



March 1, 2017

The Effects of Border Insecurity and Lax Immigration Enforcement on American Communities

Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs, United States
Senate, One Hundred Fifteenth Congress, First Session

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Opening Statement of Chairman Ron Johnson
“The Effects of Border Insecurity and Lax Immigration Enforcement on American Communities”

March 1, 2017

As prepared for delivery:

Good morning and welcome.

Today we will examine how our porous southwest border affects American communities thousands of miles away. Some of this testimony will be difficult to hear—accounts of graphic violence and drug abuse fueled by border insecurity and lax immigration enforcement. It is important that we hear these stories because they represent the real-world consequences of our insecure border and our failure to enforce our immigration laws.

America’s borders are not secure. To truly secure our borders, the United States must identify and eliminate the incentives for illegal immigration. Our failure to do so can have tragic consequences. We’ve heard the stories of Dennis McCann, Kate Steinle, Grant Ronnebeck, Jamiel Shaw II, Josh Wilkerson, Detective Michael Davis Jr., and Deputy Danny Oliver—lives cut short at the hands of criminal illegal aliens. In each case, we learned that federal policies and procedures played a role in these horrific tragedies.

Today we welcome Julie Nordman from New Florence, Missouri. On March 8, 2016, Julie’s husband, Randy, was murdered in his home by an illegal alien. Authorities allege that one day earlier, the same man murdered four other individuals in neighboring Kansas. The man had numerous run-ins with the law, and had even been deported once before. Julie, you have our sincerest condolences, and we thank you for sharing your experiences today.

Our committee’s work on border security last Congress led to the conclusion that the key driver of our borders’ insecurity is America’s insatiable demand for drugs. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, 10,574 Americans died from heroin-related overdoses in 2014. As Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly described in his testimony before this committee in January, heroin is produced solely outside the United States, most often from Mexico, and enters the country through our porous southwest border.

Local law enforcement leaders are on the front lines of America’s battle with opioids and the many problems that have accompanied the opioid epidemic. Between 2006 and 2015, deadly heroin overdoses in Wisconsin increased from 0.5 per 100,000 residents to 4.9 per 100,000—an increase of 880% over that period. I am pleased to welcome Sheriff Eric Severson of Waukesha County, Wisconsin. Sheriff Severson can explain how drug interdiction efforts at the southwest border affect the drug trade in Wisconsin. We will also hear testimony today from Ryan Rectenwald of the Grant County Sheriff’s Office in Washington State. He will describe how the drug trade through the southwest border incites violence in his northern border community.

Border security and immigration laws are not just a concern for communities along the border. They affect all Americans. I thank the witnesses for their willingness to be here today and I look forward to your testimony.

**U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Immigration Enforcement Hearing
March 1, 2017**

Ranking Member Claire McCaskill

Opening Statement

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

This morning we will hear from a constituent of mine named Julie Nordman, who on the morning of March 8, 2016, was forced to run to the attic of her home in Montgomery County, Missouri, while her husband, Randy, struggled with a stranger with a gun downstairs in the couple's garage. The man who allegedly shot and killed Randy and four other men the night before in Kansas City, Kansas, never should have been in this country. According to the information I have, Pablo Antonio Serrano-Vitorino, who is set for trial in a capital murder case, was deported in 2004, after serving a year in prison for a felony conviction in California. At some point, Mr. Serrano illegally re-entered the country, and, despite his prior felony, he somehow managed to slip through the cracks during at least three run-ins with Kansas police.

I'm told that, in one case in Coffey County, Kansas, in 2014, Mr. Serrano was arrested for DUI, but his fingerprints were never taken, so a match was never made with the Department of Homeland Security's immigration database. After

again being arrested and charged with domestic assault in Wyandotte County, Kansas in June 2015, Mr. Serrano's fingerprints *were* sent to DHS, but Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) did not take him into custody before he was released. Just three months later, when Mr. Serrano showed up at Overland Park, Kansas Municipal Court to pay a traffic fine, his fingerprints were taken again. ICE was notified that they had an undocumented individual with a history of violent offenses within their grasp. ICE issued a detainer requesting that Mr. Serrano be held until federal authorities could get there, but, amazingly, the detainer was sent to the wrong place: It went to the Johnson County, Kansas, Sheriff's Office instead of the Overland Park Municipal Court Building. How did that happen? I don't know. Why didn't ICE pursue Mr. Serrano further? I don't know.

