



# Genesee County Prosecutor's Office

## David Leyton, Prosecutor



### Gov. Jennifer Granholm awards \$5 million in police grants to Genesee County; crime in south Flint to be targeted through Prosecutor's Office \$3 Million Grant

by Bryn Mickle | The Flint Journal  
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**FLINT, Michigan** -- Genesee County is getting about \$5 million in federal law enforcement grants, including money to rehire six laid-off Flint police officers.

The grants are part of \$41 million in statewide law enforcement grants announced by Gov. Jennifer Granholm in Flint Wednesday afternoon.

The lion's share of the Genesee County money -- \$3 million -- will fund a community task force of police and prosecutors to target crime in areas south of downtown Flint.

The targeted area runs south of I-69 and extends to Fenton and Hemphill roads and Dort Highway.

"We're going to clean up that community," said Genesee County Prosecutor David S. Leyton.

Although other parts of the city have worse reputations for crime, Flint Police Chief Alvern Lock said targeting crime in that area will benefit the entire city.



"Every area of the city needs help," said Lock.

The money is part of federal stimulus money and is expected to add upwards of 200 new jobs statewide, said Granholm.

More federal money to hire more police officers could come by the end of the month, she said.

That money, she said, will "put more boots on the ground."

Along with the community task force, stimulus money in Genesee County includes:

• More than \$360,000 to the Genesee County prosecutor's office and the Sheriff's Department for prescription drug awareness programs.

• \$109,000 to the sheriff's department for X-ray machines, metal detectors and hand wands for building security.

• \$100,000 to the city of Flushing for a surveillance system in the Flushing School District and hard-to-patrol areas. The school camera system will connect to the Genesee Intermediate School District's fiber optic network.

• \$400,000 to the Flint Area Narcotics Group to target violent crime and drug trafficking.

Sheriff Robert J. Pickell said the prescription drug program will help deal with a trend that has seen drug peddling extend past street dealers to include more doctors.

"We have a heck of a drug problem throughout Flint and Genesee County," said Pickell.

Pickell said he and Leyton will use the money to work with schools to target prescription drug abuse in schools, while the extra money for X-ray machines and metal detectors will help boost courthouse security.



The county also is expected to benefit from a \$2.7 million grant expected to ease the backlog of testing at the state police crime lab.

"We can't tackle this (crime) problem alone," said Col. Peter Munoz, state police director.

In all, Michigan received nearly \$97 million in law enforcement funding requests.

"We didn't have enough money to cover everything," said Granholm.

So far, about \$67 million has been made available to police agencies around the state. Money awarded in the latest batch must be spent by September 2012.

