

Genesee County Probation Department



Lasting Legacies in Criminal Justice



County Building #1, 15 Main Street, Batavia, New York 14020

(585) 344-2550 x2255

probation@co.genesee.ny.us



Farewell to Hon. Robert J. Balbick, Long-Time Batavia City Court Judge

Jeremy Barber
Senior Probation Officer

Throughout my 16 years as a Probation Officer, I have been provided with a wealth of mentors, influences and role models. Arguably, one of my biggest influences has been the Honorable Robert J. Balbick.

Judge Balbick's approach to community corrections was sincere and always changing with the times. In 1999, he introduced the Drug Court Program to Genesee County. This model has now become known as the Batavia City Treatment Court Program which has specific avenues for DWI, substance abuse, mental health and service veterans.

Throughout the years, Judge Balbick has intertwined Treatment Court and Probation Supervision which allowed for direct communication along with a wealth of resources. Judge Balbick would specifically ask for an officer's input at the time of an offender's appearance in Court before rendering a decision or closing the proceedings.

Judge Balbick's dedication to the community has been nothing short of extraordinary. Without hesitation he made himself available for late night warrant arraignments, a number of which were individuals that fled the



Hon. Robert J. Balbick
Batavia City Court Judge

state. Judge Balbick has touched the lives of countless individuals that have been before him as well as professionals that he has worked along-side. His diligence has crossed over to the Court staff, which has allowed for an efficient and effective collaboration with our Department.

I would like to thank Judge Balbick for his years of service to this community and support of our Department throughout the years.

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Genesee County Probation Department

County Building 1, 15 Main St, Batavia, NY 14020 Tel: 585-344-2550

Staff Directory 2020




Timothy Michalak
Probation Director
Ext. 2270




Kevin Wright
Probation Supervisor
Ext. 2271




Rachel Sanfratello
Probation Supervisor
Ext. 2252



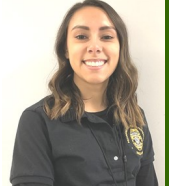
Michele Tucci
Senior Probation Officer
Ext. 2262



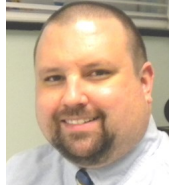
Jeremy Barber
Senior Probation Officer
Ext. 2259



Traci Russo
Senior Probation Officer
Ext. 2265



Beatriz Mateos
Probation Officer
Ext. 2274



William Bogan II
Probation Officer
Ext. 2309



Carly Luttrell
Probation Officer
Ext. 2272



Jason Mindler
Probation Officer
Ext. 2254




Terri Buchholz
Probation Officer
Ext. 2216



Benjamin Heale
Probation Officer
Ext. 2263



Nicole Williams
Probation Officer
Ext. 2273




Jeffrey Hyde
Probation Officer
Ext. 2266



Bryan Pike
Probation Officer
Ext. 2283



Vicki Athoe
Principal Clerk
Ext. 2257



Holly McAllister
Principal Financial Clerk
Ext. 2255

Genesee County Probation Department Newsletter



Fake Guns Create Real Safety Issues

Jason R. Mindler
Probation Officer / Instructor

Air guns that appear like “real” firearms represent a concern for probation officers. These air guns are a popular past time, and when enjoyed in a safe environment, can be

Air Guns, top, are often designed to closely match the appearance of a real firearm, bottom.



powerful tools for marksmanship and training. The danger presents itself when these items are carried on a person in public, or displayed in a threatening or unsafe manner.

For those that are unfamiliar, airsoft is a type of gas-powered air gun that shoots small plastic pellets. BB guns and pellet guns are powered by compressed gas and fire metal projectiles.

Airsoft guns are generally shipped with an orange tip to help distinguish them from actual firearms, but both police and probation have encountered guns which have been painted to appear real. If someone with these items on them gets approached by an officer, they should keep their hands away from the weapon, keep their hands visible and follow the officer’s commands.

It is nearly impossible to distinguish a gun from an airsoft gun without close inspection. In a split-second decision, an officer is not able to determine if the item that appears as a weapon is any danger to them.

This past summer, the Genesee County Probation Department developed a display to highlight these dangers. We hope to continue sharing this information in order to increase everyone’s safety.

