



# Katherine Fernandez Rundle

Miami-Dade State Attorney

MiamiSAO.com



## STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE NEWSLETTER



Jeffrey Garcia, a former Congressional Chief of Staff, recently pled guilty to crimes related to the submission of hundreds of on-line fraudulent absentee ballot requests.

It appeared to be an effort to impact the primary 2012 elections. However, as a result of electronic safeguards put in place, no fraudulent votes were ever cast and no individual lost their opportunity to cast their vote.

Today, he is serving a 90 day jail sentence for creating and masterminding this effort.

The Jeffrey Garcia case brings light to the issue of the absentee ballot voting process, a process we must protect and guarantee.

In an additional effort to safeguard our vote and restore confidence in our electoral process, my Community Outreach Division is currently visiting senior centers throughout the county, conducting presentations on how to "Protect Your Vote."

Furthermore, my Voter Protection Task Force, composed of investigators and civilian employees, has been activated since the commencement of early voting to respond to any citizen's complaints or irregularities.

These efforts will help make sure that voting in our county is fair and that everyone's voice is heard, no matter their vote.

Anyone who suspects improper or irregular activities regarding their absentee ballot or at early voting sites is urged to call my Public Corruption Hotline at 305-547-3300.

Sincerely,

## Tips For a Safer and Less Scary Halloween



For many kids, Halloween is a fun holiday, but surely a worrisome one for parents. Statistics have shown that twice as many child pedestrians are injured or killed while walking on Halloween compared to other days. Furthermore, studies have shown that only 1/3 of parents talk to their kids about safety on Halloween.

Please consider the following safety tips to ensure a safe night of trick or treating:

- Add reflective tape to costumes and trick-or-treat bags, only 18% of parents use this tape.
- Use flame-resistant costumes.
- Use face makeup instead of masks, which can cover kids eyes and make it hard to see.
- Visit only homes that have a porch light or driveway light on and accept treats at the door; never go inside.
- Walk only on the sidewalks, not in the street. If no sidewalk is available, walk at the edge of the roadway, facing traffic.
- Look both ways before crossing the street, and cross only at the corner.
- Don't cut across yards or use alleys. Don't cross between parked cars.
- Be cautious around pets or other animals, like dogs.

And for everyone out there, **please slow down when driving.**

## "John" Convicted in Human Trafficking Case

## REPORT PUBLIC CORRUPTION !



Don't Allow the Public's Trust to be Jeopardized.  
Hotline:  
305-547-3300

### Quick Links

[State Attorney](#)

[Victim Services](#)

[Clerk of Court](#)

[Miami-Dade Police](#)

### Our Community Outreach Events



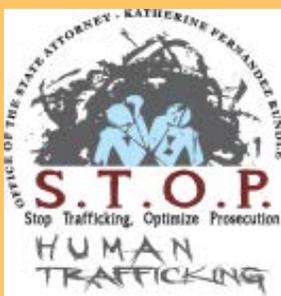
November 2 - First Annual Fall Festival, First Baptist Church of Brownsville, 4600 NW 23 Avenue, Miami, FL, 33142, 8:30AM - 3:00PM

November 4 - Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting, Miami Dade Intracoastal Police Station, 15665 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL, 33160, 5:30PM - 7:30PM

November 5 - Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting, Doral Police Station, 9101 NW 25 Street, Miami, FL, 33172, 6:30PM - 8:30PM

November 7 - Law Day, Edison Neighborhood Center, 150 NW 79 Street, Miami, FL, 33150, 5:30PM - 8:00PM

November 16 - Cutler Manor Wellness Expo.



Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle announced that her Human Trafficking Unit succeeded in recently sending a "John" to state prison for 10 years after he pled guilty in a human trafficking case.

Assistant State Attorneys Jane Anderson and Anna-Bo Emmanuel prosecuted Steve Sawyer on charges that he picked up a seventeen year old victim who was being prostituted on the streets of Opa-Locka. On three different occasions, Sawyer had sex with her and paid her with \$45 in cash and crack cocaine.

After the attorneys picked a jury in front of Judge Milton Hirsch on Monday, October 7, 2013, Steve Sawyer pled guilty and was sentenced to 10 years in State Prison.

Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle has said that to effectively combat Human Trafficking, one has to attack both the supply and the demand. This case confirms the State Attorney's stance of prosecuting those who participate in the commercial sexual exploitation of young girls by paying for sex.

"Combatting Human Trafficking requires a variety of effective approaches. Charging and convicting the adults who profit by using our children for their own benefit is the foundation of our prosecution efforts," commented State Attorney Fernandez Rundle. "If you try to steal the futures of our children by betraying their trust, you will pay. Steve Sawyer is paying with 10 years of his life."

## Dade Medical College President Charged



Source: Miami-Dade Corrections

At the conclusion of a Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) investigation, Dade Medical College President Ernesto Perez has been charged by the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office with felony and misdemeanor crimes related to his actions undertaken to expunge a criminal arrest and to his appointment and re-appointment to the Commission on Independent Education. In both of these circumstances, Ernesto Perez, also known as Rhett O'Neil, failed to acknowledge his 1990 criminal arrest for the charge of Second Degree, Sexual Assault of a

Child, his pleading "no contest" to the Misdemeanor crimes of Battery and Exposing Genitals to Child, his conviction by a Wisconsin court and his 180 day jail sentence.

Specifics, outlined in the arrest warrant, deal with the following events:

On February 27, 2012, Perez completed an FDLE, Application for Certification of Eligibility to expunge a Miami area arrest. As part of the expungement process, Perez submitted a sworn and notarized "Affidavit in Support to Expunge" to the Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida in September 2012, stating that he had never been adjudicated guilty of a criminal offense or a comparable ordinance violation. Based upon this sworn affidavit, the Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit issued an order on October 16, 2012 expunging Perez' 2002 arrest.

In July of 2013, FDLE conducted a review of Ernesto Armando Perez' 2009, 2011, and 2012 "Senate Confirmation Questionnaires." These notarized documents were signed by Perez for appointment and re-appointment consideration to the Commission on Independent Education. On these documents, Perez failed to disclose his arrest and conviction in the State of Wisconsin.

## Courthouse Highlights



Division Chief (DC) Annette De Aguila and Assistant State Attorney (ASA) Christine Hernandez-Baldwin from the Gangs Unit got a conviction before Judge Tinkler-Mendez in a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Murder case.

DC Paige Saperstein and Sr. Trial Counsel Gary Winston successfully prosecuted a 1st Degree Murder and Armed Robbery case.

ASA Richard Scruggs from the Gangs Unit and DC Dawn Kulick convicted co-defendants charged with Attempted Felony Murder and Armed Robbery/Firearm before Judge Rodriguez-Chomat in two separate back-to-back trials.

DC Griska Mena Rodriguez and ASA Cathy Sagesse got a conviction for 2nd Degree Murder before Judge Sanchez-Llorens.

ASAs Josh Gajer and Sarah Lobel won an Attempted 1st Degree Murder/Firearm trial.

Cutler Manor  
Apartments, 10875  
SW 216 Street,  
Goulds, FL, 33170,  
2:30PM - 6:00PM

November 20 -  
Citizen Advisory  
Committee Meeting,  
Miami Lakes NW  
Police Department,  
5975 Miami Lakes  
Drive, Miami Lakes,  
FL, 33014, 7:00PM -  
9:00PM

November 21 -  
Sealing &  
Expungement Event,  
New Birth Baptist  
Cathedral, 2300 NW  
135 Street, Miami,  
FL, 33167, 4:00PM -  
7:00PM

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