What I do know is that, six months later, Mr. Serrano allegedly shot and killed five men in Kansas and Missouri, including Randy Nordman. And it appears that while the local authorities were doing their jobs, the federal government – specifically ICE – dropped the ball.

Now Mrs. Nordman, I know: None of this is going to bring your husband back. I'd be lying if I said it would. Mr. Serrano should not have been in this country. Randy Nordman should still be here today. I want to know how this was

allowed to happen. And Mrs. Nordman, I'm sure you have the very same questions.

That's why I'm so disappointed that someone with ICE couldn't be here today. As you know, I invited Director Homan or, when I found out that he wasn't available, anyone in his organization to come this morning and testify. I had hoped he would be able to speak to some of the specifics of the Serrano case and the other cases we will be hearing about this morning.

I have also asked for a copy of Mr. Serrano's case file from ICE, but, at every turn, my staff and I have been met with resistance. The agency told us that, due to privacy concerns, Mr. Serrano's case files cannot be released. But that flies in the face of the Trump Administration's new policy that, and I quote, "The Department will no longer afford Privacy Act rights and protections to persons who are neither U.S. citizens nor lawful permanent residents." How can you hide behind the shield of privacy and then, in the same breath, say that noncitizens have no privacy rights?

One of the reasons I have devoted so much of my time here in the Senate to oversight is that I truly believe that, as legislators, we have an obligation to understand the problems before we try and pass new laws. What happened in this case was an absolute tragedy. But was it caused by a failure in our immigration laws or policies, or was it instead the result of human beings failing to follow the

rules? Unfortunately, ICE – the only people capable of answering that question – has refused to either provide information to my office or participate in today’s hearing.

Mrs. Nordman, despite the resistance from ICE, I’m going to do everything I can to get you some answers.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and I look forward to hearing from the witnesses.

Julie Nordman
Senate Committee Hearing Testimony
03-01-2017

Hello, my name is Julie Nordman and I was asked to speak you today following the tragic and preventable murder of my husband, Randy Nordman. Although this happened less than a year ago and the pain is still unbearable, this story starts nearly two decades ago.

The man who murdered my husband, Pablo Serrano-Vitorino, first encountered law enforcement in 1998 in California. He was here illegally and was charged with making a threat with the intent to terrorize. He plead guilty to disturbing the peace and spent three days in jail. He was allowed to remain in the US and between 1993 and 2003, he was arrested twice more for domestic violence. Then, in 2003, he pointed a rifle at the mother of this three children and threatened her life. Later that year, he was convicted on those felony charges and was sentenced to two years in prison. Following his release in 2004, he was deported for being in the United States illegally.

No one knows when he returned to the US, or how, but he did. And in November 2014, he was arrested in Kansas for Driving While Intoxicated, Driving without a License and Speeding. He pled guilty and again was allowed to remain in the United States. Then, less than a year later in June of 2015, he was arrested and charged with domestic battery. While being held at the County Jail, the sheriff's office notified Immigration and Customs Enforcement [ICE] that he was in custody. Immigration is required to respond within a 4 hour deadline, yet, they failed to do so, and the Sheriff was required to release him. He later pled guilty to the charge and received a fine.

Only two months later, in August of 2015, he was again arrested for driving without a license. While at the municipal courthouse, he was fingerprinted and ICE issued a detainer for his immigration violation. However, because of their carelessness, ICE mistakenly sent the detainer paperwork to the incorrect location, and it never reached the proper authorities.

That brings you to my story. In the 18 months before the senseless murder of my husband, this killer has been in custody on three occasions, yet federal officials failed to detain or deport him. Had they just done their jobs and followed the laws, my husband would still be alive, and so would the four other innocent victims he brutally murdered.

On March 7, 2016 in Kansas City, Kansas, four men were found dead. Mike Capps, Jeremy Water, and brothers Clint & Austin Harter were Pablo's neighbors, and he murdered them, from what I've heard, over a parking spot. Authorities started a man hunt, but they didn't find him until it was too late.

On the early morning of March 8, 2016, my husband was getting ready for work. I was awoken from my sleep when I heard my husband shouting "What are you doing" and then he called out for me, "Julie! Julie!" I looked out the window into our garage and saw a man and my husband fighting over a rifle. I immediately grabbed my phone and called 911 as I ran to the attic. I was scared out of my mind and I whispered to 911 that we needed help. I asked them to hurry and then I prayed and prayed for Randy to be okay. I saw our dog at the top of the stairs and told 911 I was worried that the dog was going to give my location away. I then remember

Julie Nordman
Senate Committee Hearing Testimony
03-01-2017

asking the operator if the gunman shot me, would it hurt? I tried to climb out the attic window, but it was stuck. So I stayed put. I also asked if I could go check on my husband, and they told me “no.” But then, I heard a “pop.” I heard the gunman rustle through our things and we believe he was trying to find car keys so he could steal one of our vehicles and continue fleeing from law enforcement.

