

BRAVE JUSTICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



MELINDA KATZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Queens District Attorney
125-01 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, NY 11415



www.queensda.org



@QueensDAKatz



QueensDAKatz



@QueensDAKatz



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QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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A MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT ATTORNEY **MELINDA KATZ**

When I first took the oath of this office five years ago, I was determined to apply my pragmatic, results-oriented governing to ensure community safety and the protection of individual rights. Since then, together with more than 900 attorneys and staff in my office, we have focused on the drivers of crime while rebuilding trust in our criminal justice system. We addressed immediate concerns and laid the groundwork for long-term solutions.

I am proud of the progress we have made. The 2024 ***Brave Justice Annual Report*** highlights some of the many accomplishments and noteworthy actions undertaken as we continue to forge safer streets and ensure equity in our courtrooms.

Through comprehensive data detailing our core functions, this report demonstrates the many ways in which we respond to the needs of Queens communities. In a year where record numbers of arrests were processed and caseloads increased, we used all tools available under the law to effectively tackle crime in our communities.

We took a record number of guns and drugs off the streets, empowered domestic violence and sex trafficking victims, and returned homes to their rightful owners. We focused on repeat offenders that plague our neighborhoods and held violent offenders accountable.

At the same time, we continued to strengthen our partnerships, employing a community-based approach to prosecution that fostered an environment where residents feel empowered to connect with law enforcement. We actively sought alternatives to incarceration to help those involved with the court system along a better path.

Our highly effective leadership team managed an ever-changing landscape. Assistant District Attorneys in my office are held to the highest ethical standards, are regularly trained, and are leaders in their fields. They have been recognized across the globe for their expertise on everything from hate crimes to cryptocurrency to large-scale gang investigations.

As we begin a new year, with all its hopes and possibilities, we will stand firm in our commitment to justice and equity. I am truly honored to serve as Queens County District Attorney. Together, we can achieve ***Brave Justice***.

In friendship,



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The sixth edition of the *Brave Justice Annual Report* details the operations and accomplishments of the Queens District Attorney's office (QDA) in 2024, marking the first year of District Attorney Katz's second term and her **30th year in public service**.

When DA Katz first took the oath of office in 2020, it was a time of unprecedented challenges throughout this borough, city and nation. Under her leadership, QDA staff remains committed and resilient in the face of an increasingly demanding workload. The office has achieved tremendous success in investigating and prosecuting drivers of crime; has taken hundreds of lethal weapons off the streets; returned homes to their rightful owners; and empowered domestic violence and sex trafficking survivors, all while strengthening partnerships with the public we serve in the most diverse county in the nation.

In 2024, the office processed a **record number of arrests**, 52,653, conducted **more arraignments**, 43,255, **assisted more victims**, 4,000, and **resolved more cases**, 43,116, than in the preceding three years. There was a decrease in the number of shooting incidents, down 10 percent, as we worked tirelessly to remove illegal firearms from our communities. In 2024, Queens had the highest number and percentage of trial convictions on gun cases since the commencement of the Gun Violence Fast Track Initiative.

Among more than 43,000 arraignments conducted this year, examples of noteworthy cases include:

- The takedown of 11 alleged members of the infamous "8 Trey Movin Crips" street gang following a lengthy investigation into gang violence in Southeast Queens by DA Katz's **Violent Criminal Enterprises Bureau** and the NYPD. The defendants were variously charged with conspiracy, attempted murder, attempted assault, reckless endangerment and gun possession in connection with nine shooting incidents between March 2021 and December 2022. The defendants were accused of causing indiscriminate violence in furtherance of protecting their home territory from perceived enemies. Five victims were identified as part of this investigation, one of whom was paralyzed from the waist down.
- The recovery of an arsenal of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and ghost guns, including assault rifles, inside an Astoria apartment following a six-month investigation by DA Katz's **Crime Strategies and Intelligence Bureau** and the NYPD. Two brothers were charged with criminal possession of a weapon and other crimes after a court-authorized search warrant also revealed instructions for making a variety of bombs, anarchist propaganda and a "hit list," with "cops, judges, politicians, celebrities" and "banker scum" scrawled on it, inside the apartment they shared with their mother and another brother.
 - In 2024, more than 160 untraceable, personally manufactured ghost guns were seized from the streets of Queens, which marks the fourth year in a row that **Queens leads citywide in ghost gun recoveries**.
- The homicide indictment secured by DA Katz's **Cold Case Unit** against a Florida man for the 2009 stabbing death of his 64-year-old uncle, Rosario Prestigiacomo, inside the victim's Ridgewood home. The 15-year-old cold case was solved through **forensic genetic genealogy**, making it the first time a homicide suspect was identified and arrested in New York City through the use of public genealogy databases. DNA from a discarded fork used by the defendant and retrieved in Florida in February was matched to DNA found at the crime scene.

- This year, the Cold Case Unit also successfully worked with the NYPD's Cold Case Squad, a private genealogy laboratory and the Office of the City Medical Examiner to **identify a victim who was killed 33 years ago**. Four men were prosecuted and convicted in 1992 and 1993 for their roles in the killing, but the identity of the victim remained unknown. The victim, **now identified as Judy Rodriguez**, was reported missing by her family shortly after being last seen on January 23, 1991, at her daughter's first birthday party.
- The restoration of eight deeds associated with five properties to their rightful owners after they had been stolen by a South Ozone Park man in a **deed fraud** scheme. The defendant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one to three years in prison and ordered to pay \$335,000 in restitution for the victims. The statute utilized by the District Attorney's office in the sentencing hearing allowed for the court to void deeds that were subject to criminal prosecution upon a guilty plea. The hearing spared the victims the time and expense of additional legal proceedings in civil court.
 - The groundbreaking efforts of DA Katz's **Housing and Worker Protection Bureau** to combat deed fraud in the borough resulted in the **return of 15 homes** to their rightful owners since the bureau was created by the DA in 2020.
- Four separate criminal cases were brought against **six individuals accused of illegally occupying vacant homes** in Jamaica, St. Albans, Howard Beach and Flushing. In response to the growing problem of squatting, DA Katz has prioritized removing those who enter a home without permission. It is neither legal nor acceptable to enter someone's home illegally, without the knowledge of the rightful owner, and claim to have a right to live there. As such, the District Attorney's office brought charges and secured indictments not only for the unlawful occupancy but also for any forged documents used in the commission of the crime.
- In November, the Queens DA's Office was the first office in New York State to charge a defendant with the new crime of fostering the sale of stolen goods. This measure, passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul in 2024, allows prosecutors to stop the sale of stolen goods through both online platforms and brick-and-mortar locations.
 - **Five people** were arrested and charged for their roles in operating a **large-scale retail theft and fencing operation** that conducted illegal business in Queens and abroad. The defendants allegedly stole high-end makeup, perfume, beauty products, designer clothing and accessories and sold the items from a local residential location and a retail storefront in the Dominican Republic, taking in more than \$2 million. The alleged ring leaders are also accused of having paid truck drivers to divert products bound for retailers such as Sephora and Ulta Beauty from manufacturer warehouses directly to locations under their control.

- The District Attorney's office is committed to protecting pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists in Queens County and does not shy away from complicated cases. DA Katz's **Vehicular Homicide Unit** combats the scourge of deadly driving in the borough. Specially trained prosecutors are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and are tasked with examining more than 3,000 collisions every year as well as overseeing the investigation into all deaths that result from contact with a motor vehicle. In 2024, 77 people lost their lives in vehicular collisions in our county.
- In July 2024, DA Katz announced that **two parents of a teenage driver pleaded guilty** in a groundbreaking case. The parents gifted their 16-year-old unlicensed son a vehicle and the child allegedly crashed the car while driving at more than 100 miles an hour, killing a 14-year-old girl who was seated on the passenger side of the vehicle. The parents pleaded guilty to endangering the welfare of a child, which is believed to be the first conviction in New York State under this law applied in these circumstances. The case against the teen remains ongoing.

In 2024, the office continued to collaborate with the NYPD and the NYC Sheriff's office to **combat illegal cannabis dispensaries**, whether operating out of trucks and vans or brick-and-mortar commercial locations. Illegal smoke shops that sell unregulated and untested cannabis flower and gummies packaged to look like brand-name candy are targeting our children and operating near schools and daycare centers. Since November 2022, the joint enforcement operations have resulted in the seizure of over 6,500 lbs. of cannabis edibles, over 10,000 lbs. of cannabis flower, over 17,000 cannabis vape "pens," hundreds of packages of edible psilocybin, also known as "magic mushrooms," all of which has an estimated total value of more than \$25 million.

The office continued to operate the **Queens Merchants Business Improvement Program**, where participating businesses are empowered to contact the police when an individual engages in disruptive, dangerous, or illegal behavior inside their establishment. The responding officers can issue a trespass notice as a warning to the individual not to return to the location or risk being arrested. Since the expansion of the program to every precinct in Queens in 2023, a total of **429 stores** are now registered for the initiative. More than **1,400 individuals** have been served with the trespass notice while only 47 defendants have been arrested for returning to the store after being served.

Another tool that the office has been making frequent and effective use of in the prosecution of **recidivists** is Criminal Procedure Law Section 510.10(4)(t), more commonly known as the "harm on harm" statute. 510.10(4)(t) allows prosecutors to recommend bail for offenses that are otherwise not bail eligible when both the defendant's new offense and pending case involve harm to an identifiable person or property. Every case that comes through the office is screened for possible 510.10(4)(t) application. DA Katz remains committed to utilizing all possible tools permitted under the law to make sure Queens stores and streets are as safe as possible. **In 2024, the office made over 900 "harm on harm" applications, and judges set bail in approximately 45 percent of such cases.**

The mission of the office to obtain justice for victims extends beyond the traditional boundaries as everyone is increasingly dependent upon technology in their daily lives. Unfortunately, scammers and fraudsters have kept up momentum to seize any opportunity to steal money, whether through phone scams, phishing emails or cryptocurrency theft. In addition to the dedicated Frauds Bureau DA Katz established shortly after taking office, she has also fortified the **Cyber Crimes Unit**, equipping it with the necessary resources to tackle modern threats that include cryptocurrency fraud. The office's cryptocurrency investigations delve into the virtual world we live in today to ensure justice for all victims of crime.

At the start of 2024, DA Katz announced a new partnership between the **QDA Detective Bureau** and the NYPD focused on the **removal of illegal motorized scooters**. The often careless and dangerous operation of motorized scooters on our roads, and even our sidewalks, became an urgent community concern and had to be addressed. A total of **1,029 scooters** were removed from the streets for being illegally parked on sidewalks and streets along busy commercial strips with high pedestrian traffic. Nearly all the mopeds were unregistered and uninsured.

Committed to keeping our neighborhoods safe, QDA staff is available to respond swiftly to assist law enforcement with investigative needs and to connect with victims and witnesses as early as possible. In 2024, the requests included 75 homicide crime scene visits, 92 vehicular collision scene responses, 125 responses related to sexual assault, elder assault and child abuse and 673 search warrants and cell site warrants prepared.

The first of its kind in Queens, the **Conviction Integrity Unit** was created by DA Katz on her first day in office. Since then:

- 263 cases have been submitted to CIU for review;
- **17 convictions have been vacated** based on evidence of innocence or fundamental errors;
- 93 submissions have been reviewed and closed;
- 122 felony and misdemeanor convictions have been reversed on our own initiative.

