



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
FOR THE NORFOLK DISTRICT

45 SHAWMUT ROAD
CANTON, MA 02021
(781) 830-4800
FAX (781) 830-4801

MICHAEL W. MORRISSEY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Press Release

2012 Senior summit draws 300+

Crime prevention, hoarding featured at DA Morrissey's Senior Summit



Contact: D. Traub, 781-830-4800 x 217

More than 300 seniors, a dozen municipal police and fire chiefs and town officials from across the county joined Norfolk District Attorney Michael Morrissey at his 2012 Senior Summit, featuring presentations on how criminals target older citizens, ways to avoid becoming a victim, and hearing from a national expert on the phenomenon of hoarding.

“Criminals target senior citizens for a number of reasons – many have accumulated substantial assets, from homes owned outright to retirement savings,” District Attorney Morrissey said.

Members of the audience volunteered, from their own experience, that memory problems, physical disability or injury, hearing problems, embarrassment, and a fear of losing independence have led to seniors being targeted by criminals.

DA Morrissey and assistant district attorney Phil Burr also reinforced some of the warning signs seniors should look for: people who come door-to-door offering home repair or other services; ask for more than 1/3 down on a home repair project; insist on being paid in cash; or start doing work before getting your permission.

“I was very pleased to have Christina Bratiotis, co-author of ‘The Hoarding Handbook,’ present on the growing public health and safety problem of compulsive hoarding in our communities,” District Attorney Morrissey said. “This year we asked the senior center directors and area professionals what safety topic they would most like to hear addressed at the summit, and hoarding was the clear first choice.”

In addition to Bratiotis’ presentation on current research into hoarding and what friends and professionals can do when they recognize its signs, the District Attorney presented every town’s COA head, police chief or fire chief a reference copy of “The Hoarding Handbook.” The event, which was funded out of money seized from drug dealers and prosecuted by Morrissey’s Office, was held at Christina’s in Foxborough and open to all Norfolk County senior through their Councils on Aging.