I looked out the attic window and I saw a police car racing toward our house. But then, it raced on past our house. I told the dispatcher that the officer needed to turn around and that was when I saw the killer run across my property and jump face-first into a ditch to hide.

When the police arrived, I saw my husband on the kitchen floor, but I thought he was just unconscious. The police then escorted me out of the house. I kept screaming “Where is the ambulance” but they kept telling me it was a secured area. Officers told me they had located the man’s vehicle right off the highway near our house and then showed me a picture to identify him. After I identified him, that’s when the ambulance personnel came over and told me that my husband had passed away, and I just lost it.

They searched for him for 17 hours using dogs and what seemed like hundreds of policemen, and two helicopters but no one could find him. We later found out that he had been lying 800 feet from my house in the grass. He waited until it had gotten dark and then walked to a gas station where he tried to high jack someone else. However, because my husband had removed the clip from his gun, the killer’s only remaining bullet was used on my husband. My husband was a hero for not only saving my life, but also saving all of the other people this man would have attacked. Authorities quickly apprehended the man near the gas station, and he’s now in custody awaiting trial for the death of my husband.

Following the incident, I was never contacted by ICE or anyone else from the government to express their remorse. However, I read in the paper that ICE said they would monitor Randy’s case and place a detainer on the man. They also said they “would remain focused on smart, effective immigration enforcement that prioritizes threats to national security, public safety and border security.” I find their statement couldn’t be further from the truth. Their actions were not smart, in 2015 they sent his detainer paperwork to the wrong place. Their actions were not effective, in 2015 they also failed to respond to the Immigration Query. They did not properly prioritize the threat; after this man was arrested on numerous occasions for violent crimes, he went on to kill five completely innocent men.

Not only has ICE failed us, but our borders have failed us. They are obviously wide open as this man was able to enter, not once, but twice, without being detected. But I suppose if your policy is to let them go even after you arrest them for committing violent crimes, why even secure the border at all?

If the ICE authorities had just done their jobs, Andrew Harter would still be alive. Clint Harter would still be a husband, and would have seen his second child being born. Mike Capps would still be alive. Jeremy Water would still be alive. And most importantly to me, my husband would still be here. Instead, every day that I’m at our house, I’m reminded of this tragic

Julie Nordman
Senate Committee Hearing Testimony
03-01-2017

event. I wish you could bring my husband back, but we all know that can't happen. What you can do, is make sure that this doesn't happen to another innocent family in the future.

Also, before I go, I would just like to publically thank the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the nearby county officers, for catching and arresting this monster.

STATEMENT
OF
ERIC J. SEVERSON
WAUKESHA COUNTY SHERIFF
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN

BEFORE THE

UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

THE EFFECTS OF BORDER INSECURITY AND LAX IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ON
AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

MARCH 1, 2017

Statement of

Eric J. Severson
Sheriff,
Waukesha County Wisconsin

Before the U.S. Senate Committee
on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

“The Effects of Border Insecurity and Lax Immigration Enforcement on American Communities”

March 1, 2017

Introduction

Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member McCaskill, and distinguished members of the Committee. It is my honor to address you today on behalf of the Citizens of Waukesha County and the State of Wisconsin.

My name is Eric Severson and I am the Sheriff of Waukesha County. Waukesha County is a mix of rural and suburban communities located West of and adjacent to Milwaukee County. I have served my community as a law enforcement officer for over 32 years.¹

To provide context for my testimony today, I have included a brief biography. I would highlight that I currently serve on the Board of Directors of the National Sheriff’s Association. I am also a member and past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin HIDTA.

The Drug Threat

¹ Prior to my service in the Sheriff Office, I served just under two years as a municipal police officer in rural Grant County, Wisconsin. I have familiarity with both large and small agencies as well as familiarity with communities that have varying population densities.

The greatest impact on the safety of our community as it relates to “Border Insecurity,” is the ease of bringing controlled substances into our community by way of the Mexican-American border.