As part of her balanced approach to prosecution, DA Katz has implemented many policies designed to change the landscape of pretrial incarceration. The **Rehabilitation Programs and Restorative Services Bureau**, created by DA Katz to ensure that justice is administered with compassion, continued its work to increase alternative dispositions and paths of diversion to reduce the jail population and break the cycle of incarceration in the borough. At the same time, the bureau's Crime Victims Advocate Program solely focused on supporting victims and witnesses of crime, providing essential resources and understanding during their most challenging times.

DA Katz's community-based approach to prosecution has gained national recognition for its innovation and effectiveness. The DA is deeply committed to fostering strong relationships with the vibrant communities of Queens. The **Community Partnerships Division** employs a multi-faceted strategy, creating opportunities for residents to positively contribute to their communities. In 2024, the division participated in more than **600 public events** and offered services to nearly **4,000 individuals** through the **Crime Victims Advocacy Program**. This robust outreach not only builds trust but also promotes mutual understanding and support within our neighborhoods.

DA Katz assembled a top-of-the line team to assist her with running the day-to-day operations of the office. Led by Chief Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Naiburg and Chief of Staff Wendy Erdly, the staff of the Queens DA's office is held to the highest ethical and moral standards assigned to prosecutors. In 2024, **QDA welcomed 55 new prosecutors** to Queens.

Over the past year, the office has made significant strides in addressing crime, supporting victims and collaborating with community and legislative partners to foster a safer environment for all. By building bridges and increasing our engagement, QDA has not only addressed immediate concerns but also laid the groundwork for long-term solutions.

The District Attorney stands proud of the progress made to help drive positive change within Queens neighborhoods. It is through these collaborations that her office will continue to ensure that every voice is heard and that justice is accessible to all.





SECTION I

LIGHT THE WAY: PROVIDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

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COURT ACTIVITY

Under DA Katz’s leadership, her staff remains committed and resilient in the face of an increasingly demanding workload. As the Court Activity chart indicates, **in 2024 the office processed a record number of arrests, conducted more arraignments, assisted more victims, and resolved more cases than in the preceding three years.**

(AS OF 12/15/24)

52,653

ARRESTS PROCESSED

43,255

ARRAIGNMENTS CONDUCTED

GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS

Felony charges cannot proceed to trial without a grand jury indictment. As Queens County’s chief law enforcement official, DA Katz is focused on addressing crime and violence while ensuring fairness in the process.

INDICTMENTS	FULL CALENDAR YEAR		AS OF 12/15/24
	2022	2023	2024
CASES	1,376	1,597	1,531
DEFENDANTS	1,595	1,907	1,807

COURT ACTIVITY 2022 - 2024

COURT ACTIVITY	FULL CALENDAR YEAR		AS OF 12/15/24
	2022	2023	2024
ARRESTS PROCESSED	37,786	46,575	52,653
CRIMINAL COURT ARRAIGNMENTS CONDUCTED	32,384	37,990	43,255
GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS	1,595	1,907	1,807
HOMICIDE RELATED INDICTMENTS	44	54	56
SUPERIOR COURT INFORMATION	380	359	298
DISCOVERY FILES REVIEWED	1,681,065	1,773,184	1,706,808
INDIVIDUALS OFFERED SERVICES FROM THE CRIME VICTIMS ADVOCATE PROGRAM	2,594	3,118	4,533
COURT APPEARANCES			
CRIMINAL COURT	142,563	171,366	184,649
SUPREME COURT	34,931	36,353	35,073
TRIALS CONDUCTED	88	115	96
DISPOSITIONS	31,970	36,498	43,116

NOTE: THE CATEGORIES ABOVE ARE ASSOCIATED WITH DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS. FOR INSTANCE, THE ARREST YEAR, INDICTMENT YEAR, AND DISPOSITION YEAR ARE BASED ON THE DATES OF ARREST, INDICTMENT, OR DISPOSITION. SO, ONE SHOULD NOT INFER, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT 52,653 ARRESTS PROCESSED IN 2024 REPRESENT THE VERY SAME CASES THAT HAD INDICTMENTS OR DISPOSITIONS.

TRACKING CRIME

Consistent with citywide trends, Queens saw an increase in robberies, felony assaults, rapes, and retail theft. While murders in Queens increased in 2024, the numbers of **shooting incidents and shooting victims have decreased as we work tirelessly to get the guns off our streets. As per NYPD data (12/29/24):**

- Shooting incidents are down 8 percent overall in the city while Queens shootings are down 10 percent;
- While the number of shooting victims citywide has decreased 5 percent, in Queens the number has decreased 11 percent.

RIDING STATS AND HELPLINES

The office is committed to keeping our neighborhoods safe. Staff responds swiftly to assist law enforcement with investigative needs and to connect with victims and witnesses as early as possible.

75

HOMICIDE
CRIME SCENE
VISITS

125

RESPONSES RELATED
TO SEXUAL ASSAULT,
ELDER ASSAULT,
AND CHILD ABUSE

92

VEHICULAR
COLLISION SCENE
RESPONSES

673

SEARCH WARRANTS
AND CELL SITE
WARRANTS PREPARED

OF WHICH

103

WERE FOR
HOMICIDE
RELATED CASES

(DATA AS OF 12/15/24)

In addition to our 24 hour Hotline, DA Katz has established a number of **helplines**, including:

- Hate Crimes Helpline to report hate and bias-motivated crimes;
- Immigration Helpline to assist immigrants in navigating the criminal justice system;
- 24/7 Domestic Violence Helpline to assist in connecting individuals to safety planning measures;
- Consumer Fraud Helpline to report on scams, fraud and economic crimes;
- Elder Fraud Helpline to report the financial exploitation of seniors;
- Animal Cruelty Helpline to voice concerns as to the welfare of an animal;
- Housing and Worker Protection Helpline to report workplace safety, wage theft, predatory lending and crimes involving real estate including deed theft.

Contact information can be found on page 88.

DISCOVERY

The current framework requires that we produce **all related materials** within a short period of time. We work tirelessly to comply with the discovery rules and continue to share information in record numbers. We prioritize cases involving felony charges, vulnerable victims, and recidivism. As a rule, the speedy trial clock will not stop until we file a certificate of compliance that we provided the required discovery materials.

155,460

BODY WORN CAMERA VIDEOS REVIEWED

1,706,808

DISCOVERY FILES REVIEWED*

**This number does not account for the number of discovery files reviewed via QDA's secure file transfer system, the usage of which increased during 2024 in order to share large discovery files.*



CASELOADS

The length of time from arraignment to disposition has increased slightly in 2024, due to the increased volume of arrests coupled with increased discovery compliance and protracted motion practice.

DA Katz supports early disclosure of evidence and prompt exchange of information between the parties; it is an essential part of a fair criminal justice system. While the intent of the discovery reform of 2020 was to reduce delays and facilitate “swift, efficient and just” dispositions, cases are taking longer to reach a disposition and dismissals have increased.

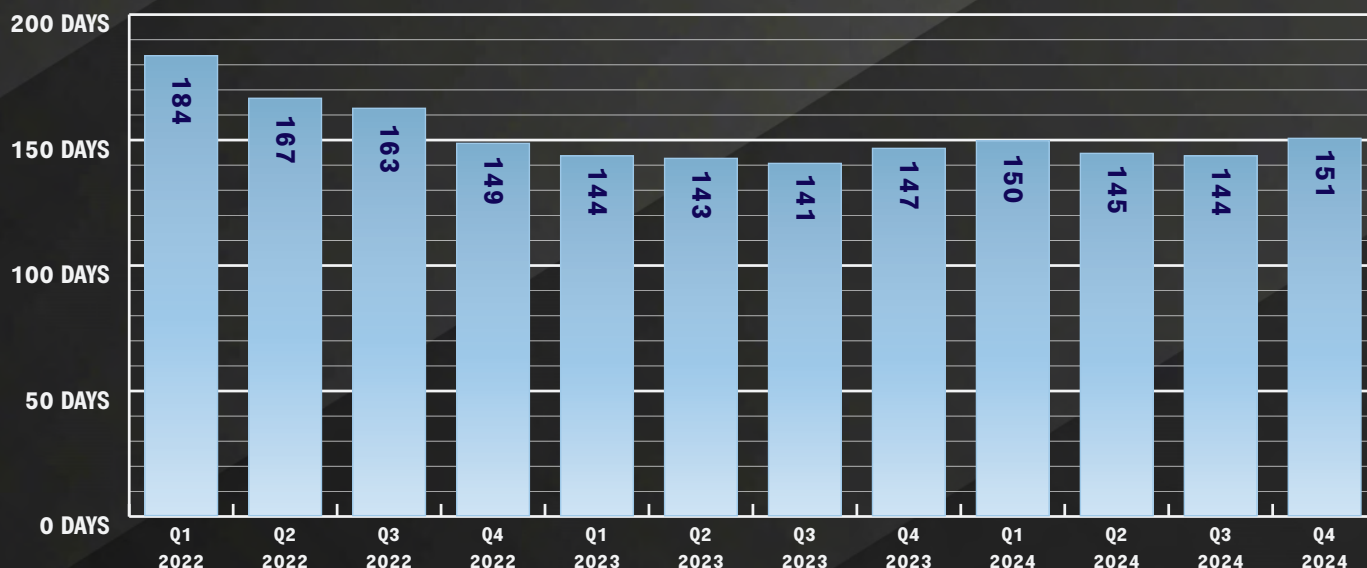
SPEEDY TRIAL DISMISSALS



**New York State Unified Court System, “Discovery Reform: Court Activity Dashboard,” at p. 4, <https://ww2.nycourts.gov/discovery-implementation>.*

AVERAGE CASE AGE 2022 - 2024

(AS OF 12/15/24)



FUNDING PER RESIDENT AND ARREST

Although the disparity in funding is decreasing, Queens continues to receive the least amount of city funding per resident and per arrest.

