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# JUSTICE COALITION'S VICTIMS' ADVOCATE

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## Message from Attorney General Bill McCollum



This week our office achieved a significant victory in our fight against those who prey on our children online. A bill that will substantially increase penalties for certain sex crimes committed over the Internet received

the unanimous approval of the Florida House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety. This groundbreaking piece of legislation will truly make a difference as we combat cybercrimes.

Today, more than 77 million American children regularly use the Internet. Statistics on child pornography are alarming. According to the Federal Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, Florida ranks third in the nation in volume of child pornography. Nationally, one in seven children between the ages of ten and 17 have been solicited online by a sexual predator. This is both disturbing and heartbreaking.

Keeping our children safe from Internet predators is my number one priority as your Attorney General. My Child Predator CyberCrime Unit has already made great strides towards achieving this goal, with 34 arrests in just over one year. The CyberCrime investigators target those who create, possess or distribute child pornography, as well as those who solicit sex from children online, then travel to meet the child for sex. The legislation introduced this week will give our investigators and attorneys essential resources needed when investigating and prosecuting these terrible crimes.

However, we cannot rest on our laurels! Over the next few months, the Attorney General's Office will be introducing new educational and community outreach programs, intended to raise awareness about the dangers lurking online. We are excited about these new initiatives and look forward to working with Floridians as we fight for our children and their safety.

As a father and a grandfather, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of protecting our children from the sick individuals who target them for sex over the Internet. Child pornography is far from being a victimless crime - it is a graphic representation of a sex crime against a child, one that is repeated every time the image is distributed or viewed. This must be stopped. This type of behavior will not be tolerated in our state. Florida is working to put protections in place which will set an example for the entire nation.

I want to encourage all Floridians to join me in this fight. More information is available on my website, <http://myfloridalegal.com>. Please, help us keep our kids safe. They deserve nothing less.

## “I could not breathe for him...” Anguished father mourns for son murdered over cell phone

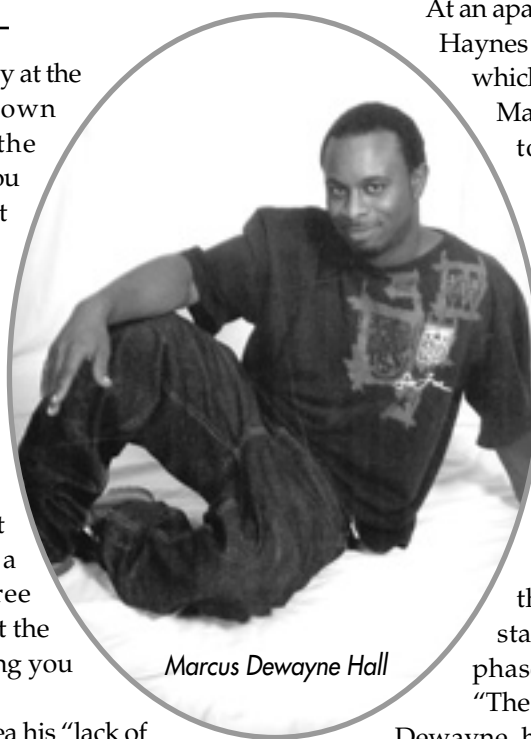
By Shirley Shaw

Judge Lance Day looked sternly at the defendant as he handed down his sentence: life without the possibility of parole. “Mr. Haynes, you made a statement that really caught me when you said it was beyond your control,” he said. “From the Court’s standpoint that is the furthest from the truth in terms of the way evidence came out in this trial.

“It’s hard to believe that a person would be killed over a cell phone. If you look at the cell phone market right now, they are almost a dime a dozen – you buy one and get three free...but it really wasn’t just about the cell phone. It was about not showing you proper respect.”

Marcus Dewayne Hall had no idea his “lack of respect” would cost him his life.

Last January, Marcus (his family calls him Dewayne) picked up a friend and they went to the birthday party of a mutual friend. When Marcus left the party, Shedrick Haynes noticed his cell phone was missing. Someone else at the party suggested Marcus might have taken it, so Haynes went looking for him.



Marcus Dewayne Hall

At an apartment complex on Lem Turner Road, Haynes confronted Marcus about the phone, which he denied knowing anything about. Marcus finally lifted his shirt, baring his torso, and said, “Search me, search my car; I don’t have your phone.” At this point, Haynes opened fire and shot him five times at point-blank range – twice in the back as Marcus tried to flee.

### “The worst night of my life”

Samuel Hall never thought when he went to bed on Jan. 13, 2006, that his sleep would soon be interrupted, his life shattered, by a phone call. He eloquently describes the events of that night in the impact statement he wrote for the sentencing phase of the trial:

“The night I received the call that my son, Dewayne, had been shot was the worst night of my life, and I could not – did not – want to believe what I was hearing. So many things went through my mind, because just a few years ago our family buried my wife, my children’s mother, after a dreadful disease, and I felt I could not face another tragedy.”

MARCUS... CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## Crime and What You Can Do to Stop It



Ask the Mayor

by Mayor John Peyton

On February 1, I joined members of the Justice Coalition and hundreds of other citizens in the March for Life in downtown Jacksonville. This was another step toward citizens joining with city government, law enforcement, and other community and faith leaders to form a united front against violent crime in our community.

Sheriff Rutherford and I, along with the support of our City Council, School Board, State Attorney and Judiciary, are doing everything we can to make our city safer. We are working hard to fight crime and prosecute criminals today, and to build our economy and enhance education, prosperity

and jobs to combat crime in the future.

These actions are important and will help, but they are far from enough. In order to truly transform this city, we need citizen involvement. Each individual, whether he or she has been personally affected by violent crime or not, has the potential to make a difference in our community.

Fostering unity in Jacksonville will lay the foundation for working together to reduce crime. Houses of faith, neighborhood associations and community-based programs already focus on this very issue, and the city’s Office of Faith and Community-Based Organizations has the resources and expertise to help these groups partner to find joint, peaceful solutions.

Opening the lines of communication between residents and law enforcement is also an important way to get criminals off the street. The Jacksonville Sheriff’s

Office’s Protecting Communities Program connects residents with JSO representatives to build trust with one another. It is a chance to discuss key neighborhood issues and take action to address safety concerns. And individuals who pay attention and share information about criminals and suspicious activity with police have the potential to be the best crime-fighting weapon. You can even do so anonymously.

In addition, gun buy-backs are an effective option. The AME Ministerial Alliance holds buy-backs throughout the year, and with the community’s help, they can hold more. These programs not only take weapons off the streets, they raise awareness about gun safety and serve as a way for neighbors to come together in the name of safety. A study by the Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center

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