



PRESS RELEASE

PETER J. LUCIDO
MACOMB COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Contact: Dawn Fraylick
Office: +1 (586) 469-5737
Email: Dawn.Fraylick@macombgov.org

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Macomb County Prosecutor's Office Third in Nation for Criminal Justice and Public Safety Achievement Awards

Mount Clemens, MI - The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office, under the leadership of Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido, has once again demonstrated its commitment to excellence by receiving an impressive seven Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo) in the category of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This outstanding achievement places the office among the top performers nationwide and solidifies its reputation as a leader in the field, according to a review of the NACo website.

With a total of 3,142 counties across the 50 states, winning an NACo Achievement Award is a rare distinction. Only 5% of the counties receive this prestigious recognition, highlighting the exceptional accomplishments of the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office. Furthermore, Macomb County's position within the top 20 recipients puts it in the top 1% of all counties and secures its third-place ranking for the number of awards in the category of Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

The NACo Achievement Awards recognize county government innovations that enhance services for residents. The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office has been recognized for its forward-thinking initiatives that have transformed the delivery of justice and public safety in the community.

The seven initiatives honored with NACo Achievement Awards in the category of Criminal Justice and Public Safety are as follows:

- Death case dashboard improves administration of cases involving death.
- Paperless victim rights requests improve service.
- Payment processing tech improves criminal case "discovery digital media fee" processing.
- Prosecutor converts digital evidence platform to staff training platform.
- Prosecutors streamline access to justice with electronic victim advocate assistance requests.
- Technology pushes instant warrant and courtroom manual updates to assistant prosecutors.
- Weekend warrant authorization improved with jail duty tracker.

"Receiving seven Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties is an incredible honor and a testament to the dedication of our team. We are proud to be recognized among the top performers in the nation, placing Macomb County in the top 1% and ranking third in the category of Criminal Justice and Public Safety. These awards validate our commitment to innovation, service, and excellence as we continue to implement groundbreaking programs that positively impact our community. We will continue to strive for greatness and deliver the highest standards of justice for the residents of Macomb County," said Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido.

The programs recognized by the NACo Achievement Awards are not the only improvements Prosecutor Lucido has made since January 2021. In addition to successfully prosecuting crimes throughout the county, other progress includes:

- **Hate Crimes Unit Launched:** Prosecutor Lucido recognized Hate Crimes in Macomb County were likely under-reported. Prosecutor Lucido created the Hate Crimes Unit and began to educate police agencies and the public on what constitutes a Hate Crime, and provided focused prosecutorial resources to charge and try these crimes. According to FBI statistics there has been over a 50% increase in the reporting of hate crimes in Macomb County in the first two years of Prosecutor Lucido's administration versus the three years prior to him taking office.
- **Child support collections increased.** Prosecutor Lucido's office increased focus to collect child support from parents who owe \$5,000 or more. Thanks to support from the County Commission and County Executive, the office collected over \$100,000 so far this year for the direct benefit of Macomb County children.
- **Mental health assessments sought as a condition of bond in gun crime cases.** With this first-in-Michigan policy to seek mental health assessments as part of bond in *all* gun crime cases, Prosecutor Lucido recognizes that some defendants struggle with mental health issues, which might be addressed through early identification and provision of appropriate services before defendants get an opportunity to commit another crime with a gun.
- **School threats are taken seriously.** Prosecutor Lucido has authorized several school threat cases. "We promise to prosecute every one of these threats," said Lucido.
- **Conviction Integrity Unit exoneration.** This unit investigates claims of innocence to determine whether there is clear and convincing new evidence that the convicted defendant was not the person who committed the offense and to review claims of factual innocence based on new evidence. Thanks to support for this unit from the County Commission and County Executive, a person was exonerated this year.
- **Major Crimes Unit launched:** Prosecutor Lucido organized the top-ranked assistant prosecutors to focus on major crimes, and train more APAs to handle these types of cases.

- **Warrant Appeals Unit launched:** Victims and law enforcement officials are now given the right to have a second set of eyes to review cases where charges are denied, the first known unit of its kind in the state.
- **Digital Evidence Management platform implemented.** With more than 400,000 pieces of digital evidence in the system, the volume of digital evidence is higher than it's ever been, and keeps increasing. Police agencies now upload digital evidence, the Prosecutor's Office reviews it, and defense lawyers can directly download the evidence.
- **More interns equals more justice.** Prosecutor Lucido hosted over 200 law school and college interns, so far! Michigan Court Rules allow law students this exciting opportunity to handle court hearings under supervision, which helps the office move cases forward more quickly.
- **Paperless crime victim rights.** Prosecutor Lucido implemented the county's first paperless system for crime victims to request rights and notification. Crime victims may now request victim information via text message, or entirely online via the Prosecutor's Office Website.
- **Providing police training.** Prosecutor Lucido regularly sends assistant prosecutors to every police agency in Macomb County to provide training, including updates on recent court cases.