COUNTY	QUEENS COUNTY	KINGS COUNTY	NEW YORK COUNTY	BRONX COUNTY	RICHMOND COUNTY
2023 ARRESTS*	49,890	65,445	55,080	54,685	10,197
POPULATION**	2,252,196	2,561,225	1,597,451	1,356,476	490,687
PS CITY FUNDS PER RESIDENT***	\$40	\$46	\$98	\$80	\$43
PS CITY FUNDS PER ARREST***	\$1,810	\$1,812	\$2,848	\$1,974	\$2,084

*AS PER NYPD CRIMINAL JUSTICE BUREAU ARREST DATA AS OF DECEMBER 2023

**AS PER US CENSUS BUREAU QUICKFACTS (POPULATION ESTIMATES, JULY 2023)

*** FY26 NOVEMBER BUDGET

ARRESTS AND ARRAIGNMENTS

As part of DA Katz’s commitment to the fair administration of justice, all arrests are closely evaluated to ensure **appropriate and consistent charging decisions are made.**

The number of cases in 2024 surpassed pre-pandemic numbers, with over **40,000 cases arraigned.**

DECLINE TO PROSECUTE	FULL CALENDAR YEAR						AS OF 12/15/24		
	2022			2023			2024		
	TOTAL ARRESTS	DECLINE TO PROSECUTE	%	TOTAL ARRESTS	DECLINE TO PROSECUTE	%	TOTAL ARRESTS	DECLINE TO PROSECUTE	%
VIOLATIONS	161	22	14%	284	30	11%	380	108	28%
MISDEMEANORS	20,226	719	4%	25,636	1,493	6%	29,879	1,828	6%
FELONY	17,562	787	5%	20,318	994	5%	22,143	928	4%
TOTAL	37,949	1,528	4%	46,238	2,517	5%	52,402	2,864	5%

ARRAIGNMENTS	FULL CALENDAR YEAR				AS OF 12/15/24	
	2022		2023		2024	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
VIOLATIONS	709	2.20%	841	2.17%	644	1.50%
MISDEMEANORS	24,041	74.30%	28,121	72.42%	31,516	72.90%
NON-VIOLENT FELONY	3,720	11.50%	5,191	13.36%	5,717	13.20%
VIOLENT FELONY	3,891	12.00%	4,678	12.05%	5,378	12.40%
TOTAL	32,361	100%	38,831	100%	43,255	100%

TOP 5 COMPLAINT CHARGES (AS OF 12/15/24):

- **PL 120.00-1** – ASSAULT 3RD DEGREE
- **PL 155.25** – PETIT LARCENY
- **VTL 511(1)(A)** – AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A VEHICLE
- **PL 220.03** – CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE 7TH DEGREE
- **PL 145.00-1** – CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 4TH DEGREE

TOP 5 PRECINCTS FOR TOTAL ARRAIGNED CASES (AS OF 12/15/24):

- 103RD PRECINCT
- 109TH PRECINCT
- 110TH PRECINCT
- 113TH PRECINCT
- 115TH PRECINCT

2024 COMPLAINT/ARRAIGNMENT TIME

(NYPD DATA AS OF 12/31/2024)

	CITYWIDE AVERAGE	QUEENS COUNTY	KINGS COUNTY	NEW YORK COUNTY	BRONX COUNTY	RICHMOND COUNTY
COMPLAINT SWORN TIME	14:34 HOURS	13:54 HOURS	16:25 HOURS	12:17 HOURS	15:35 HOURS	12:11 HOURS
ARREST TO ARRAIGNMENT	23:56 HOURS	23:45 HOURS	24:27 HOURS	24:00 HOURS	24:47 HOURS	18:34 HOURS

PERCENTAGE OF CASES ARRAIGNED WITHIN 24 HOURS

(NYPD DATA AS OF 12/31/2024)

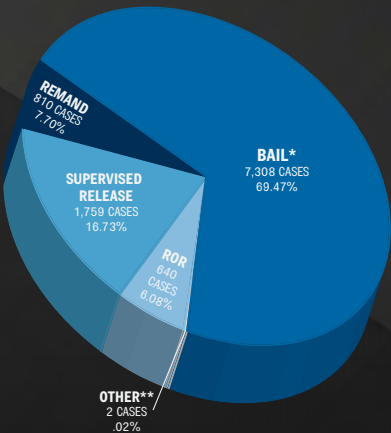
	CITYWIDE AVERAGE	QUEENS COUNTY	KINGS COUNTY	NEW YORK COUNTY	BRONX COUNTY	RICHMOND COUNTY
2023	61.13%	68.24%	60.18%	58.07%	46.92%	87.04%
2024	57.54%	56.27%	54.80%	58.49%	53.02%	78.90%

BAIL

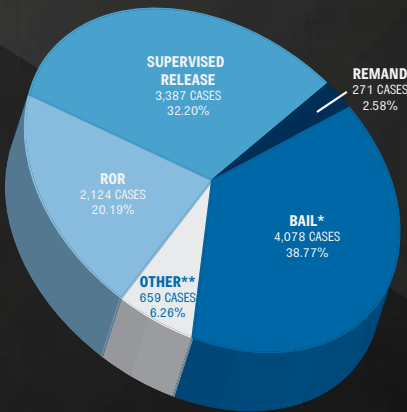
Under the District Attorney’s guidance, we continue to assess and review every bail qualifying offense as governed by current law. From the period between January 1 through December 15, 2024, 43,255 cases were arraigned, of which there were approximately 10,519 cases that were bail eligible. The charts below outline the office’s requests and the judicial determinations made on those bail eligible cases.

2024 BAIL REQUESTS AND ORDERS
(AS OF 12/15/24)

BAIL REQUESTS



COURT ORDERS



*BAIL INCLUDES BAIL WITH ELECTRONIC MONITORING REQUESTS.
**OTHER INCLUDES ELECTRONIC MONITORING REQUESTS.

DA Katz strongly believes a person’s financial situation should not determine whether they are held in jail on a pending case. Her vision is a criminal justice system that does not penalize the poor or favor the wealthy. To that end, all defendants are treated fairly and in a non-discriminatory way, while we are ever mindful of protecting the communities we serve.

SECURING ORDERS ON BAIL QUALIFYING OFFENSES	FULL CALENDAR YEAR				AS OF 12/15/24	
	2022		2023		2024	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
REMAND	241	3.34%	272	3.03%	271	2.58%
BAIL	2,369	32.88%	3,498	38.98%	4,078	38.77%
SUPERVISED RELEASE	2,125	29.49%	2,845	31.71%	3,387	32.20%
ROR	2,185	30.33%	2,148	23.94%	2,124	20.19%
OTHER	285	3.96%	210	2.34%	659	6.26%
TOTAL	7,205	100%	8,973	100%	10,519	100%

BAIL AND GUN VIOLENCE

Committed to fighting gun violence and holding shooters accountable, DA Katz is focused on the drivers of crime in our neighborhoods.

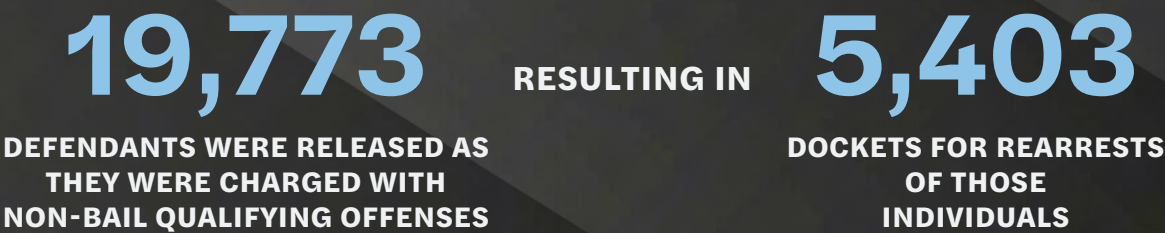
COMPARING SECURING ORDERS ON CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON CASES

ASK (CPW)	FULL CALENDAR YEAR				AS OF 12/15/24	
	2022		2023		2024	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
REMAND	148	22.02%	146	19.95%	139	21.38%
BAIL	483	71.88%	537	73.36%	467	71.85%
SUPERVISED RELEASE	33	4.91%	41	5.60%	40	6.15%
ROR	8	1.19%	8	1.09%	4	0.62%
TOTAL	672	100%	732	100%	650	100%

ORDER (CPW)	FULL CALENDAR YEAR				AS OF 12/15/24	
	2022		2023		2024	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
REMAND	46	6.99%	56	7.54%	25	4.61%
BAIL	432	65.65%	485	65.28%	403	74.35%
SUPERVISED RELEASE	108	16.42%	121	16.29%	75	13.84%
ROR	72	10.94%	81	10.89%	39	7.20%
TOTAL	658	100%	743	100%	542	100%

RECIDIVISM

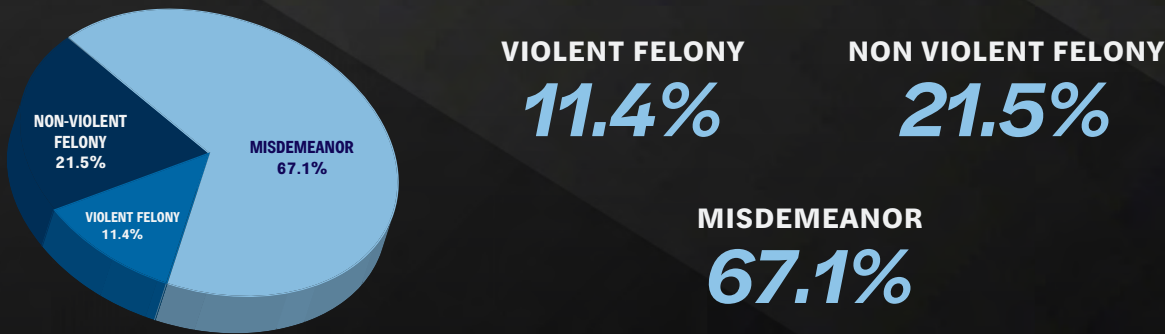
There was an approximate 27% recidivism rate for individuals released on charges where judges were not able to set bail under the new bail laws. An examination of rearrest data for 2024 reveals the following:



THIS IS A 27% RECIDIVISM RATE

It is worth noting that the recidivism data in this report was drawn in circumstances where another case was pending and a rearrest occurred within a six-month period in Queens County.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE 5,403 REARREST DOCKETS REVEALS



The recidivism data includes the following crimes which are, except under limited circumstances, no longer bail or remand eligible.

- Robbery 2nd Degree (aided)
 - Robbery 3rd Degree
 - Burglary 2nd Degree (not dwelling)
 - Burglary 3rd Degree
- Assault 3rd Degree
 - Stalking
 - Menacing
 - Criminal Mischief (all degrees)
 - Petit Larceny
- Arson 3rd Degree, 4th Degree, 5th Degree
 - Grand Larceny 2nd Degree, 3rd Degree, 4th Degree

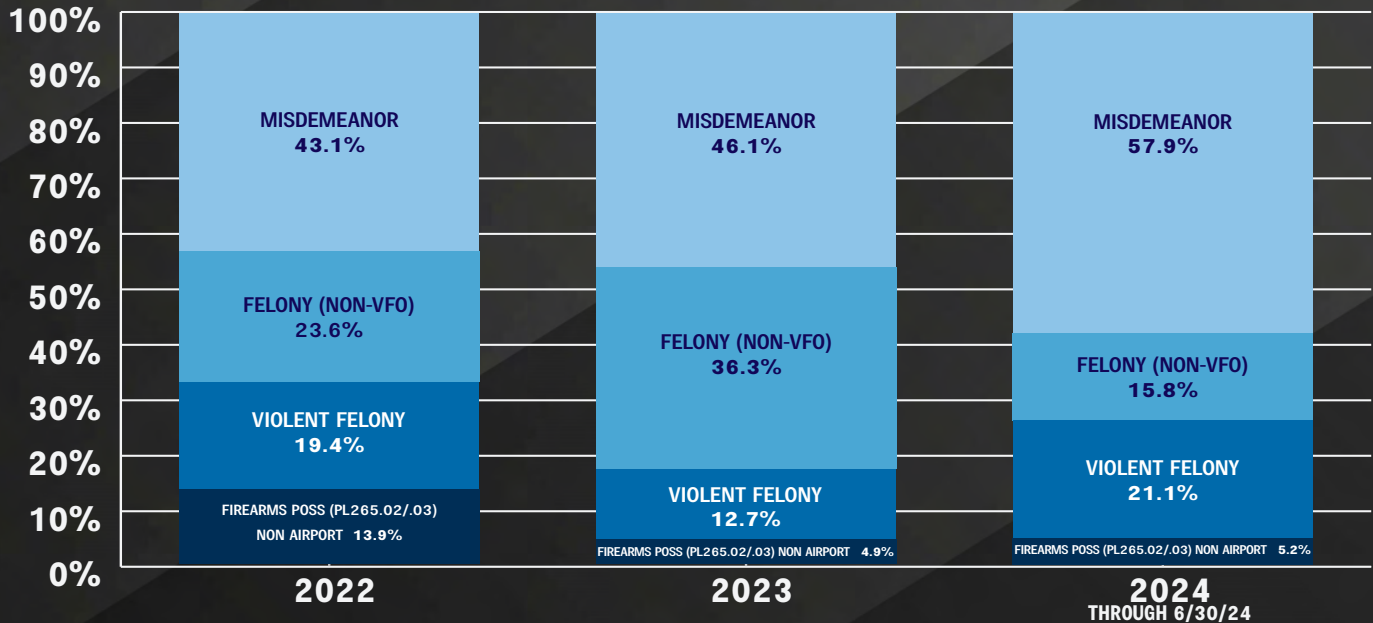
DA Katz is committed to utilizing all tools available under the law to make our communities as safe as possible. To address recidivism, particularly where a defendant is rearrested for one of the above crimes that cause harm to another person or their property, DA Katz has instructed staff to request bail under Criminal Procedure Law Section 510.10(4)(t), a bail law exception more commonly known as the “harm on harm” statute. The “harm on harm” exception allows prosecutors to recommend bail for offenses that are otherwise not bail eligible when both the defendant’s new offense and pending case involve harm to an identifiable person or property. Every arrest that comes through the office is screened to determine whether a “harm on harm” bail request is appropriate; in 2024, we made over 900 “harm on harm” applications, and judges set bail in approximately 45 percent of such cases.

