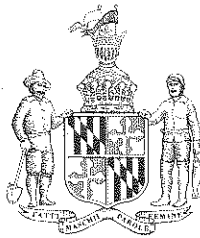


Dario J. Broccolino
State's Attorney

Mary V. Murphy
Deputy - Operations

Kim Y. Oldham
Deputy - Administration



Circuit Court Division
(410) 313-2108
(410) 313-3294 FAX

District Court Division
(410) 313-3100
(410) 313-3144 FAX

Victim Witness
(410) 313-3153

Juvenile Division
(410) 313-2142

Diversion Program
(410) 313-3017
TTY (410) 313-2323

Office of the State's Attorney for Howard County

Carroll Building
3450 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

September 21, 2014

Members of the Howard County Bar Association

RE: Change in Diversion Program

Dear Member:

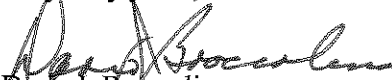
For the past number of years, individuals charged with simple possession of marijuana who had no prior criminal record may have been eligible for our Drug Diversion program where individuals were offered treatment and education. Those accepted into the Diversion program who successfully completed the requirements of the program had their cases dismissed so that they would not be burdened with a criminal conviction.

Due to the passage of recent legislation, possession of ten grams or less of marijuana will be a civil offense instead of a criminal offense beginning on October 1, 2014. In light of this change in the law, the State's Attorney's Office will no longer offer a drug diversion program.

The Alcohol Diversion program will remain in place offering individuals 18 and older charged with a first time possession of alcohol under the age of 21 violation, an opportunity to receive education and treatment. If the Alcohol Diversion program is successfully completed, the offender's case will be dismissed.

If any member needs further information, please do not hesitate to contact the office at (410) 313-2108.

Very truly yours,


Dario J. Broccolino
State's Attorney for Howard County