

Date September 03, 2021

Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - Sept. 3, 2021



This week, I announced Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Chris Godwin as the keynote speaker for the virtual 2021 Human Trafficking Summit. Chris will be joined by his wife, Mariah, to kick off the launch of this year's summit—which will include more than 15 hours of presentations by speakers from across the nation.

In preparation for Super Bowl LV in Tampa, Chris joined our campaign to raise awareness about human trafficking and how to report suspicious activity. Chris was an invaluable ally and partner before the championship game and remains a great teammate in our fight to end human trafficking in Florida.

Through our aggressive efforts ahead of the Super Bowl, we were able to provide airport employees, Uber drivers, local businesses and visitors in town for the big game with information about how to spot and report the signs of human trafficking. We learned so much from this massive, coordinated effort to stop human trafficking and I am so excited for our registrants to hear from Chris and Mariah about their contributions during the launch of our summit on Oct. 5.

You can learn more about the event and how to register by visiting

humantraffickingsummit.com.

If you suspect or witness an instance of human trafficking, immediately contact local law enforcement and then call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1(888) 373-7888. By working together to learn the signs of human trafficking and how to report it, we can end this inhumane practice, rescue victims and build a Stronger, Safer Florida.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial letter.

In The News

Buccaneers wide receiver Chris Godwin named keynote speaker of 2021 Human Trafficking Summit, Florida Politics

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Tamarac City Manager Michael Cernech Arrested for Role in Extorting More Than \$3 Million from Florida Developer, CBS 4 Miami

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Ashley Moody Joins Legal Challenge to Biden Administration's Immigration Policies, Florida Daily

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Attorney General Ashley Moody gives Back the Blue award to Marion Sheriff's Office couple, Ocala StarBanner

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Two Marion County deputies honored by Attorney General with Back the Blue award, WCJB 20 Gainesville

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Protecting Floridians

Head of Fentanyl Trafficking Organization Sentenced to 50 Years in Prison

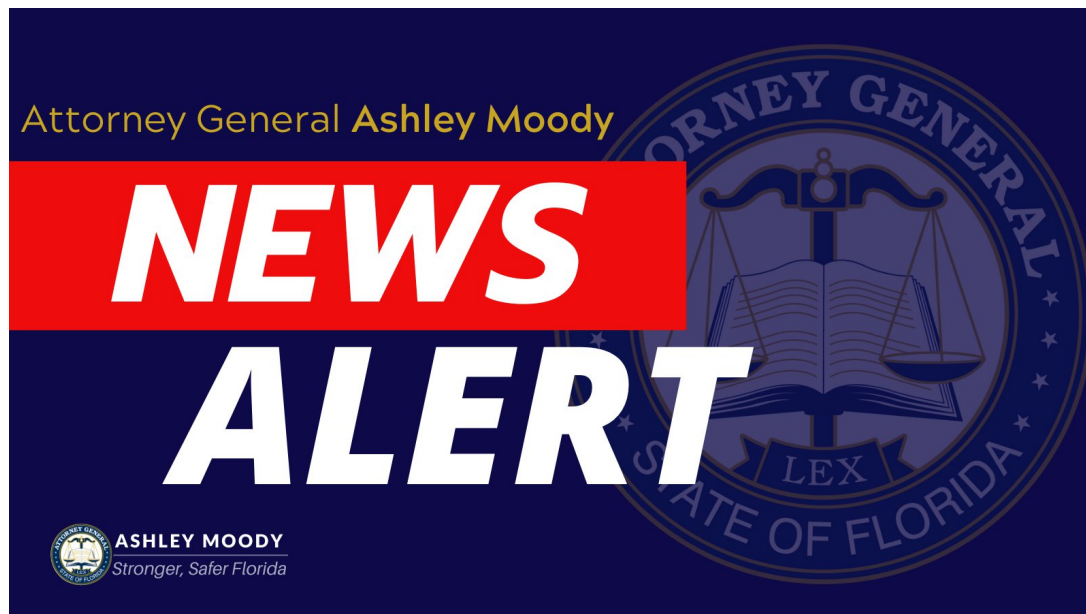


Attorney General Ashley Moody’s Office of Statewide Prosecution secured a 50-year sentence for Hector Mojica Phipps, the main culprit of a sibling fentanyl trafficking operation. Mojica Phipps, along with sister Dilcia, sold and distributed heroin and fentanyl throughout Central Florida. Earlier this month, OSP secured a 25-year sentence for Dilcia Mojica Phipps.