RECIDIVISM ON WEAPONS CASES

When a defendant is out on a pending criminal possession of a weapon case, the following chart indicates the classification of the new arrest. **Rearrests on violent felony charges have increased since last year.**

RECIDIVISM BY ARRAIGNMENT YEAR

TOTAL RECIDIVISM RATE WITHIN A SIX-MONTH PERIOD OF NON-INCARCERATED DEFENDANTS



BAIL JUMPING PROSECUTIONS

When a defendant has been released from custody or has posted bail, the court places upon the defendant a condition that they will subsequently appear in court on the required dates. When a defendant fails to appear in court, or fails to voluntarily return within 30 days thereafter, they may be additionally charged with the crime of bail jumping.

DA Katz recognizes that defendants who fail to appear to face their charges deprive victims of their day in court, delay justice and may result in no one being held accountable. To disincentivize the failure to appear, the office proactively files bail jumping complaints and warrants when appropriate.

In 2024, there have been 344 felony bail jumping arrests and 635 misdemeanor bail jumping arrests in Queens County. These efforts exceed the number of bail jumping prosecutions by all other boroughs combined.

**FELONY BAIL JUMPING
ARRESTS
344
QUEENS COUNTY**

**317
OTHER BOROUGHS COMBINED**

**MISDEMEANOR BAIL JUMPING
ARRESTS
635
QUEENS COUNTY**

**526
OTHER BOROUGHS COMBINED**

JAIL POPULATION

Since day one, DA Katz has implemented many policies designed to change the landscape of pretrial incarceration. The office is focused on reducing the jail population and breaking the cycle of incarceration by utilizing alternatives to incarceration, making fair and just plea agreements, and providing more opportunities for rehabilitation and access to services and programs.

Additionally, the office continues to painstakingly scrutinize every request for bail. Each case is carefully reviewed to determine if remedial action can be taken to effectuate a defendant’s release from Rikers Island without jeopardizing community safety. The office makes every effort to expedite incarcerated individuals’ cases in conjunction with the court and the defense bar.

The substantial majority of those being held pre-trial were arrested for serious violent felonies and the court has determined that these individuals were at risk of not returning to court. The highest percentage of these individuals were awaiting trial for homicide, possession of a firearm, a sex offense, robbery, and assault causing life threatening or other permanent injury.

AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2024:

5,976

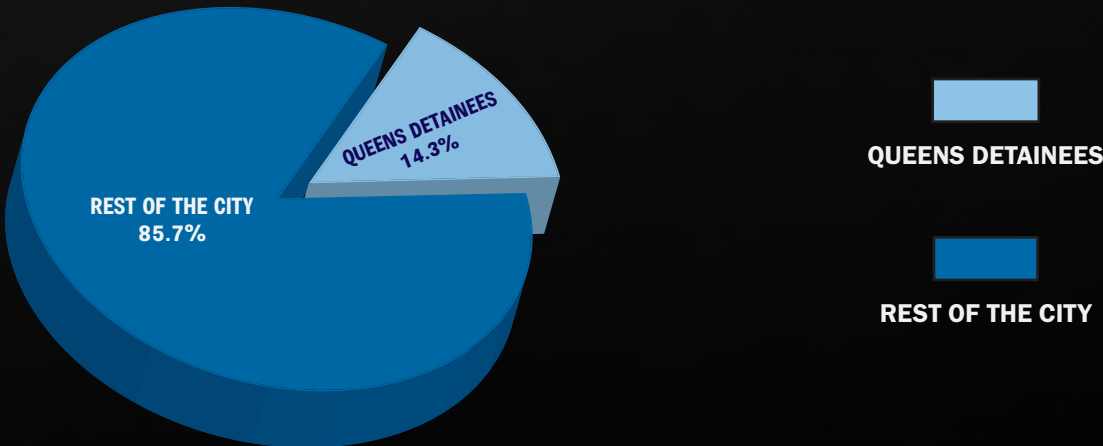
PEOPLE WERE BEING DETAINED ON
RIKERS ISLAND*

OF WHICH

854

PEOPLE WERE HELD ON REMAND OR BAIL
ON A QUEENS CASE

THUS, QUEENS DETAINEES ACCOUNTED FOR LESS THAN 14.3% OF THE TOTAL RIKERS ISLAND POPULATION, EVEN THOUGH THE COUNTY ACCOUNTS FOR MORE THAN 27% OF NEW YORK CITY’S POPULATION



**Includes incarcerated individuals within Rikers Island and other correctional facilities within NYC.*

TOTAL IN JAIL FOR QUEENS RELATED MATTERS

As of December 16, 2024, 854 defendants continued to be held on a Queens case, with 493 held on pretrial bail and 361 remanded to Rikers Island.

A total of 91 percent of those held on pre-trial bail were charged with a felony crime and 98 percent of defendants who were remanded were charged with a felony crime.

The charts below illustrate the classifications of the crimes with which the defendants held in on bail or remand are charged:

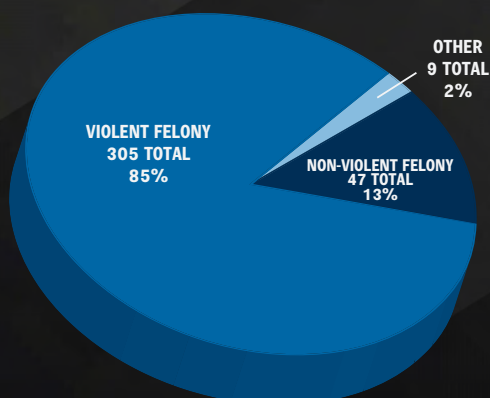
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DEFENDANTS WERE
HELD ON A QUEENS CASE

REMAND

361

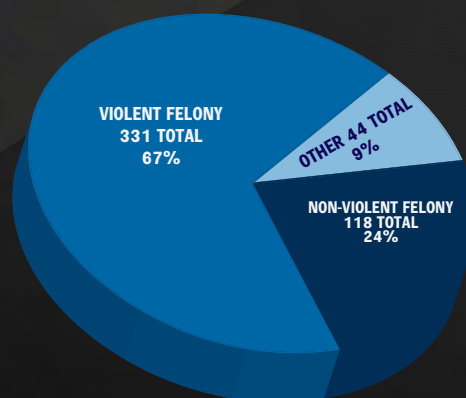
DEFENDANTS WERE REMANDED
WITH 98% CHARGED WITH A FELONY



BAIL

493

DEFENDANTS WERE HELD ON PRE-TRIAL BAIL
WITH 91% CHARGED WITH A FELONY



TOP 7 COMPLAINT CHARGES (REMAND)	NUMBER	PERCENT
PL ARTICLE 125. HOMICIDE	132	37%
PL ARTICLE 120. ASSAULT	45	12%
PL ARTICLE 160. ROBBERY	44	12%
PL ARTICLE 265. FIREARMS AND OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPONS	44	12%
PL ARTICLE 130. SEX OFFENSES	24	7%
PL ARTICLE 140. BURGLARY	22	6%
PL ARTICLE 220. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES	12	3%

TOP 7 COMPLAINT CHARGES (BAIL)	NUMBER	PERCENT
PL ARTICLE 160. ROBBERY	111	23%
PL ARTICLE 120. ASSAULT	96	20%
PL ARTICLE 265. FIREARMS AND OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPONS	59	12%
PL ARTICLE 140. BURGLARY	55	11%
PL ARTICLE 215. OTHER RELATING TO JUD. PROC.	32	7%
PL ARTICLE 220. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES	29	6%
PL ARTICLE 125. HOMICIDE	24	5%



SECTION II

RESPONSIVE TO THE COMMUNITY: BUILDING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

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HATE CRIMES

In 2020, DA Katz created the Hate Crimes Bureau, becoming one of the first offices in the country to have a bureau exclusively dedicated to preventing, investigating and prosecuting crimes motivated by a victim’s race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender. Queens County is home to **the most diverse population in the nation**, so much so that it is frequently referred to as the “World’s Borough.” This incredible diversity is our greatest strength and makes Queens an amazing place to work and live. To ensure that everyone benefits from this vibrant diversity, our office aggressively prosecutes those who seek to weaken and divide us by committing cowardly bias-motivated crimes.

Hate crimes negatively impact not just the targeted individual but our entire community. As of December 1, 2024, according to NYPD data, **citywide hate crimes increased 9 percent from the previous year, while hate crimes in Queens decreased 13 percent.**

After the **October 7, 2023, attack against Israel**, there was a steep increase in anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish hate crimes citywide. In response to this, DA Katz participated in several community events to reinforce the office’s commitment to protecting all our residents. The District Attorney attended the Eid al-Fitr Prayer service hosted by the Jamaica Muslim Center and spoke about the importance of reporting hate crimes. She also held a briefing with members of the Jewish Advisory Council and the NYPD’s Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and Counterterrorism focused on the post-October 7 threats.

The Hate Crimes Bureau **actively combats hate-motivated offenses by working with the community** to prevent these crimes and encourage reporting. Additionally, the bureau offers aid and assistance to the victims, designs innovative treatment and alternative sentencing programs for appropriate offenders, and rigorously investigates and prosecutes these cases. Further, the office operates a hate crimes helpline to report tips, answer questions and encourage community members to report these offenses. In 2024, the Hate Crimes Bureau **secured 20 indictments.**

NYPD STATS FOR QUEENS AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2024 BY MOTIVATION

MOTIVATION	2023	2024	PERCENT CHANGE
ASIAN	8	7	-13%
BLACK	10	7	-30%
ETHNIC	9	7	-22%
GENDER	3	4	33%
HISPANIC	5	5	0%
JEWISH	52	51	-2%
MUSLIM	4	9	125%
RELIGION	5	4	-20%
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	19	8	-58%
WHITE	4	1	-75%
TOTAL	119	103	-13%

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Human Trafficking Bureau (HUTB) combats sex and labor trafficking by aggressively prosecuting traffickers and all felonies involving commercial sexual exploitation and buyers of sex. As prosecutors work to hold offenders accountable in court, DA Katz and her staff are equally committed to helping their victims. HUTB implements a victim-centered and trauma-informed approach that connects survivors of trafficking to meaningful services to assist them in escaping their exploitation. The bureau provides extensive community outreach, education and information aimed toward preventing and identifying trafficking in our communities.

