

# Gang Related Violence Must be Focus for Prosecutors

The most recent prominent shooting in Suffolk County occurred just last week, on Friday, July 23, when three people were shot and killed in a home in Farmingville, marking the seventh gun-related murder for the week.

It's now clear that these murders were apparently gang-related and drug-related.

Unfortunately, the tragedy of these murders comes as no surprise to anyone who has been paying attention to what is going on with the Suffolk County District Attorney's current gang program, which has long since valued headlines and sound bites over actual results.

What's lacking is a solid focus on those gang members responsible for the violence to ensure that their cases get prosecuted promptly and effectively.

So far this month, there have been nine reported shootings, resulting in nine deaths and two additional injuries. So far this year, the number of reported shootings has eclipsed the total number of shootings last year by 57% and surpassed the five-year average (from 2016-2020) by 44%.

In fact, shootings in Suffolk County have become a growing problem for the past few years. In just two years, when comparing 2020 to 2018, gun-related homicides were up 43%, shootings were up 80%, and the number of shooting victims increased by 94% -- nearly doubling.



Right now, serious felonies are remaining unindicted, and persons carrying illegal weapons in our most vulnerable communities are being offered ridiculously favorable plea

bargains. Gang prosecutions are difficult, and the current District Attorney seems to lack the resolve and expertise to ensure that these critically important cases are being effectively prosecuted.

Tierney knows this from years as a federal prosecutor. There he prosecuted MS-13 and Colombia's Norte del Valle drug cartel. When it comes to these violent criminal gangs motivated by illegal drug profits, law enforcement and prosecutors can never let up in pursuing these criminals for these heinous acts and prosecuting them to the fullest extent of the law.

Tim Sini, on the other hand, promotes these policies. The District Attorney's Office has long been rife with corruption in Suffolk County. However, Sini seemed to fit right in with the 'corporate culture' and continued business as usual.

Sini may benefit politically from flashy headlines and dealing, but victims lose out. There is a reason why victim's rights groups are coalescing around the challenger and not the incumbent.

This election, vote for a candidate that'll make a difference and look past the headline and toward the conviction.

We don't need more of the same old. For your **Review**.