Fentanyl is a highly lethal opioid. According to the Medical Examiner’s Interim Statewide Report for 2020, for the first time since 2013, drugs—specifically fentanyl—were found in more bodies of deceased persons than alcohol, with the data pointing to the majority of fentanyl occurrences being illicitly obtained. This sign of an increase in the illicit drug supply throughout Florida shows how fentanyl exacerbates the opioid crisis. The report also states that fentanyl caused the most drug-related deaths. Currently, nearly 21 people in Florida die each day from opioid abuse.

Attorney General Ashley Moody, “We are in the middle of a national opioid crisis claiming 21 lives a day in our state. It is imperative that we bring opioid traffickers to justice and stop them from peddling deadly poison in our state. This brother-sister

trafficking team will now spend years behind bars for their role in fueling the opioid crisis. I want to thank my Statewide Prosecutors and law enforcement for working hard every day to remove fentanyl from our streets and bring to justice those profiting off the sale of these deadly substances.” [Read More](#)



gerous Immigration

Attorney

General Ashley Moody is joining a coalition of 17 other states to stop the Biden administration’s so-called interim guidance, which drastically and intentionally curtails immigration enforcement. The policy dramatically limits nearly all deportations and immigration-related arrests, including for those convicted of serious and even violent crimes, whom Congress has specifically directed the federal government to arrest and detain, but a federal judge recently ruled that the policy is unlawful. The coalition is asking the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to deny the Biden administration’s request for a stay of that ruling pending appeal so that President Biden’s illegal refusal to enforce the immigration laws will be halted while the administration’s appeal is ongoing.

The legal theory in this case is substantially similar to one advanced by Florida in its own lawsuit challenging the Biden administration’s reckless policies, which Attorney General Moody filed in March.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Instead of following the direction of the court to enforce federal law, President Biden is seeking an emergency order to keep his

illegal policies in place. Every day he ignores federal law, we become less safe. I am joining my colleagues from 17 other states in calling on the court to deny the Biden administration's motion to stay as soon as possible so we can end the chaos at our Southern Border and protect the American people." [Read More](#)

BACK THE BLUE ALERT: Attorney General Moody Recognizes First Responder Couple for Pausing Nuptials to Rescue Car Crash Victim



Attorney General Ashley Moody presented Back the Blue Awards to a Marion County Sheriff's Office deputy and correctional officer for the couple's heroic response to a car crash that occurred during the duo's wedding festivities.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "I am blown away by the quick thinking and dedication shown by Deputies Christopher and Taylor Rafferty. As Florida law enforcement officers, it was second nature for them to drop what they were doing to help a citizen in need—in the middle of their wedding festivities. I could not be more grateful for the efforts of this bride and groom. Because of their selfless service, on their wedding day, a citizen in desperate need of help was rescued." [Read More](#)

Events

This week, Attorney General Ashley Moody presented Back the Blue Awards in Ocala to Deputy Christopher Rafferty and Deputy Taylor Rafferty of the Marion County Sheriff's Office. The law enforcement duo paused their wedding festivities to help a pedestrian struck by a vehicle close to the wedding venue.



Attorney General Moody speaking at the Drug Free America Foundation's Ninth Annual Prevention Summit in Tampa about efforts to end the national opioid crisis claiming lives in Florida. Recently, Attorney General Moody [announced historic settlement agreements of more than \\$1.5 billion for Florida](#) to help abate the destruction caused by the opioid crisis.



Attorney General Moody delivering remarks at the Florida Tax Collectors Association's 2021 Education Forum in Orlando on the opioid crisis and actions taken to prevent crime. Attorney General Moody is [partnering with Florida tax collectors](#) to raise awareness about important public safety issues.

