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Protecting Mississippians from Gangs

Two Venezuelan Tren de Aragua (TdA) gang members, investigated by my office, were recently sentenced for conspiracy to commit bank fraud. Darrin Moises Daza-Segura and Winder Alexander Canelon-Tiapa traveled throughout Mississippi reprogramming bank ATMs to dispense large amounts of cash, which is commonly known as ATM Jackpotting.

It is estimated that the disruption of the criminal scheme prevented nearly \$180,000 in potential fraud loss. Both men were sentenced to serve 10 months in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, with three years of supervised release. The men were ordered to pay \$47,250 in restitution to the affected banks. Both men entered the country illegally and will be subject to deportation upon release from prison.



Working with the Trump Administration to Find Missing Children

Last month, our office was proud to partner with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families and the Mississippi Division of Child Protection Services to launch Operation Hope, a new, multidisciplinary effort to locate missing foster children. Thirteen children were located, offered support services, and brought to safety.

We are proud to have helped kick off this program here in Mississippi. Over the several weeks of planning and in the execution of the operation, it was always our intention not only to locate vulnerable Mississippi youth but also to create a model that can be used in other states. There are children all across this country who live without hope, but through partnerships like this we can show them that we care, that they matter, and that they deserve hope.



Fighting Human Trafficking

Last week, my Human Trafficking Task Force led a human trafficking law enforcement training and operation, [Operation Liberty Shield](#), in Vicksburg, Mississippi. We trained 45 new officers and recovered 4 human trafficking victims.

With this latest training, we have trained 648 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers from across the state. Operation Liberty Shield is the 64th multi-jurisdictional operation led by our office's human trafficking unit, resulting in the cumulative recovery of 391 victims and 204 arrests, as well as countless leads in the effort to disrupt and stop trafficking operations in Mississippi.



Taking on Big Tech and Standing Up for Our Children

[I recently joined a bipartisan coalition of Attorneys General](#) to ask Congress to oppose the Kids Online Digital Safety Act ("KIDS" Act), H.R. 7757, arguing the bill would weaken states' ability to protect children online while insulating Big Tech from accountability.

Youth mental health is on the decline and predator online activity is on the rise. Our children's futures depend on our willingness to protect them in this digital era. Mississippi and other states are holding Big Tech accountable and by preempting state laws, the KIDS Act will set back all that good work and instead toe the line for Big Tech. I am proud to join my colleagues from across the country as we fight to protect children online.



Recognizing Public Safety Professionals

On May 19-22, I co-hosted the [4th Annual Mississippi Public Safety Summit](#) with Department of Public Safety Commissioner Sean Tindell. During this year's Summit, we honored five public safety leaders for going above and beyond to answer the call of duty:

- Law Enforcement Officer of the Year: Captain William Kendrick, Jackson Police Department
- Firefighter of the Year: Captain John Clark, Belzoni Fire Department
- Prosecutor of the Year: District Attorney Angel Myers McIlrath, 19th Circuit Court District of Mississippi
- First Responders of the Year: Officer Brian Drieling and Officer Wyatt Webb, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Every day, public safety leaders across the state selflessly serve to protect us all. And they do not get nearly the recognition they deserve. We wanted to show our appreciation to these heroes by celebrating them. I am so grateful for their service and dedication to seeking justice and making Mississippi a safer place for everyone. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made this year's event a success.



Securing Past-Due Child Support

[My office prosecuted two individuals](#) who were recently sentenced for Felony Desertion or Nonsupport of Child. Nicholas Market, of Pope, Mississippi, was sentenced to serve five years of probation and pay full restitution totaling \$54,577.

Michael P. Rushing, of Tylertown, Mississippi, was sentenced to serve five years of probation and pay full restitution totaling \$210,686.67.

Parents have a legal and moral obligation to provide for their children, and we will continue to hold those who fail to do so accountable.

Protecting Mississippi's Children from Predators

Three people have recently been sentenced for child exploitation in cases investigated and prosecuted by my office, and all three will be required to register as sex offenders.

Former Reservoir Police Officer [Rodney Jernigan](#) was sentenced for two counts of child exploitation. He will serve 20 years day-for-day without the possibility of parole in the custody of the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC).

[Kevin Wayne Owen](#) was sentenced for two counts of child exploitation. He will serve 15 years day-for-day without the possibility of parole in the custody of MDOC.

Former teacher and preacher, [Kyle Michael Hilleary](#) was sentenced for one count of child exploitation following a jury trial. He will serve 25 years day-for-day without the possibility of parole in the custody of MDOC.

We are committed to holding individuals who exploit children accountable for their crimes. We are proud to work with our law enforcement partners to help these victims achieve justice and closure, and help protect other children from abuse.

May God bless you,



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