Overheard...

Probationer when asked why they were driving while intoxicated: “I was less drunk than the passenger!”

Probationer, after reporting her car was repossessed: “Can I borrow \$300.00? I’m good for it.”

Probation Officer during a search through garbage, “I’m as deep as I’m willing to go using a butter knife.”

PROBATION’S MOST WANTED

If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of these individuals, please call

Genesee County Probation Department
(585) 344-2550 x 2255

WANTED
BY THE GENESSEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Carolina M Frias

DOB: 08/11/1981
SEX: F
HEIGHT: 5'00"
WEIGHT: 110
HAIR COLOR: BRN
EYE COLOR: BRN

PROBATION VIOLATOR

PLEASE DO NOT POST TIPS ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITE

WANTED
BY THE GENESSEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Duty E Caswell

DOB: 08/11/1981
SEX: M
HEIGHT: 5'00"
WEIGHT: 150
HAIR COLOR: BRN
EYE COLOR: BRN

PROBATION VIOLATOR

PLEASE DO NOT POST TIPS ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITE

WANTED
BY THE GENESSEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Janet L Grossman

DOB: 04/11/1958
SEX: F
HEIGHT: 5'00"
WEIGHT: 110
HAIR COLOR: BRN
EYE COLOR: BRN

PROBATION VIOLATOR

PLEASE DO NOT POST TIPS ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITE

WANTED
BY THE GENESSEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Jon C Bance

DOB: 08/11/1981
SEX: M
HEIGHT: 5'00"
WEIGHT: 150
HAIR COLOR: BRN
EYE COLOR: BRN

PROBATION VIOLATOR

PLEASE DO NOT POST TIPS ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITE

WANTED
BY THE GENESSEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Joshua D Capwell

DOB: 08/11/1981
SEX: M
HEIGHT: 5'00"
WEIGHT: 150
HAIR COLOR: BRN
EYE COLOR: BRN

PROBATION VIOLATOR

PLEASE DO NOT POST TIPS ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITE

WANTED
BY THE GENESSEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Jason R Duffina

DOB: 08/11/1981
SEX: M
HEIGHT: 5'00"
WEIGHT: 150
HAIR COLOR: BRN
EYE COLOR: BRN

PROBATION VIOLATOR

PLEASE DO NOT POST TIPS ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITE

WANTED
BY THE GENESSEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Deavin L Herman

DOB: 08/11/1981
SEX: M
HEIGHT: 5'00"
WEIGHT: 150
HAIR COLOR: BRN
EYE COLOR: BRN

PROBATION VIOLATOR

PLEASE DO NOT POST TIPS ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITE

WANTED
BY THE GENESSEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Patrick M Viscuso

DOB: 08/11/1981
SEX: M
HEIGHT: 5'00"
WEIGHT: 150
HAIR COLOR: BRN
EYE COLOR: BRN

PROBATION VIOLATOR

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Genesee County Probation Department Newsletter



PROBATION HAS CHANGED, OR HAS IT?

Kevin Wright
Probation Supervisor

serious mental health and substance abuse issues have grown dramatically. Yes, many things have changed.

Probation has changed in many ways over the years. When I began my career as a Probation Officer over 30 years ago, we made field contacts armed with a flashlight, pen and notebook in our personal vehicle. A Probation Officer Trainee was not a Peace Officer. Our “academy” was a two- and one-half-week course, held only in Albany where we slept at the same facility with NYS Corrections Officer recruits. We dictated our reports into a Dictaphone. Should the situation get physical, we could use our Mag-Lite as a defensive tool. As time progressed, we were given pagers so that the office could get in contact with us, but not vice versa. Drug detection tools were our eyes, nose and ears. Further on, we became armed with a revolver and handcuffs. Then came the mobile phone that we carried in a full-size backpack. Now we wear ballistic vests, carry semiautomatic pistols, batons,

Smith and Wesson Model 19, one of the first firearms issued to Genesee County Probation Officers



However, some things are the same today as when I started in this profession. A basic purpose of our work is still to promote public safety where justice prevails. One way we do that

is by trying to motivate change in the behaviors and attitudes of those under our charge and hold them accountable to victims and society. Sometimes, we do that by working to remove those from the community who present a danger to our citizens. The expectation of those in public service, and particularly those of us in the law enforcement professions, is that we are held to a higher standard, to be above reproach. After all, how can we have expectations of others that we fail to meet ourselves? Integrity, virtue and professionalism

remain as important today as ever. When we fail, we devalue our own credibility and that of our profession.