Human trafficking is a crime that is often hidden in plain sight. Queens is especially vulnerable as it is home to two major airports and a large immigrant community. The office's efforts are geared toward arming the community with the knowledge to identify trafficking. Also, the office empowers those who are vulnerable and at risk of being trafficked to recognize the tactics used to recruit. At the same time, we provide victims with the information necessary to seek help from our office or others.

Under DA Katz's leadership, the office works with multiple city agencies and law enforcement partners on a comprehensive approach to make sure our neighborhoods are safe, shutting down illegal premises and holding those managing illicit operations accountable. In 2024, the Human Trafficking Bureau obtained 22 criminal convictions; 12 of those convictions were felonies, most involving the kidnapping, sex trafficking and rape of women and children.

QUEENS WOMAN INDICTED FOR SEX TRAFFICKING TRANSGENDER VICTIM ON ROOSEVELT AVENUE

PRESS RELEASE — NOVEMBER 22, 2024

District Attorney Katz announced that a defendant was arraigned on an indictment charging her with sex trafficking and other crimes for allegedly forcing a transgender woman to engage in prostitution on Roosevelt Avenue and to pay the defendant a weekly sum of money. After the victim stated that she wanted to stop engaging in prostitution, the defendant allegedly demanded money at knifepoint. The defendant is also indicted on charges of grand larceny, robbery and other crimes for attempting to extort a second victim and forcibly stealing the phones of both victims while threatening them with a knife.

DA Katz said: "The defendant is accused of using threats of violence to exploit one victim and terrorize another in an effort to exert her power and line her pockets. Sex trafficking is a brutal and degrading enterprise. It is why I created a Human Trafficking Bureau and why we remain fully dedicated to eradicating sex trafficking from our communities."

The defendant, 30, of 80th Street in Jackson Heights, was arraigned yesterday on a 24-count indictment charging her with four counts of sex trafficking; grand larceny in the second degree; coercion in the first degree; two counts of coercion in the second degree; three counts of coercion in the third degree; promoting prostitution in the third and fourth degrees; two counts of robbery in the first degree; two counts of robbery in the second degree;

two counts of menacing in the second degree; two counts of criminal mischief in the fourth degree; attempted grand larceny in the second degree; and two counts of criminal contempt in the second degree.

If convicted of the top count, the defendant faces a potential maximum sentence of 25 years in prison.

DA Katz said that, according to the indictment and investigation, around October 2023, the defendant forced the victim to pay her a weekly sum of money while engaging in prostitution on Roosevelt Avenue.

In December 2023, the victim told the defendant that she wanted out of the forced arrangement. Upon hearing that, the defendant allegedly threatened to harm the victim and demanded money.

In January 2024, while the victim was with the second victim, another transgender woman, on Roosevelt Avenue, both victims were approached by the defendant and several other unapprehended individuals. The defendant took out a silver knife from her waistband and threatened to kill both women if they returned to the area. The defendant also allegedly ordered an accomplice to forcibly remove both victims' phones and throw them into the sewer.

The defendant was arrested on Thursday, November 21, pursuant to the indictment.

The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

CLOSING ILLEGAL CANNABIS SHOPS

District Attorney Katz has continued to prioritize **shuttering the illegal cannabis smoke shops** that plague our communities and are dangerously close to schools, daycare centers and places of worship. Shops that sell unregulated and untested cannabis flower and gummies packaged to look like brand-name candy are targeting our children. DA Katz is making efforts to permanently close these illegal cannabis smoke shops.

Since November 2022, **joint enforcement operations** have resulted in the prosecution of 436 individuals for felony-level charges related to the sale or possession of cannabis or controlled substances, and the initiation of dozens of eviction proceedings to permanently remove the illegal proprietors from these retail locations. In that same time, the following items have been seized from over 400 suspected illegal cannabis dispensaries in Queens County:

- Over 6,500 lbs. of cannabis edibles, including gummies and candy bars;
- Over 10,000 lbs. of cannabis flower;
- Over 17,000 cannabis vape “pens;”
- Hundreds of packages of edible psilocybin, also known as “magic mushrooms;”
- All of which has an estimated total value of more than \$25 million.
- We have also recovered loaded firearms, tasers, stun guns and knives from these locations.

The office has also put landlords on notice that they must commence eviction proceedings of commercial tenants who are engaged in an illegal trade or business. If the landlord fails to do so, DA Katz will use her civil authority pursuant to the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law to take over such eviction proceedings, if necessary.

In June, District Attorney Katz seized a converted school bus and charged its operator with criminal offenses in connection with their marketing and selling cannabis products to children just blocks away from a public park. The cannabis edibles included names such as “Skittles,” “Gummy Sharks,” “Jolly Ranchers,” and packaging nearly identical to snacks popular with kids. Similarly, in November, the Crime Strategies and Intelligence Bureau, along with the New York City Sheriff and NYPD, announced the shuttering of a brick-and-mortar location that was selling cannabis and hallucinogens through a locked gate, directly across the street from a park where children were playing.



DA KATZ, NYPD AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHUTTER UNLICENSED CANNABIS SHOP IN SUNNYSIDE

PRESS RELEASE — NOVEMBER 4, 2024

District Attorney Katz announced the closure of an unlicensed cannabis shop that operated near the Thomas A. Noonan Playground on Greenpoint Avenue in Sunnyside. A woman working at the shop was charged with criminal sale of cannabis and criminal possession of a controlled substance.

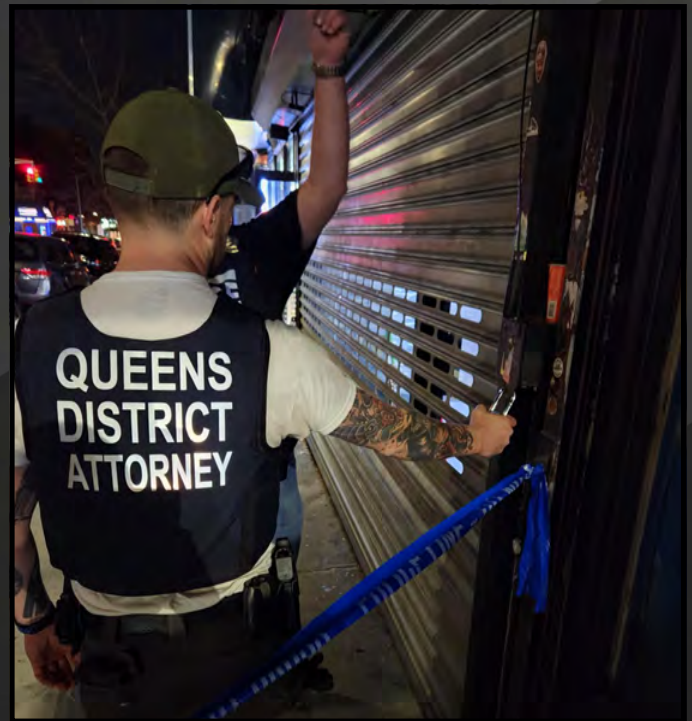
DA Katz said: "This shop, which was located across the street from a playground, had become the subject of numerous community complaints. We will continue our enforcement actions on unlicensed marijuana dealers who sell unregulated products that are often targeted to children. These dispensaries also fail to pay tax revenue for public services and undermine licensed sellers who prioritize safety and compliance."

Currently, there are 226 licensed adult recreational-use cannabis dispensaries open in New York state, including 21 in Queens. There are 39 state-authorized medical marijuana dispensaries, including three in Queens.

The defendant, age 22, of 91st Drive in Woodhaven was arraigned Saturday on charges of criminal possession of a controlled substance in the fifth degree, criminal sale of cannabis in the third degree and unlawful possession of cannabis.

According to the charges, on November 1, detectives from District Attorney Katz's office and NYPD officers executed a court-authorized search warrant at the Green Point Convenience Corp. at 42-18 Greenpoint Avenue in Sunnyside.

Detectives recovered a large quantity cannabis flower in a glass container and cannabis infused



edibles. The defendant was also found to have psilocybin, also known as "magic mushrooms," in her bag.

This operation is part of the District Attorney's ongoing effort to rid Queens of illegal cannabis dispensaries, whether operating out of trucks and vans or brick-and-mortar commercial locations.

The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.



FRAUDS

The Frauds Bureau is dedicated to catching criminals who prey on the vulnerable, exploit the elderly, line their pockets with government revenue, and anyone else who uses financial schemes to victimize the innocent. The Frauds Bureau investigates and prosecutes a wide variety of complex financial crimes affecting the approximately 2.3 million Queens residents and 50,000 businesses.

The Frauds Bureau partners with federal, state and local agencies to investigate reported crimes while also proactively investigating emerging scams. The bureau uses a full spectrum of investigative tools to prosecute fraudsters in order to return ill-gotten funds to their rightful owners and deprive fraudsters of the financial incentive to commit crimes. The Frauds Bureau maintains specialized units that provide highly-trained personnel to oversee cases and provide technical expertise throughout the office.

The Elder Fraud Unit prosecutes crimes related to the financial exploitation of the elderly. In recent years, senior citizens have been targeted by a variety of scams that are particularly disturbing as they target some of our most financially vulnerable citizens. DA Katz has made it a priority to provide education to Queens residents. Each year the Elder Fraud Unit hosts seminars, training thousands of Queens residents by providing information on the latest scams and frauds and tips on how to avoid being victimized. Outreach events are provided free of charge through various government agencies and community groups.

The bureau investigates and prosecutes those who look to **defraud insurance companies and programs**. They work closely with both governmental agencies and insurance companies to combat people staging car accidents, faking construction site accidents and stealing life insurance benefits from bereaved loved ones. The filing of fraudulent insurance claims leads to higher insurance premiums for all Queens residents.

The Crimes Against Revenue Unit (CARU) is recognized as a leader in New York state for the number of cases prosecuted and for the continued effort to find those who deprive the government of needed revenue. CARU works to promote commercial parity and stifle the growth of the underground economy by proactive enforcement of laws. This is done by identifying fraudsters who are creating an unfair advantage in the marketplace. When a business collects sales tax on behalf of New York state and fails to remit this money they are damaging the economy. This behavior disenfranchises honest businesses by creating financial pressures against the firm's profitability. When individual taxpayers adopt this same behavior by failing to properly report and pay personal income taxes, governments are forced to make tough financial decisions that result in increased fees or cuts to programs.

The Frauds Bureau maintains a non-emergency Consumer Frauds Helpline that is staffed during regular business hours. Members of the public have three ways to initiate contact with the Consumer Frauds Helpline; they can call the telephone line and leave a message requesting a call back, send an email to the Frauds Bureau, or they can come to the office.



BROOKLYN MAN CHARGED WITH STAGING CAR CRASH ON BELT PARKWAY IN ROSEDALE

PRESS RELEASE — NOVEMBER 8, 2024

DA Katz announced today that a defendant was charged with staging a motor vehicle accident, reckless endangerment and other crimes after being in a car that allegedly cut off another driver on the Belt Parkway, forcing that driver to come to a stop. The car the defendant was in then reversed into the victim's car.