The lions share of the controlled substances consumed in SE Wisconsin is sourced from south of the border.² Heroin and Opiate pharmaceuticals have been the chief drug threat in Wisconsin. Heroin consumed in my community was transported through the southern border, in its entirety. Today, Mexican drug cartels are growing Poppy plants, to manufacture locally produced heroin, making Mexico a source country for heroin.³

Methamphetamine is an emerging drug threat.⁴ 95 percent of methamphetamine in Wisconsin comes from Mexico.

² The Poppy plant needed to produce opium which is refined into heroin, is not produced at all, in the United States. Heroin consumed in my community was all trafficked through the southern border. In fact, Mexican drug cartels are growing Poppy plants, to manufacture locally produced heroin, making Mexico a source country for heroin.

³ High grade marijuana, and edible marijuana products continue to be available. West coast suppliers are a significant source for the south east Wisconsin market. Much of this drug supply is also sourced from south of the border.

Cocaine availability is now again on the rise. We are seeing very high availability and low prices. Again Nearly all Cocaine consumed in the United States is sourced from south of the U.S. Mexican Border.

⁴ In Wisconsin we have taken the legislative steps to limit the availability of the precursor Pseudoephedrine to the extent that we have virtually eliminated local production of home-made methamphetamine.

Life and Health Safety

The drug public health crisis is not limited to border communities or major cities alone. In the last 10 years my county has lost 387 of our citizens due to controlled substance overdose deaths. Last year alone we experienced over 35 drug related deaths. One third of that total involved heroin. Fentanyl, an adulterant often added to heroin, has increased the lethality of heroin.⁵ We now see Fentanyl as yet another illicit drug entering the U.S. through the southern border.⁶

On a local level we are doing all we can to protect my citizens. Last year my deputies administered Narcan 21 times saving 17 lives.

Crime and Violence Relating to Drug Importation Trade

Along with the drug trafficking business comes violence. Robberies, home invasions, burglaries, and thefts are all the byproduct of drug users seeking the resources to fuel their addiction.⁷

Our community's drug enforcement officers must face the dangerous realities of the drug trade. One example of this is the growing use of mobile drug house crews. These dealers sell heroin from stolen vehicles (often car-jacked) and will evade apprehension by recklessly eluding police by ramming squads and even citizen-owned vehicles in their efforts to escape apprehension. These dangerous drug dealers are frequently well armed and use counter surveillance techniques which add to the danger to law enforcement and the community.

⁵ Fentanyl laced heroin is a very dangerous public health risk. Dealers lace an already deadly heroin with the synthetic opioid, which creates an elevated risk of respiratory arrest and death.

⁶ As soon as we recognize the impact of fentanyl as a component of the overdose situation, we learn of other analogs such as carfentanil emerging opioid analogs that further threaten our communities.

⁷ While my county has been somewhat insulated by being removed from the urban center of Milwaukee, we do experience these crimes.

Immigration Status and Crime

The thrust of my testimony has been on border security as it relates to drug trafficking. This is because my fellow Sheriffs, Police Chiefs, and I see this as the greatest border-related threat to our communities. My testimony would be incomplete, however, if I failed to acknowledge the criminal threat posed by foreign nationals that are in our our country in violation of our immigration statutes. Candidly, I see criminal offenses by foreign nationals as relatively infrequent occurrence within the confines of my county's border. It would be incorrect, and in fact dangerous to conclude however, that these events do not occur in Wisconsin.

Several specific examples include:⁸

A Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) involving at least two undocumented Mexican Nationals where 15 kg of cocaine was seized.

A DTO containing several undocumented Mexican Nationals was attempting to illegally sell firearms to undercover agents. This DTO also had human trafficking ties.

A recent 25 kg seizure of methamphetamine resulted in the arrest of several undocumented Mexican Nationals in SE Wisconsin. The actors in this case were purporting the methamphetamine to be cocaine in hopes of expanding the organization's methamphetamine market and aid in its distribution.

Many other examples exist.⁹

Federal Intervention and Assistance

⁸ Other examples include-

- An Illegal Mexican National who was distributing Methamphetamine to western Wisconsin communities who ultimate fled the jurisdiction and remains at large.
- Two undocumented Mexican Nationals were arrested in SE Wisconsin with 3 kg of cocaine and 6 illegal firearms.

⁹ Prior to my completing the draft of my testimony, I spoke with leadership from many agencies within my State including the Milwaukee office of the DEA. From these discussions I have distilled numerous significant drug trafficking cases involving undocumented Mexican Nationals who were directly involved in high level drug trafficking and other criminal activity. Some are mentioned in this oral statement. The drug trafficking business is responsible for the lion's share of violent and property crimes in our communities.

