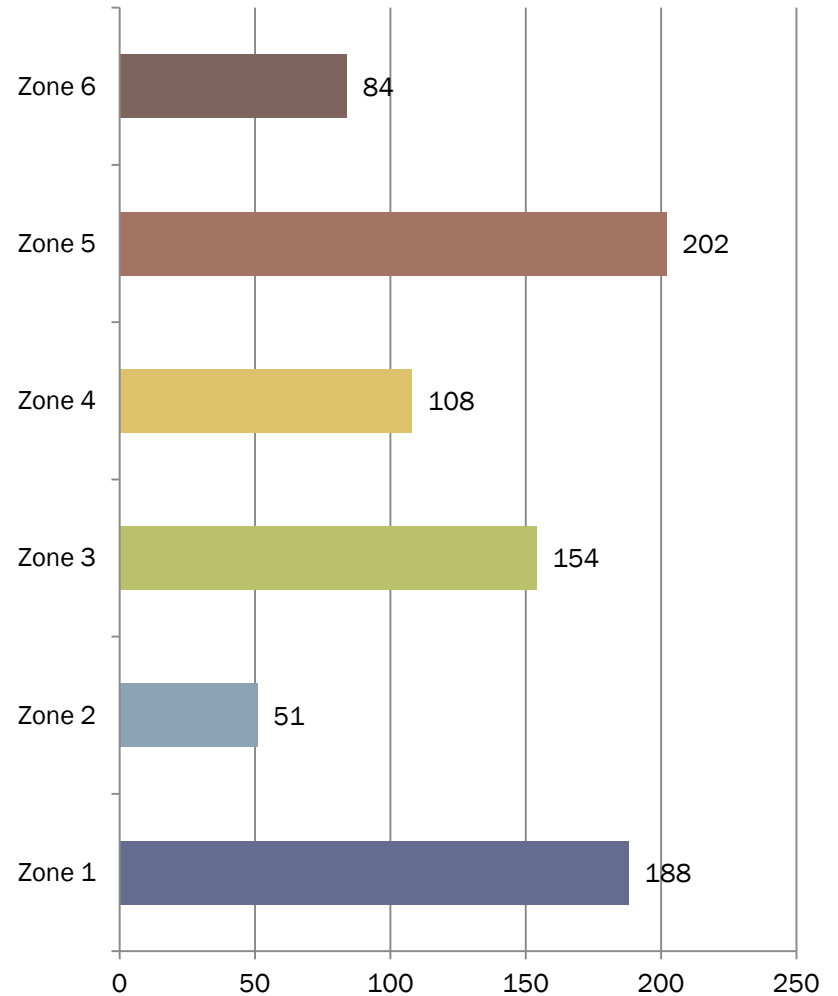


► This graph compares 2016 adjudicated cases by incident type.

# 2016 ADJUDICATED CASES PER ZONE



- ▶ Zone 1: Northwest
- ▶ Zone 2: Buckhead
- ▶ Zone 3: Southeast
- ▶ Zone 4: Southwest
- ▶ Zone 5: Downtown
- ▶ Zone 6: Northeast



▶ This graph compares 2016 adjudicated cases by zone.

# PUBLIC SAFETY ACTION ITEMS



Technology & Innovation



Repeat Offenders



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