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**News Article**

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## ***Broward County State Attorney Harold F. Pryor Begins Reviews To Overturn Convictions from Illegal BSO 'Manufacturing' Sting Operations***

**Fla. News** — In a shocking revelation, the Broward County Sheriff's Office (BSO) has come under scrutiny for its involvement in [manufacturing and distributing crack cocaine between 1988 and 1990](#). The operation targeted buyers rather than sellers and occurred near school zones, leading to numerous arrests and convictions. Now, decades later, Broward County State Attorney Harold F. Pryor is taking steps to rectify the injustices caused by these controversial sting operations.

The [impact of these convictions has been significant for many individuals](#). A drug possession conviction on one's record can create significant barriers to employment, housing, and other opportunities. While this effort to rectify past wrongs may be years overdue, it represents a crucial step towards acknowledging and addressing the harm caused by the controversial sting operation.

The operation has come under intense scrutiny for its questionable tactics, particularly its focus on entrapping users while avoiding the pursuit of actual drug traffickers. In some cases, law enforcement allegedly introduced individuals to crack cocaine for the first time, specifically conducting these operations near schools to enhance potential penalties.

The [scandal began in 1988 when the BSO, under the leadership of Sheriff Nick Navarro](#), decided to use seized powder cocaine to manufacture crack cocaine. This illegal activity was carried out within the Broward County Courthouse, where the sheriff's chemist converted the powder into crack and distributed it to undercover deputies. These deputies then sold the crack cocaine near schools, entrapping unsuspecting buyers.

The operation led to the arrest and conviction of approximately 2,600 individuals, many of whom were first-time offenders and addicts. The [Florida Supreme Court, in a landmark 1993 ruling](#), declared that it was unlawful for law enforcement to charge individuals for purchasing drugs that were manufactured and distributed by the police. The court's decision highlighted the outrageous conduct of the BSO, which violated the due process clause of the Florida Constitution.

Despite the ruling, many of those convicted continued to [suffer the consequences of having a criminal record](#). A conviction for drug-related offenses, especially those near school zones, made it difficult for individuals to find employment and secure housing. The stigma associated with these convictions has had a lasting impact on their lives and their families.

Recognizing the need for justice, [Broward County State Attorney Harold F. Pryor](#) has initiated a review of these cases. Pryor's office is working to vacate as many as 2,600 convictions and, in some cases, seal or expunge the records. This effort is part of a broader initiative to address the harsh and often discriminatory practices of the past.

Legal experts note that this review represents a broader shift in understanding the impact of aggressive drug enforcement tactics from the late 1980s and early 1990s. The initiative aligns with growing national efforts to address historical injustices in the criminal justice system, particularly those stemming from the "War on Drugs" era.

"It is never too late to do the right thing," Pryor stated in a recent press release. He emphasized the importance of correcting these injustices and acknowledged the long-lasting impact these convictions have had on individuals and their communities.

For those who believe this review may affect them, the Broward County State Attorney's Office has provided contact information for assistance. Individuals can email [casereview@browardsao.com](mailto:casereview@browardsao.com) or call 954-831-6543

This move by Pryor's office represents a significant step towards rectifying the wrongs of the past and providing a path to redemption for those unjustly convicted. While it may be years late, the hope is that this effort will help erase the stigma associated with these convictions and offer a fresh start to those affected.

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I ❤️ Pembroke Pines

Best Regards,

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