I have included a copy of the National Sheriff's Association Position Paper on Comprehensive Immigration Reform. I respectfully ask that you to consider all recommendations.¹⁰ In particular I would hope that a strong focus is placed on providing appropriations to:

- adequately secure the border which would include providing sufficient law enforcement presence in the form of CBP Officers, and
- sufficiently support the highly effective HIDTA programs, and the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant.

Conclusion

It is truly an honor to be here today. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheriff Eric J. Severson

Appendix 1

Background - Waukesha County Demographic

Waukesha County is situated directly west of Milwaukee County, the most populated county in Wisconsin, and approximately 25 miles east of Dane

¹⁰ Of particular importance are the recommendations relating to border security and local community drug impact which include:

- The effective and efficient securing of the southern and northern borders by the Federal Government.
- The appropriation of the funding necessary to substantially increase the number of immigration and customs enforcement (ICE) agents.
- An increase in agents is critical to securing and patrolling the nations borders, particularly along the South West border. A substantial increase in Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents also alleviates the burden of border security from local law enforcement. Greater security at our nation's borders means fewer law enforcement challenges to non-border communities.
- The appropriation of funding to build necessary infrastructure along the border to allow for more efficient patrol of critical areas, as well as the effective use of sensor and aviation technology to improve border surveillance.
- Full funding for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (known as Byrne JAG). Byrne JAG provides vital funding to local law enforcement agencies to operate multi-jurisdictional drug and gang task forces.
- Full funding for the HIDTA program.

County, the second most populated county in the state. The county is a rapidly growing area for upscale, residential subdivisions with five of the ten wealthiest zip codes in the Milwaukee metropolitan area.

Waukesha County, population 396,488 (2015 US Census), offers a blend of urban and rural living. Overall population of the county grew 1.7% between April 2010 and July 1, 2015. The population consists of 93.4% white, 1.5% black/African American, 3.4% Asian and 4.7% Hispanic/Latino. The median household income from 2011-2015 was \$76,545 and per capita income \$36,684.

While Wisconsin currently has lower immigration rates than many other states, the foreign-born population is growing. The Federation of American Immigration Reform estimates that between the 2000 census and July 2008, Wisconsin's population increased by about 58,365 residents from net international migration (more foreign-born arriving than leaving). This is an annual average increase of about 7,995 foreign-born residents, representing more than one-fourth of the state's total population increase during that period. (Wisconsin Extended Immigration Data – FAIR Federation of American Immigration Reform June 2011) Foreign-born residents make up an estimated 5% of the Waukesha County population. (2015 US Census)

The 2014-2017 Waukesha County Department of University of Wisconsin-Extension Strategic Plan notes that the poverty rate in Waukesha County increased from 3% in 2000 to 5% in 2010. This is lower than the state rate but impacts almost 20,000 people in the county. Census block data reveals that poverty rates are much higher for Latino/a and African-American populations in the county. In Waukesha County, 13% of children in schools are eligible for free and reduced lunch. In the City of Waukesha, Waukesha County's largest city, the number of elementary schools that became eligible for free and reduced lunch programs increased from one in 2001 to six in 2012. The 2035 Regional Housing Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin recommended reducing the concentration of minorities in the region's central cities (SEWRPC, 2013). This concentration of minorities is continuing to grow in neighborhoods surrounding downtown Waukesha. In these neighborhoods, the number of Latinos/as and African Americans continues to grow. Poverty rates for these minority families exceed 25%.

Also per the 2014-2017 Waukesha County Department of University of Wisconsin-Extension Strategic Plan, minority populations in Waukesha County

are growing at a faster rate than white populations. In 2010, almost 10% of the total county population was minority. Between 2000 and 2010, the Latino/a population in Waukesha County grew by 6,620 residents. This was the sixth highest county growth in the state. In 2010, 5% of the state's Latino/a population (16,123) resided in Waukesha County. Between 2000 and 2010, every city, village, and town in the county experienced growth in the Latino/a population except for two villages (UW-Extension, 2014). Collectively, Latinos/as make up the population of one county board district in Waukesha County. Waukesha County is one of eight counties in the state where 80% of the Latino/a population lives and works (UW-Extension, 2014). For the first time, between 2000 and 2010 the Latino/a population that was born in Wisconsin exceeded the number of Latino/a residents born outside of the United States (UW-Extension, 2014). The growing Latino/a population is important for Waukesha County, as a greater proportion (more than 23%) are employed in manufacturing. Another 18% of the Latino/a population is employed in arts, entertainment, accommodation and food service. The Latino/a population also has a younger median age (23-years-old) and a larger household size (3.4 persons). Latinos/as are also entrepreneurial, as they own and operate over 5,000 businesses in Wisconsin.

