



COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

What to Know Before You Write Your Impact Statement

What is a community impact statement and why is it important?

An impact statement is a letter written by you and read aloud during court proceedings in criminal cases against a defendant. When judges hear first-hand accounts of community impact, it brings heightened attention to the case and ensures that factors raised in these statements get considered during sentencing.

What to include in the statement:

- Your name
- How long you have lived in Midtown
- Your feelings about repeat offenders
- How crime has affected you and/or your community
- Your thoughts on this particular crime
- What sentence or punishment would you like the defendant to receive

Things to keep in mind with your community impact statement:

- Your letter will be read verbatim during court proceedings to the judge
- Your letter should focus on how the crime/criminal has had a personal impact on you/your family

Process for an Impact Statement

- Once completed, please email your impact statement to safety@midtownatlanta.org.
- MNA Safety will compile the impact statements and ensure their delivery to the Court Watch Coordinator and the Community Prosecutor in advance of the defendant's court date.
- Who reads the letter to the judge? You have two options:
 - (1) you may appear at the proceedings and read the letter aloud personally, or
 - (2) allow the letter to be read by the Community Prosecutor on your behalf.

Please indicate to the MNA Safety Committee your preference when you submit your impact statement.

SAMPLE IMPACT STATEMENT

January 1, 2019

City of Atlanta
Citizens' Court Watch Program
Paul Howard, District Attorney

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jane Doe and I have lived in midtown for 19 years.

The defendant is well known in our community with a record of multiple arrests for entering auto, criminal trespass, and burglary. His pattern of crime has become bolder over time with residential burglaries in Zone 5 over the last year occurring while residents were home and asleep, leaving residents afraid in their own homes.

It is my understanding that this individual had been released from jail for just one month when he re-offended and was arrested for the case you are hearing today. It is clear to me that, if this individual is allowed to return to our community, he will continue his criminal acts and further harm citizens.

During the time I have been living in Zone 5, my husband's car has been broken into, and our home has been burglarized. In addition, many friends and neighbors have suffered with auto break-ins over the years. The fact that is most concerning is that these crimes are most often being committed by repeat offenders and those with active warrants for their arrest.

Enough is enough. The police have apprehended this defendant and he needs to be locked away for a very long time. He has been arrested too many times and chooses to continue down the path of crime. We are tired of living in fear in our community.

For these reasons, I would ask that the sentence for this individual reflect the many prior arrests and the impact these crimes have had on our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Doe
123 Maple Drive *(address optional)*