

# HON. AISHA N. BRAVEBOY



STATE'S ATTORNEY  
FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy is the top law enforcement officer in Prince George's County, Maryland, responsible for the safety, security, and the administration of justice for more than 900,000 residents. She manages a budget of roughly \$22 million and a staff of over 200, including approximately 100 attorneys. Ms. Braveboy has implemented innovative and successful reforms to the criminal justice system to reduce mass incarceration, while protecting the welfare of her community.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Braveboy has been at the forefront with effective solutions to prevent the spread of the virus. She was the first prosecutor in the State and one of the first in the nation – to proactively and thoughtfully reduce the local jail population, which decreased the spread of the coronavirus through her celebrated initiative, **Operation Safe Release**. This initiative led to a significant reduction in the average daily population at the local jail. In addition, Ms. Braveboy continues to work with non-profits and County agencies to ensure that victims of domestic violence and physical abuse receive the resources and support they need during the pandemic

During Maryland's 2020 Legislative Session, Ms. Braveboy and her team worked tirelessly with lawmakers and community partners in Annapolis to ensure that two of her priority pieces of her legislation platform were successfully passed into law. The first priority was the **2nd Lt. Richard Collins, III, Hate Crimes Law** which removed unnecessary barriers that existed under the old statute and eased the way to better prosecute hate crimes in Maryland. The second priority was the **Assault in the First Degree - Strangulation Law**. With the successful passage of this bill, Maryland became the 48<sup>th</sup> state to recognize strangulation as a felony. This bill was extremely important to Ms. Braveboy as she recognized that survivors of domestic violence are 750% more likely to become a victim of domestic violence homicide. In October of 2020, Ms. Braveboy announced the creation of the **County's Multi-Agency Strangulation Protocol**, which is designed to identify victims of strangulation, provide immediate access to the appropriate health care and social services needed, and to collect and preserve evidence needed in the prosecution of their abuser. Prior to office, Ms. Braveboy also began a **"Not One"** campaign against domestic violence that continues to give victims and survivors a voice.

Since taking office in December of 2018, Ms. Braveboy has created two new units in her Office to better address criminal justice needs. The **Public Integrity Unit** focuses on police misconduct, excessive use of force, and public corruption cases. That Unit has successfully prosecuted police officers for violations of the public trust and has indicted officers on a range of offenses, including murder, rape, assault and theft. The **Conviction and Sentencing Integrity Unit**, the only one of its kind in the State, reviews cases of defendants alleging wrongful conviction or disproportionate sentencing. Under the Braveboy Administration, the Conviction and Sentencing Integrity Unit was awarded a \$750,000 grant from the Department of Justice to assist with investigating wrongful conviction cases. Recently, this Unit has focused on juvenile lifers. This group consists of juvenile defendants who were prosecuted as adults and were sentenced to life imprisonment or very lengthy prison terms. They have now served a significant period of time in prison and have demonstrated that they are rehabilitated and are no longer the same child who committed the crime that landed them in prison.

There are significant legal obstacles to securing release for these individuals, but the Braveboy Administration has secured the release of 10 deserving juvenile lifers and has motions filed in several of these types of cases.

One of Ms. Braveboy's top priorities is to end the school-to-prison pipeline. To that end, she has reorganized her Juvenile Unit and created community partnerships. As promised during her campaign, during Ms. Braveboy's Administration, the Juvenile Unit was transformed and appropriately renamed the **Youth Justice Unit**. Ms. Braveboy has inspired and promoted a unique prosecutorial perspective in which the focus is placed upon identifying and addressing the underlying catalysts and motivations for youth's actions, instead of focusing solely on punishment. Through in-house programs like Teen Court, community-based diversion/intervention programs, relationships with mental/behavioral health professionals, and partnering with the Prince George's County Public Schools—the Youth Justice Unit has reduced the number of children prosecuted by the State's Attorney's Office and the number of youth reoffending. Ms. Braveboy plans to use a similar model in the implementation of a new **Emerging Adult** program for youthful offenders, ages 18-26.

In addition, Ms. Braveboy is expanding diversion opportunities for human trafficking, homeless victims charged with prostitution, homeless defendants charged with minor nuisance crimes, and non-violent handgun offenders. She has expanded the criteria and grown the number of participants in the **Back-On-Track Program** as well. This program was developed by Vice President Kamala Harris when she was the District Attorney in San Francisco. It gives first-time felony drug offenders a second chance. Ms. Braveboy is the first prosecutor in the State to end the practice of prosecutors requesting **cash bail** as a condition of pre-trial release. Also, she created the **Drive Focused, Sober and Safe** campaign and increased participation in the monthly **Community in The Courthouse** sessions. In September 2019, State's Attorney Braveboy held the Office's first-ever annual **State of Justice** event to address her constituents regarding the status quo of criminal justice in around Prince George's County. Recently, her Office was awarded the highly coveted **DNA Cold Case Grant**, administered by the Department of Justice, which will aid in solving and prosecuting violent crimes committed in the County.

Prior to being elected State's Attorney, Ms. Braveboy served as the Manager of Government Affairs for **Children's National Hospital**. Also, Ms. Braveboy was Of Counsel with Gabriel J. Christian and Associates, where she represented clients in a variety of legal matters. In addition, Ms. Braveboy, for over 17 years, volunteered to serve as General Counsel for the **Community Public Awareness Council (C-PAC)**, a community-based juvenile diversionary program that has successfully diverted over 4,000 students from the criminal justice system.

In 2006, Ms. Braveboy was elected to represent the 25th Legislative District in the Maryland General Assembly. As a Delegate, Ms. Braveboy was appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve as Chair of the Consumer Protection Subcommittee. She was elected by her peers to serve as **Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland**, where she guided the 44-member organization on a wide range of policy issues including parity for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, reducing mass incarceration, enhancing tools to prosecute rapists, increasing opportunities for women and minority-owned businesses, and reducing health disparities in our State.

Ms. Braveboy graduated from the University of Maryland College Park, where she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Government and Politics. She also received her Juris Doctorate from **Howard University School of Law**. Ms. Braveboy attends the Sanctuary at Kingdom Square and is a proud member of **Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.**