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NEWS RELEASE

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District Attorney Allocates Resources to Target Gun Crime Cases

In response to the increase in violent crimes in Clark County, District Attorney Steve Wolfson is increasing efforts to prosecute defendants who use a gun in the commission of a crime.

As of June 2016, the Gun Crimes Unit of the District Attorney's office will increase by 25%, enabling specialized prosecutors to take on a wider range of gun crime cases. Home invasions and robberies involving guns are examples of the types of crimes that are currently handled by this unit. Nearly 90% of the defendants prosecuted by the Gun Crimes Unit are sentenced to prison, with an average time behind bars of 6½ - 17½ years. With the additional resources, the Gun Crimes Unit will now target even more defendants who use guns, including ex-felons who possess firearms.

In conjunction with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Neighborhood Engagement Team (NET), prosecutors will also have additional information about suspects who pose a chronic problem within the various Area Commands. This will allow cases to be assigned to the appropriate prosecution team, giving special attention to defendants who repeatedly have police contact or multiple arrests for a variety of crimes.

Additionally, an education program is being developed which will be taught by Deputy District Attorneys, and geared toward middle school and high school students.

"These changes are intended to increase efforts to combat gun violence by having additional specialized Deputy District Attorneys prosecuting these cases, as well as educating our youth on the consequences of being involved with these crimes—with the hope that we can deter today's youth from ever becoming involved in this type of activity in the first place" said Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson. "Not only will we be adding an additional Chief Deputy District Attorney to the Gun Unit, but we are also casting a wider net on the *types* of cases that will be handled by this specialty team."