DA Katz said: "The defendant and others allegedly staged a crash on a busy highway and rammed an unsuspecting driver with their vehicle after they forcibly stopped her in the left lane of the Belt Parkway. Countless lives were jeopardized due to this incredibly reckless conduct. This investigation is very much ongoing, and I encourage anyone who suspects that they may have been a victim in a staged car crash to call the NYPD Office of Fraudulent Collision Investigation Squad at 718-822-5403."

The defendant, age 28, of 14th Avenue in Dyker Heights, was arraigned last night on charges of staging a motor vehicle accident in the second degree, criminal mischief in the third degree, reckless endangerment in the first degree, conspiracy in the fifth degree and insurance fraud in the fifth degree. The Criminal Court judge ordered him to return to court on January 7, 2025. If convicted, he faces up to 2 1/3 years to seven years in prison.

According to the charges, on October 16, 2024, at approximately 11:11 a.m., the victim was driving north in the left lane of the Belt Parkway in Rosedale

near the Nassau County border. The woman's vehicle was equipped with both a front and rear dashboard camera.

At that time, a silver Honda Civic cut in front of the victim's vehicle and then came to a stop. The victim was forced to step on her brakes to avoid a collision. The Honda then quickly backed into her vehicle, damaging both her car and the Honda. The occupants of the Honda held up what appeared to be a plastic tarp in the rear window area of the car that partially obstructed the victim driver's view inside the Honda, and the occupants of the vehicle switched their seating arrangement within the Honda. After the collision, four people exited the car including a woman who got out of the driver's side and a man who identified himself and said the purported driver was his wife. Another woman and man who exited the vehicle are presently unidentified.

The footage surrounding the crash showed a red Kia Sport following the victim's car. After the crash, the Kia stopped in front of the Honda and the fourth occupant of the Honda exited that car and entered the Kia, which then left the scene. The defendant was apprehended Thursday after arriving in New York on a flight from Ecuador. The investigation is ongoing.

The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.



PIX11.COM

**ONE SUSPECT UNDER ARREST IN CONNECTION TO
INSURANCE SCAM CAUGHT ON DASH CAMERA**

10:06
57°

PIX11+

RETAIL THEFT

District Attorney Katz has implemented a comprehensive approach to combat retail theft in Queens County. The office has developed partnerships and relationships with large and small retailers and civic associations in the community to identify retail theft recidivists, those who engage in violent acts when conducting theft, as well as identifying, investigating and prosecuting complex organized retail theft and resale rings responsible for tens of thousands of dollars in loss.

Working with Governor Hochul's Retail Theft Task Force, the NYPD, Queens District Attorney Investigators, New York State Police, Homeland Security Investigations New York, other federal agencies and retailers, the office conducted several large-scale investigations into highly organized retail theft operations not only in Queens County but across the state.



QUEENS MERCHANTS BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

In 2024, the District Attorney's office continued its focus on combatting retail theft through the **Queens Merchants Business Improvement Program**. The program, which was created in close partnership with the New York Police Department and community stakeholders to address this reoccurring problem, has seen great participation and results. The initiative seeks to combat repeat shoplifting and the threats directed at customers and store staff by the handful of individuals responsible for many of these disruptions to local businesses.

Participating businesses contact police when an individual engages in disruptive, dangerous, or illegal behavior in their establishment. The responding officers can issue a trespass notice, either in conjunction with an arrest or in lieu of arrest, and warn the individual that their return to the location will result in their arrest.

When an individual who has been previously served with a trespass notice returns to the location, employees of the participating business do not have to wait for them to commit yet another crime in that location before the store employees can call 911 and have the defendant arrested.

Registered businesses include those stores that are "mom-and-pop shops" as well as large chain retailers. Since the expansion of the program to every precinct in Queens County:

429

STORES ARE NOW
REGISTERED FOR THE INITIATIVE

1,406

INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN
SERVED WITH TRESPASS NOTICES

47

DEFENDANTS HAVE BEEN
ARRESTED FOR RETURNING
TO THE STORES AFTER BEING
SERVED WITH THEIR NOTICES

QUEENS HUSBAND AND WIFE CHARGED WITH OPERATING INTERNATIONAL STOLEN MERCHANDISE RING OUT OF KEW GARDENS HILLS HOME AND STOREFRONT IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PRESS RELEASE – NOVEMBER 26, 2024

District Attorney Melinda Katz and Governor Kathy Hochul announced today that a married couple, as well as three co-defendants, were charged with operating a large-scale retail theft and fencing operation. The pair sold stolen merchandise including high-end makeup, perfume, beauty products, designer clothing and accessories, locally and abroad. The couple allegedly directed retail theft crews to steal specific merchandise and then sold the stolen products from their home and a storefront in the Dominican Republic. The couple is also alleged to have paid truck drivers to divert products bound for retailers such as Sephora and Ulta Beauty from manufacturer warehouses directly to locations under their control. Among the charges brought against the defendants is fostering the sale of stolen goods, the first time this newly adopted crime has been charged in New York.

DA Katz said: “These arrests once again prove that consumers should be extremely careful about buying items on social media or from unfamiliar vendors. As we approach the holiday season, take great care to know the genesis of the products you are buying. As alleged, the defendants ran a widespread fencing operation that offered stolen merchandise for sale far below retail prices. Through locations in Queens County and the Dominican Republic, this crew sold more than \$2 million in stolen merchandise in a two-year period. This marks the first time in New York anyone has been charged for the crime of fostering the sale of stolen goods, a new measure passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Hochul to stop the sale of stolen goods through both online platforms and brick-and-mortar locations. We thank the governor for her leadership on this issue and our partners at the New York State Police and Homeland Security Investigations New York for their work on this ongoing investigation.”

Defendant A, 35, defendant B, 29, and defendant C, 59, all of 75th Avenue in Kew Gardens Hills; and defendant D, 33, of 71st Avenue in Fresh Meadows, were arraigned on charges of criminal possession of stolen property in the first degree, four counts of criminal possession of stolen property in the second degree, conspiracy in the fourth degree, three counts of attempted criminal possession of stolen property in the third degree, criminal possession of stolen property in the fourth degree and four counts of fostering the sale of stolen goods. The defendants are due back in court on January 15, 2025, and face up to 8 1/3 years to 25 years in prison if convicted of the top charge. Defendant A is additionally charged with two counts of criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree.

Defendant E, 29, of 133rd Avenue in Ozone Park, is charged with criminal possession of stolen property in the first degree, four counts of criminal possession of stolen property in the second degree, grand larceny in the third degree, conspiracy in the fourth degree, three counts of grand larceny in the fourth degree and petit larceny. She is due back in court January 15, 2025, and faces up to 8 1/3 years to 25 years in prison if convicted of the top charge.

DA Katz said, that according to the charges and investigation, defendant A and defendant B, who are married, purchased large quantities of stolen retail cosmetic goods, beauty products, perfume, designer clothing and accessories from numerous theft crews that stole from retailers up and down the East Coast. They also organized the large-scale theft of merchandise directly from manufacturers before it was distributed to retail outlets. Co-defendant C, who is defendant B’s mother, defendant D and defendant E assisted in the operation.

The operation is estimated to have taken in \$2 million in sales two years.

The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.



HOUSING AND WORKER PROTECTION

The Housing and Worker Protection Bureau (HWPB) investigates and prosecutes crimes related to fraudulent real estate schemes, deed and wage theft, unsafe workplace conditions and other forms of illegal exploitation.

The HWPB's groundbreaking efforts to combat deed fraud have continued in 2024, with investigations resulting in the **return of 15 homes to their rightful owners**. These matters included the prosecution of a man who stole his niece's inheritance, a disbarred attorney who stole multiple homes from elderly victims and a perpetrator who stole several houses for resale.

Property ownership is a fundamental right and DA Katz will not allow individuals to exploit laws surrounding tenancy. In response to the growing problem known as squatting, DA Katz has prioritized removing those who enter a home without permission. The bureau secured indictments on several cases, including one in which the alleged squatter is accused of renting out rooms to others as well as a squatter who forged lease documents in order to claim he was a legal tenant. In 2024, the bureau's efforts have led to the **removal of squatters from a total of four houses**.

The bureau has also assisted landlords in their efforts to evict tenants who conduct illegal businesses. Working with housing courts has resulted in the eviction of **10 illegal cannabis businesses and 15 illegal brothel operations**.

SQUATTER SENTENCED AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO THREE FELONIES FOR ILLEGALLY OCCUPYING JAMAICA HOME

PRESS RELEASE — NOVEMBER 6, 2024

DA Katz announced that a defendant was sentenced today after pleading guilty to identity theft, offering a false instrument for filing and tampering with physical evidence. The defendant illegally occupied a home in Jamaica and went as far as to forge leasing documents to stake his claim to the property as a legal tenant. As part of the sentencing, the defendant is expected to pay restitution to cover the victim's attorney fees and damage to the property.

DA Katz said: "The first priority for my office when it comes to dealing with squatters is to get them off the premises. This case was especially egregious as the defendant took the legal homeowner to court as part of his bogus claim to the property. Thanks to the strong case built by my Housing and Worker Protection Bureau, we indicted the defendant, and he plead guilty to three felonies. He must now make restitution of the homeowner's expenses in addition to completing community service."

The defendant, 24, of 18th Street in Brooklyn, was sentenced to five years' probation, 20 days of community service and \$3,900 in restitution. He pleaded guilty on September 26.

According to the charges, on or about February

23, 2024, the owner of a home on Lakewood Avenue in Jamaica listed it for rent through a broker at Top Nest Properties.

For several weeks, the broker visited the location multiple times a week and observed the entire house to be vacant, all the windows closed and undamaged, and the two front doors locked. She also had a functioning key for the two front doors.

On March 1, 2024, the broker made a regularly scheduled stop at the property and observed that the locks had been changed on the front door leading to the studio unit of the residence and her key no longer worked. Three days later, the broker arrived at the residence and observed that the locks had been changed on the front door leading to the upstairs unit. She also observed the defendant inside the residence.

The police were called to the home and the defendant told the officers that he had been staying at the location since January. He provided a purported lease with the broker and Top Nest Properties listed as the landlords. The broker reviewed the lease and determined that she had never seen the document and that her signature on it was forged.

SCOOTER OPERATIONS

The often careless and dangerous operation of motorized scooters on our roads, and even our sidewalks, became an urgent community concern.

At the start of 2024, District Attorney Katz announced a **joint partnership** between the District Attorney's Detective Bureau and the New York Police Department focused on the removal of illegal motorized scooters. This is in response to the pervasive role of scooters utilized in crimes, including drive-by shootings, robberies, and vehicular violence.

A total of 1,029 scooters have been removed from the streets for being illegally parked on sidewalks and streets along busy commercial strips with high pedestrian traffic. Nearly all the mopeds were unregistered.

The joint operation was launched to send a clear message that the use of these vehicles in committing violent crimes and aiding escapes will not be tolerated in Queens. The office will continue this ongoing, proactive enforcement effort against unregistered and illegally parked scooters that are an affront to law-abiding New Yorkers. DA Katz urges everyone to ensure that their preferred choice of vehicle is properly insured and registered.