Asian and African-American populations continue to grow in the County as well. For example, 10% of the student population in the Elmbrook School District located in Waukesha County is Asian, and 10% of the student population in the Menomonee Falls School District, also located within the county is African American. The growth in diversity is further explained by changes over the past ten years in the City of Waukesha. The City of Waukesha had 70,718 residents in 2010. The city's growth was slightly lower than Waukesha County's from 2000 to 2010. One major trend in the City of Waukesha is growing diversity. The city grew in population from 64,825 in 2000 to 70,718 in 2010. During this period, the Latino/a population grew from 5,563 to 8,529, the Asian population grew from 1,407 to 2,502, and the Black or African-American population grew from 861 to 1,570. The city as a whole grew by 5,893 people from 2000 to 2010. The total growth in population of the Latino/a population, Asian population, and Black or African-American population in the City of Waukesha between 2000 and 2010 was 4,770. These populations were responsible for 80% of the population growth in the City of Waukesha between 2000 and 2010. Currently over 12% of the population, counted by the U.S. Census, in the City of Waukesha is Latino/a. This percentage is over twice the state average.

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program in Southeastern Wisconsin, Wisconsin's population, being located on the northern border of the United States and near major source cities Chicago and Minneapolis, make the state a destination state for illegal drugs and drug activity. Wisconsin HIDTA threat assessments found that the vast majority of drugs enter Wisconsin via passenger vehicles on one of the major highways intersecting the state. The threat assessments also indicate that opioid abuse, including both heroin and prescription drug abuse, remain the number one drug threat in Wisconsin. The vast majority of heroin in Wisconsin is sourced from Chicago-based traffickers with connections to the southwest border of the United States and the major Mexican cartels. Wisconsin traffickers, in particular Milwaukee-based traffickers, will often travel 90 miles south to Chicagoland area several times per week and return with 100-150 gram quantities of heroin usually of the Mexican or South American variety.

Appendix 2

Action-Based Solutions by Local Government

Local solutions and programs bring relief to citizens. Local law enforcement is best suited to understand geographic community needs and solutions based on the expectations of citizens.

The Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Unit (Metro) was formed in 1985 when the Sheriff and Waukesha County Chiefs of Police recognized a cooperative effort in fighting drugs and drug dealing was best for the community. The Waukesha County Sheriff's Department has administered the program since its inception which works closely with many local, state and federal agencies. In 2016, the Metro Unit completed several long-term drug investigations. These extensive investigations compiled 289 drug buys, 24 search warrants, \$35,153 in seized funds and 15 seized vehicles.

Metro also works jointly with the Office of National Drug Control Policy High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program (HIDTA) in southeastern Wisconsin to apply enhanced intelligence processes and greater operational coordination and prosecution to reduce organized drug distribution, drug related violent crime and money laundering, and the demand for illegal drugs. The program also strives to halt the distribution of illegal drugs through the Milwaukee HIDTA to urban areas throughout Wisconsin and beyond. Through this cooperative effort, in 2016 Waukesha County experienced the following activity:

300 HIDTA Initiative Cases Opened

400 Incidents of Provided Analytical Support and Assistance to Other Agencies

93 Cases Referred

14 Warrants Executed

\$86K Spent on Drug Buys

Controlled Substances Seized/Purchased Included:

176 Grams Heroin

9 Marijuana Plants

33,696 Grams Marijuana

85 Grams Cocaine

88 MDMA

117 Doses of Alprazolam

70 Grams of Amphetamine

30 Grams of Methamphetamine

73 Doses of Oxycodone
80 Doses of Sub Oxone
181 Grams of Psilocybin
437 Doses of LSD
5 Doses of Percocet

In reaction to community demand, in 2016 the Waukesha County Board approved an additional full time detective position to work exclusively on drug-related cases. Adding more police officers and adopting strong, proven management techniques has been proven to reduce the rate of crime. (What Caused the Crime Decline? 2015, Oliver Roeder, Lauren-Brook "L.B." Eisen, Julia Bowling)

In response to the current heroin and prescription opiate crisis, Waukesha County Sheriff's Department Deputies employ automatic external defibrillator (AED)/Narcan kits. Deployment of Narcan, an opioid antagonist used to reverse opioid overdoses, helped reduce drug-related deaths 34% between 2012 and 2013. In 2016, the department deployed 48 automatic external defibrillator (AED)/Narcan kits. Of the 21 incidents where Narcan was administered alone or in combination with an AED, deputies revived 17 people. (The number of Waukesha County Sheriff's Department Narcan deployments is lower than county-wide actuals because the department works in tandem with area fire departments on medically-related calls which could include the administration of Narcan.)