“How can we have expectations of others that we fail to meet ourselves? Integrity, virtue and professionalism remain as important today as ever. “

and pepper spray. Officers have portable radios and make field contacts, in pairs, in official vehicles with cages. We enter our own records on cases into computer databases and type our own reports. The training required has increased exponentially. Even the population we work with has changed. The level and frequency of violence is greater and the number of individuals with

I have been very fortunate during my career to have had the privilege to work both for and with a number of people who I believe are true examples of integrity, virtue and professionalism. As our profession changes, let us continue to strive for the highest standard of these and do our part to make society a better place each day for the citizens who we serve.



Dictaphone and cassette



Early Portable Phone

Giving Back

As part of our annual Chili Thanksgiving, Genesee County Probation staff brought a dish to pass and a donation for a community organization. This year Eagle Star Housing was selected. Located in East Pembroke, Eagle Star Housing provides transitional housing to Veterans as well as transportation and life skills training.

In lieu of exchanging gifts during the holiday season, Department Staff also donated money in December to the Holiday Tote Project run by Genesee County in collaboration with the Kiwanis Club of Batavia. This program provides food, toys and necessary items to the needy in our community.

Genesee County Probation Department Newsletter



Director's Corner

By Timothy Michalak
Probation Director

During my career, I have witnessed the Genesee County Probation Department not only develop a number of successful Probation Officers, but our Department has also proved to be a breeding ground for leaders in the field of Criminal justice who are still serving our community today.

Most recently, long-time Probation Officer Sarah Welker was hired last year as the new Batavia Treatment Court Coordinator. She worked for the Probation Department for nearly fourteen years and even interned for Probation prior to being hired full-time. Sarah's brother, Jeff Mileham was a Probation Officer for five years and also became a Firearms Instructor for the Department before being hired by the United States Probation and Pre-Trial Services Office, Western District which serves 16 counties, including Genesee County.

Back in 2004, Probation Officer Joe Graff was hired by the Genesee County Sheriff's Office. During Joe's five years at Probation, he became a Firearms Instructor, Tactical Baton Instructor and Simunition Trainer. Joe now serves in the capacity of Chief Deputy at the Sheriff's Office.

Current Sheriff's Office Investigators Chad Minuto and Kevin Forsyth both were employed by Probation before being hired as Deputies. Chad worked for Probation for three and a half years while Kevin worked for Probation for eight years, during which time he became a Defensive Tactics Instructor and was promoted to Senior Probation Officer before heading to the Sheriff's Office.

Finally, in 1997, two young trainees were hired by the Probation Department; Jeff Searls and myself. Jeff was only a Probation Officer for a brief time before accepting a position with The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service which is now The Department of Homeland Security. Jeff currently works for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as the Officer in Charge of the Federal Detention Facility in Batavia.

Officers from our Department have also gone on to serve Genesee County as NYS Parole Officers and numerous others now serve jurisdictions outside of Genesee County in the field of criminal justice.

Currently, our Department is full of skilled, passionate, hard-working individuals, which amongst them are undoubtedly the future leaders in Probation. It is comforting to know that while serving as the Genesee County Probation Director I am able to collaborate with a network of quality people both inside and outside the walls of this Department to help keep our community and its citizens safe.

Welcome!

Juvenile Probation Officer Beatriz Mateos joins us after years of experience working for Genesee County Department of Social Services



Welcome!

Holly McAllister, Principal Financial Clerk
Coming to us with 18 years of Genesee County Experience



Genesee County Probation Department Newsletter



Contact Information:

Genesee County Probation Department
County Building No.1,
15 Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020
TEL: (585)344-2550, Ext 2255 FAX: (585) 343-5839
Dept. Email: probation@co.genesee.ny.us



The Mission of the Genesee County Probation Department is to enhance the safety of victims and communities through the fair and effective supervision of community-based offenders, community partnerships, and results-driven management practices.