1,029 Scooters

Have been removed from the streets for being illegally parked on sidewalks and streets along busy commercial strips with high pedestrian traffic



INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS & POLICY

District Attorney Katz has served the public for more than 30 years, in the New York State Assembly, New York City Council, as Queens Borough President and District Attorney, and is keenly aware of the importance of maintaining relationships with other elected officials and outside agencies at all levels of government. Created in 2020, the Intergovernmental Affairs & Policy department (IGA&P) coordinates and strengthens the office's relationships with outside agencies and elected officials on a variety of criminal justice related issues. IGA&P works to improve operational functions and assists with the implementation of new initiatives and protocols.

In recent years, criminal justice related legislation has grown exponentially. IGA&P monitors and tracks the legislation on city and state levels and assists with drafting bills to better protect and serve the community. They identify and promote the District Attorney's legislative priorities and conduct research on a variety of policy and legislative issues.

PUBLIC CORRUPTION

The Public Corruption Bureau investigates and prosecutes crimes committed by public servants and other public officials, as well as crimes that attempt to corrupt the function of public agencies and offices. It also investigates allegations against civilians who attempt to subvert the integrity of public servants by offering bribes. In addition, the bureau investigates complaints from the public and works together with the NYPD's Internal Affairs Bureau, and a host of other agencies on the city, state, and federal level, to safeguard the public from corruption.

The Public Corruption Bureau investigates allegations of criminal acts committed by police officers and law enforcement; the wrongdoing by licensed, suspended, or disbarred attorneys; the unauthorized practice of law; instances of election fraud; and perjury.

SIX DEFENDANTS INDICTED FOR VOTER FRAUD RELATED TO JUNE 2023 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL PRIMARY CAMPAIGN

PRESS RELEASE - JULY 25, 2024

DA Katz announced that six defendants are variously charged in a 161-count indictment with criminal possession of a forged instrument, falsifying business records, illegal voting and other crimes in an alleged scheme to submit falsified absentee ballot applications for the campaign of Yu-Ching James Pai, who was a candidate in the June 2023 Primary for New York City Council District 20. The six defendants volunteered on the campaign.

DA Katz said: "Our democracy relies on integrity at the voting booth, and we will not allow that to be compromised in Queens County. As alleged in this case, the defendants went to the Board of Elections and filed fraudulent absentee ballot applications on behalf of 23 voters they had never met. I thank my Public Corruption Bureau and the Board of Elections for their assistance in this investigation."

Board of Elections Deputy Executive Director Vincent Ignizio said: "The Board of Elections is proud to work with our government partners on the federal, state and local level to refer and support election integrity investigations. We thank District Attorney Katz and her staff for working with us to protect and ensure elections in NYC are free and fair for all."

Defendant 1, 19 years old; defendant 2, 46; defendant 3, 53; defendant 4, 24; and defendant 5, 20, were arraigned today. The defendants were ordered to return to court on September 19. They each face up to seven years in prison if convicted of the top charge.

A sixth defendant is expected to be arraigned at a later date.

According to the charges:

- Between approximately March 1, 2023, and June 27, 2023, the defendants volunteered for Pai's City Council campaign.
- During that time, the defendants visited the New York City Board of Elections office in Forest Hills to pick up ballots for voters who purportedly wanted to cast absentee ballots in the June 2023 primary election. The defendants were listed as the person authorized to pick up the ballots and they later returned to do so.
- The Queens District Attorney's office began an investigation following a grievance from a voter who was told that they had already placed their vote upon arriving at their designated polling location.
- Queens DA investigators interviewed multiple individuals whose names and personal information were listed on the ballot applications and learned that the voters did not fill out or sign the application, never met the defendant listed as authorized to pick it up and never received an absentee ballot.
- In total, the charges in the indictment reflect that 23 Queens County voters had absentee ballot applications and ballots fraudulently submitted in their names.
- Following the indictment, five of the six defendants surrendered today to the Queen's District Attorney's Office.

The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

PROFESSIONALS OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

DA Katz strongly believes in the importance of **community engagement and empowerment**. This has led QDA Assistant District Attorneys and support staff to present at hundreds of public events throughout the borough of Queens. The staff meets the public where they are, to offer their expertise and vast knowledge to the communities they serve. The following events capture just a snapshot of the many community presentations delivered by QDA staff.



ADA Michael Brovner, Chief of the Hate Crimes Bureau, spoke at Queens Metropolitan High School about QDA's efforts to prevent hate crimes and hold perpetrators accountable.



At Long Island City High School, FTBI Bureau Chief Rosemary Chao and Youth Empowerment Coordinators Jalesa Harper and Shyann Cunningham participated in a Women's History Panel and Speed Chat event.



At John Bowne High School, ADA Kathleen Modica of the Crime Strategies and Intelligence Bureau and ADA Diana Schioppi spoke to students about how to think critically and make sound decisions to avoid getting involved with gangs.



In Jackson Heights, Elder Fraud Coordinator Daren Wilkes spoke with the congregation of Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church on ways to steer clear of scams and fraudulent activities with a particular focus on safeguarding seniors who are increasingly becoming targets.



ADA Kiran Cheema of the Human Trafficking Bureau took part in an Anti-Human Trafficking Community Forum hosted by the Queens Community Justice Center in Far Rockaway.



Chief ADA Jennifer Naiburg spoke with students about her work and the significance of public service at William Cullen Bryant High School as part of a Civics Week presentation.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS DIVISION

Under DA Katz's leadership, her **community-based approach** to prosecution has gained national recognition for its innovation and effectiveness. Through this approach, DA Katz has successfully engaged the Queens community, fostering an environment where residents feel empowered to reach out to her office for assistance with law enforcement-related issues.

Unlike many communities that have historically been wary of prosecutors, DA Katz's 30-year career as a public servant in Queens has given her a deep understanding of residents' concerns. This experience has enabled her to build trust and encourage community members to interact with the District Attorney's office with confidence.

DA Katz believes that the first point of contact with her office should not occur in a courtroom or during a crisis, but in a welcoming, safe environment—such as a community event—where individuals can learn about available resources and services.

To further this vision, the reimagined Community Partnerships Division employs a multi-faceted strategy, creating opportunities for residents to positively contribute to their communities, ensuring that crime is never seen as an option. The division works closely with civic and non-profit organizations, develops and sponsors programs, and engages with neighborhoods across Queens. Through these efforts, the division aims to reduce crime and promote justice for all. In 2024 alone, Community Partnerships participated in **over 600 public events**, demonstrating its ongoing commitment to strengthening ties with the community.

Community Partnerships participated in over

600 Public Events



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UNIT

The Community Engagement Unit is responsible for implementing DA Katz's community-centered approach to prosecution, which has significantly expanded the office's visibility, accessibility and connection with the people of Queens County. Under DA Katz's leadership, the team has strengthened relationships and deepened the office's involvement in the borough.

The unit's Community Response Team (CRT) coordinators are strategically assigned to the 14 community boards, 17 precincts, and Public Service Area 9, which includes the New York City Housing Authority developments. CRT coordinators actively participate in precinct community council, civic association, and community board meetings, ensuring the District Attorney's office remains closely connected to local concerns. In addition, the CRT collaborates with a wide array of stakeholders—including religious leaders, elected officials, district and civic leaders, police precinct commanding officers, police officers, housing tenant association leaders, the Queens Chamber of Commerce and NYPD Community Affairs officers—to disseminate important information to residents through workshops, safety summits, presentations and QDA's mobile office.

The CRT has become a trusted resource for community members, serving as a direct link to the DA's office. Residents regularly reach out to the team not only with concerns but also to invite the DA to participate in local events. **The members of the Community Engagement Unit are the DA's "boots on the ground," offering an essential conduit to the voices and needs of the Queens community.** This outreach is a direct reflection of DA Katz's unique vision of community prosecution, an approach that is transforming the way the DA's office engages with the borough, setting a new standard for community involvement in Queens.



CIVIC AWARENESS UNIT

The Civic Awareness Unit coordinates the District Attorney's Community Advisory Councils, oversees the Office of Immigrant Affairs, and operates all office-sponsored events, from criminal justice educational programs to cultural celebrations. To cultivate new external partnerships, the unit strategically spearheaded several initiatives in 2024, including a September gun buyback program and community-based celebrations of Lunar New Year, Black History Month, Hispanic Heritage, Women's History, Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage, Jewish American Heritage and more. The unit arranged and managed participation at several parades across Queens County, including the Lunar New Year Parade (Flushing), the St. Pats for All Parade (Woodside), the College Point Memorial Day Parade (College Point), the New Queens Pride Parade (Jackson Heights), the Queens Breast Cancer Awareness Walk (Flushing Meadows Corona Park) as well as the Celebrate Israel Parade in Manhattan.



Additionally, the unit advanced public awareness initiatives involving criminal justice and safety issues, including worker protection and housing issues. They organized several internal public social media campaigns to promote awareness on gun violence, sexual assault and domestic violence.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCILS

More than 610 residents, business owners and civic and religious leaders participate on the 10 Community Advisory Councils, helping the office stay abreast of neighborhood issues and concerns in real time. The Advisory Councils, which meet quarterly, receive presentations from subject matter experts within the office as well as special guest speakers, followed by questions and answers from the membership. Existing meetings have successfully led to a wider awareness of the work and resources available to the public from our office. The membership of each council varies from 40 to 86 individuals and is constantly evolving to meet community needs.



The current Councils:

- African American Advisory Council (61 members)
- Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Council (63 members)
- Clergy Advisory Council (55 members)
- Jewish Advisory Council (65 members)
- Labor Advisory Council – Building and Construction Trades (60 members)
- Labor Advisory Council – Social Services (58 members)
- Latino Advisory Council (60 members)
- LGBTQ+ Advisory Council (62 members)
- South Asian/Indo Caribbean Advisory Council (86 members)
- Veterans Advisory Council (40 members)

GUN BUYBACK PROGRAM

As part of the office's ongoing efforts to combat gun violence in Queens County, DA Katz has sponsored numerous gun buyback programs. In partnership with the New York Police Department, the New York State Attorney General, local community groups and neighborhood churches, the District Attorney invited members of the community to surrender an operable firearm – with no questions asked. These initiatives are 100 percent anonymous and empower members of the community to help the Office of the Queens District Attorney ensure community safety. DA Katz frequently notes that every weapon surrendered during a gun buyback program represents a potential tragedy averted and a potential life saved. **Since DA Katz took office in 2020, there have been 10 gun buyback programs and over 540 guns have been taken off the streets of Queens County.**



OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

The Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA) assists immigrants whether they are victims of crimes or need assistance with other services such as housing, labor issues and civil matters. OIA helps bridge the connection to the NYPD, to report crimes and navigate the criminal justice system. OIA trains all new Assistant District Attorneys and newly hired NYPD officers assigned to Queens precincts, and provides direct community outreach by presenting at schools, faith-based institutions, street festivals and fairs.



OIA also handles all U-Visa and T-Visa certification requests and information for the office. U-Visa certification is a law enforcement certification that a person was a victim of a designated crime and was fully cooperative with law enforcement on the prosecution of their matter regardless of the outcome. T-Visa certification is a law enforcement certification that a person was a victim of either labor, human or sex trafficking and was fully cooperative with law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of their matter regardless of the outcome. **Through November 2024, OIA issued 327 U-Visa certifications and 4 T-Visa Certifications.**

OIA's message is simple and to the point: Know Your Rights. **A victim of a crime is a victim regardless of immigration status, language spoken, gender identity or religious beliefs.**

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT UNIT

The Youth Empowerment Unit engaged **over 12,000 young people** across Queens County in 2024. The unit's programs are designed to cultivate young minds, strengthening their ability to think critically and communicate with mastery, thereby empowering them to navigate challenges and obstacles with confidence and maturity.