The Waukesha County Sheriff's Department works closely with the Waukesha County District Attorney's Office to pursue and prosecute Len Bias charges. The departments also cooperate closely to utilize Good Samaritan Laws, which were enacted to remove the fear of calling police and emergency services for help during an overdose situation for people suffering from addiction.

Appendix 3

SCAAP

The Bureau of Justice Assistance State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) reimburses state and local governments for the partial costs of incarcerating unauthorized immigrants who have committed felonies or at least two misdemeanor convictions for violations of state or local law and who are incarcerated for at least four consecutive days. Waukesha County can be reimbursed 100% of jail personnel costs incurred for inmates born outside of the United States. The reimbursement rate drops to 85% of personnel costs for inmates whose country of birth is unknown. SCAAP does not reimburse costs for housing, feeding, or providing medical care to these prisoners.

Federal funding for SCAAP fluctuated from \$130 million in FY1995 to \$565 million in FY2002 to \$238 million in FY2013 according to the Federal Funds Information for States. In FY2013, this amount covered only 18% of state costs for housing unauthorized immigrants.

SCAAP funding for Waukesha County Jail expenses for unauthorized immigrants falls woefully short of providing reimbursement of actual costs. Between 2012 to 2016, slightly less than 17% of total costs for unauthorized immigrants in Waukesha County was covered by SCAAP payments.

Waukesha County SCAAP Awards

Year	Per Diem Cost	Total Costs	Award Amount	Shortfall
2016	\$44.40	\$151,290	\$26,147	-\$125,143
2015	\$45.69	\$202,447	\$31,060	-\$171,387
2014	\$44.50	\$235,391	\$35,374	-\$200,017
2013	\$38.56	\$184,456	\$35,027	-\$149,432
2012	\$38.06	\$199,594	\$36,797	-\$162,797

Biography of Waukesha County Sheriff Eric Severson

Severson serves the citizens of Waukesha County as Sheriff having served as a law enforcement officer for 32 years. Sheriff Severson maintains executive oversight of all activities of the office to include sworn operations, jail, work-release and administrative functions and has served in the Waukesha County Sheriff's Office for more than 30 years; 25 of those years in supervisory and command positions throughout the department. In addition to patrol command assignments, Sheriff Severson has commanded the department's Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Unit, Tactical Enforcement Unit (SWAT), K9 Unit and was the founder and first President of the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handler Association (WLECHA).



Sheriff Severson holds two bachelor's degrees from UW-Platteville in both criminal justice and technical communication. He holds a minor in business administration. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Class 219, as well as the Drug Enforcement Administration's Drug Unit Commander Academy. Sheriff Severson also graduated from the National Sheriff's Academy in Aurora Colorado.

Eric Severson is a member and serves on the board of directors of the National Sheriffs' Association. He is a past chairman of the board of directors for the Wisconsin High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), and is the longest tenured member of the Wisconsin HIDTA Board of Directors. Sheriff Severson is a member of the FBI National Academy Association, the Badger State Sheriff's Association (serving on the legislative committee), and the Wisconsin Sheriffs' and Deputy Sheriffs' Association. In 2015, Sheriff Severson was appointed by the Wisconsin Supreme Court to serve on the Supreme Court of Wisconsin Appointment Selection Committee.

Eric is also an avid aviation enthusiast who holds a private pilot certificate and owns, maintains and flies his own aircraft. He is a member of the Airplane Owners and Pilots Association and the Experimental Aircraft Association. He is

also in the process of building an airplane in his home workshop. Eric serves on the planning board for the local air show that has been held annually at the Waukesha County Airport.

Eric is married to his wife Michele of over 29 years and has three adult children.



TESTIMONY OF
CHIEF DEPUTY RYAN RECTENWALD
SHERIFF'S OFFICE, GRANT COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
OF THE
UNITED STATES SENATE

MARCH 1, 2017

HEARING:
*The Effects of Border Insecurity and
Lax Immigration Enforcement on American Communities*

Chairman Johnson, Ranking Member McCaskill, thank you for the invitation to come and speak with you today. I'm here to talk about a horrific murder which took place in our rural community of Grant County, Washington. An incident that to this day remains the most dreadful scene I've ever encountered in my nearly 20-year law enforcement career.

We received a call around noon, three days before Christmas 2016. A woman was out walking her dog near the Columbia River in a picturesque recreational area which is popular with tourists and rock climbers and endeared by residents. She said she'd found a dead body.

What I saw when I arrived at the crime scene can only be described as straight out of a horror movie. The body was lying face down in the snow. Detectives found 13 bullet casings, 11 of those bullets found their mark, striking the victim in the back of the head, neck, and shoulder area.

A box from a case of beer had a message written in Spanish and secured to the victim's back by a kitchen knife. The victim was later identified as Jill Marie Sundberg, age 31, the mother of four young children. We later learned she was kidnapped by five men after an argument at a party. She was forced into a vehicle with those five men, driven ten miles to this remote area, and was executed. The fear and brutality this woman faced during that ten-mile drive, and in the moments prior to her death will forever haunt the case investigators.

During the investigation, we developed a list of persons-of-interest who lived in the same trailer park where Jill had occasionally lived. With the help of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement agents and the U.S. Marshals Service, we were able to pick up and interview three of the five men. While all five were later arrested on murder, kidnapping, and other charges, what's important to know is that all five were determined to be in this country illegally and one had two prior felony criminal convictions.

The fact that these suspects were here illegally isn't my point. It's that the shooter was still in the U.S. after being convicted of crimes, and previously deported. So, how did this happen?

It turns out the alleged shooter had been previously deported in May 2007 after his first felony conviction. He then illegally re-entered our county and in June 2013, he was arrested on new felony assault charges in Grant County. He served out his sentence and in January 2014 he was released to Immigration again. Prior to his deportation hearing, he posted \$8,000 cash bail in March 2014. He never returned for his hearing. **No failure to appear warrants were ever issued.** He was then later re-arrested in September 2015 in our county on a new domestic violence assault charge.

That's not how *legal* residents are treated when they miss court dates; you and I would have had warrants issued for our arrest.

Meanwhile, after the shooter returned to our community, local law enforcement had numerous opportunities to bring him back into custody during unrelated contacts, but due to the fact that no Federal warrants were ever issued, he was never arrested.

I was asked to provide insight on policies that Congress and the Administration should be considering to stem the unlawful movement of people, illegal drugs, and other contraband into the country. Can we start with just some basic principles?

It makes sense that after being convicted of a felony, you should not be allowed to bail out of your immigration hearing. If you abscond, WARRANTS SHOULD BE ISSUED and ICE and local law enforcement should be able to pick you up

Now, I realize that this may present administrative and budgetary concerns, but we need easier access to the bad guys. This isn't about illegal immigrants who reside in our communities peacefully alongside us.

Allowing us these tools would help us distinguish between the truly law abiding and those whose existence is to harm through violence or drug distribution via enabling policies and practices. This certainly is not justice.

Although I can empathize with the discussion about ripping families apart when it comes to immigration enforcement, I can assure you the Sundberg family has been ripped apart because of the lack of enforcement of current immigration laws.

Lastly, I would like to publicly commend the hard work our men and women put into this complex investigation. They live by an unwritten code that dictates they will never stop, they will never quit, and they will always work for the ones who can no longer speak for themselves. Their efforts have truly made our community a far safer place to live.

About...

Ryan Rectenwald
Chief Deputy of Special Operations
Grant County (Washington) Sheriff's Office

Ryan Rectenwald has been a member of the Grant County Sheriff's Office since 2003. He has over 25 years of public safety experience.

After graduating from High School in Middleburg, Florida, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1988, serving as a Military Police Officer for over seven years.

Upon his honorable discharge, he joined the Grant County Sheriff's Office in 1996 as a Corrections Officer. In June 1997, Ryan was hired as a Police Officer by the Ephrata (Wash.) Police Department. In 2003, he returned to the Grant County Sheriff's Office.

Ryan's career has traveled in the path of investigations. He served as a narcotics detective for three years and major crimes detective for three years. In 2011, Ryan was appointed by Sheriff Tom Jones as the Chief Deputy of Special Operations, overseeing the Major Crimes Unit, Narcotics Unit, Marine Unit, and Off Road Vehicle Unit.