LEGAL EXPLORERS

The Legal Explorers Program seeks to immerse high school students in a diverse array of potential career paths within the legal profession, encompassing roles such as prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, police officers and various other esteemed positions within the criminal justice system. The Legal Explorers Program aims to nurture a sense of wonder and motivate young participants as they explore their journey towards professional growth. **Throughout the 2024 academic year, the Legal Explorers Program averaged 50 participants.**

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Student Advisory Council is designed to promote meaningful discussions among high school students regarding legal matters and contemporary issues, all while enhancing their oral advocacy skills in an enriching environment. Participants in this comprehensive program were chosen by their school's faculty to participate in scheduled meetings throughout the academic year. **The Student Advisory Council consisted of approximately 25 regular participants in 2024.**

SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS (SNL)

In partnership with the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development and the New York Police Department, the office supports this recreational programming for young people on Saturday evenings. Focused on youth development and violence prevention, the program is designed to provide a safe space for youth to enjoy athletics and keep them off the streets. Staff actively engages with preteens and teenagers, improving relationships among our youth, law enforcement and our communities. **Currently, there are 26 SNL sites operating across the borough.**



During a tour of the courthouse, ADA Tara DiGregorio gave a presentation to students from Queens Metropolitan High School on the prosecution process and the layout of the court system. Students also had the opportunity to observe a case and attend arraignments.



The Saturday Night Lights program operates across the borough and provides a safe space for young people to enjoy athletics, including basketball.

QDA SUMMER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The QDA Summer Leadership Program is a comprehensive six-week paid internship designed to offer Queens youths an in-depth look into different roles and responsibilities within law enforcement, while exploring career prospects and developing practical skills. The summer of 2024 provided participants with the opportunity to meaningfully engage in conversations with a variety of law enforcement professionals.

During the summer, participants engaged in a community service initiative aimed at combatting food insecurity. Through a partnership between the office and the Evangel Christian Center in Long Island City, participants volunteered at their food pantry, where they assisted by organizing, cleaning and distributing goods to people in need. They attended Queens College and the annual NYPD employment fair at the Police Academy. **The 2024 internship had 29 participants.**



Participants in the QDA Summer Leadership Program were able to visit the NYPD Police Academy in College Point.

SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SYEP)

In the summer of 2024, the office hosted SYEP participants. This six-week program, funded by the Department of Youth and Community Development, gives young people between the ages of 16 to 24 the opportunity to enhance their office skills while gaining exposure to the criminal justice system. These participants learned office etiquette and research and interpersonal skills, improving their marketability to secure jobs for the future.

HOPE AND LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Hope and Leadership Academy program offers topic-based instruction for middle and high school students, supported by various organizations such as the Queens District Attorney's office, the NYPD Options program and other law enforcement agencies. The program aims to provide young people with effective techniques for promoting positive choices and gaining career-based exposure. Guest presenters draw on their professional experience and skills to mentor and advise students in conflict resolution practices, social responsibility, fostering respect for all, and promoting a positive trajectory in life through courtroom visits and classroom presentations. The program covers a range of important topics, including cyberbullying, internet safety, hate crimes, gang violence prevention and human trafficking. In the 2024 academic year, the Hope and Leadership Academy **program effectively organized and delivered approximately 146 presentations throughout Queens County, successfully reaching over 10,000 young adults.**

VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

In 2024, District Attorney Katz announced **\$2.75 million in funding for 34 community-based organizations for the second phase of her office's Community Youth Development and Crime Prevention Project (CYDCPP) 2024-26.** The inaugural CYDCPP award supported approximately 14,450 youth participants improving their personal skills and professional development.

The goals of CYDCPP programs are to foster positive relationships between communities and law enforcement, reduce youth crime, improve young people's self-confidence, increase exposure to positive adult role models and strengthen academic performance and school attendance. This program includes 21 previously funded community-based organizations from 2021 as well as 13 new ones.





SECTION III

STRONG AND STEADY: ENSURING PUBLIC SAFETY

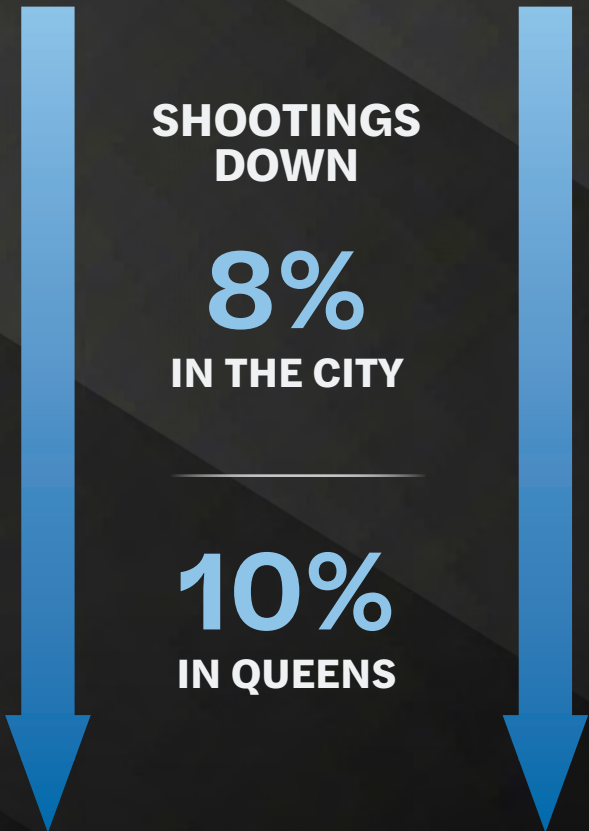
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GUN VIOLENCE

A top priority of the District Attorney is getting guns off our streets. In 2024, the office continued its commitment to the Gun Violence Strategies Partnership (GVSP), a law enforcement partnership formed to tackle the surge in gun violence in our city. Over 25 city, state and federal agencies meet each day to discuss recently arrested defendants accused of gun violence and gun possession.

Since the inception of GVSP in August of 2021, Queens has seen a dramatic decrease in shooting activity across the borough. The number of shooting incidents and victims has decreased over 50 percent as compared to 2020. According to data furnished by NYPD CompStat 2.0, shootings in Queens are at their lowest in 30 years.

To achieve this remarkable goal, the office and its law enforcement partners focus on repeat offenders and drivers of gun violence. GVSP operates by gathering intelligence from across agencies to strengthen cases and present the strongest arguments to hold violent criminals accountable. More than half of the subjects that were identified by GVSP had prior felony convictions, and many remained in custody after arraignment.



NUMBER OF SHOOTING VICTIMS COMPARISON BETWEEN 2023 AND 2024

(NYPD COMPSTAT 2.0 AS OF 12/29/2024 YTD)

-11%
QUEENS COUNTY

-5%
CITYWIDE

QUEENS SHOOTING INCIDENTS COMPARISON BETWEEN 2023 AND 2024 (AS OF 12/29/2024 YTD)



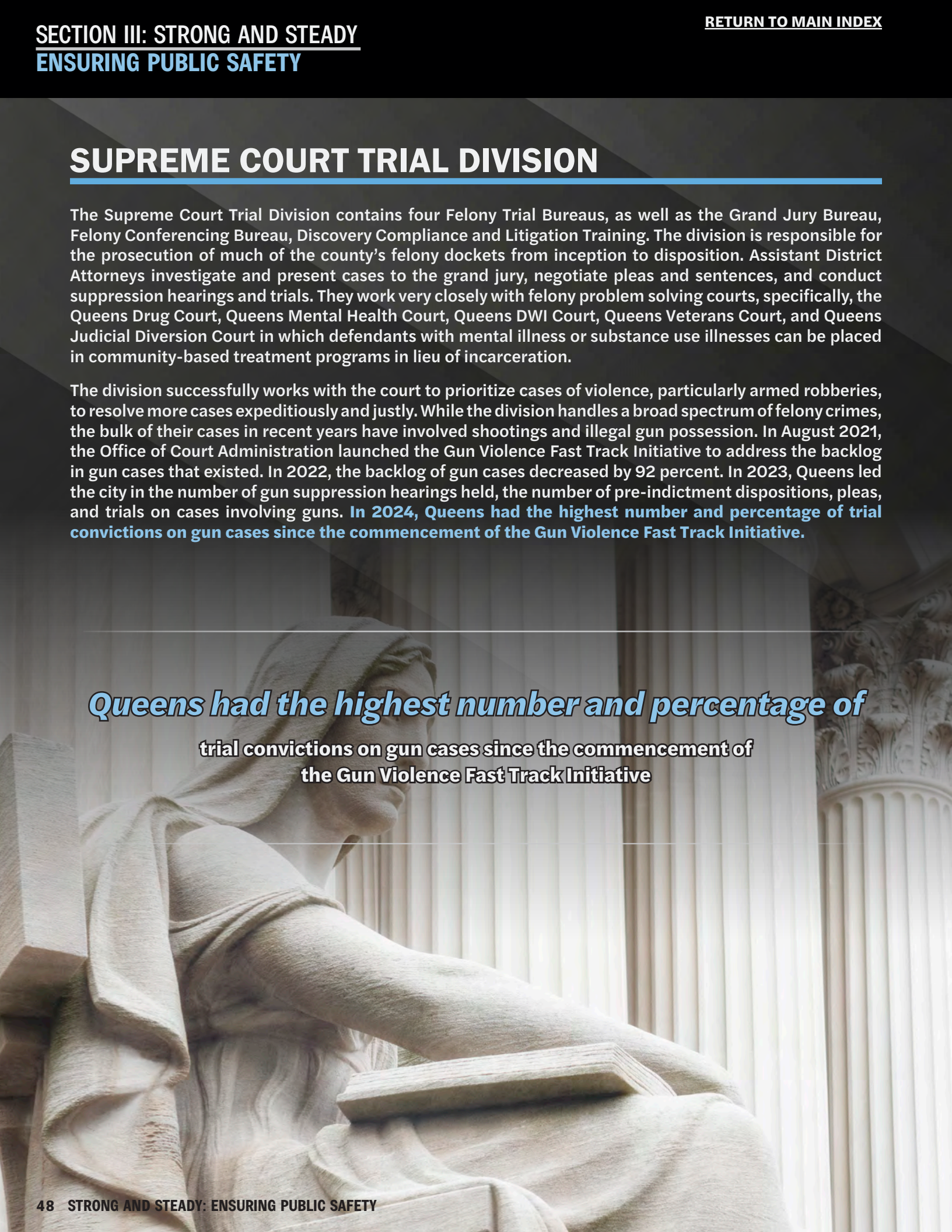
As the chart below indicates, the number of defendants under the age of 18 charged with criminal possession of a weapon increased year to year. Notably, over 41 percent of those charged with weapons are under the age of 25.

AGES OF DEFENDANTS CHARGED WITH CPW	FULL CALENDAR YEAR				AS OF 12/15/24	
	2022		2023		2024	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
UNDER 18	36	5.00%	42	5.10%	53	7.50%
18-25	269	37.70%	268	32.80%	240	34.20%
26-35	235	32.90%	270	33.00%	214	30.50%
36-45	98	13.70%	152	18.60%	105	15.00%
46-55	49	6.90%	64	7.80%	62	8.80%
56-65	23	3.20%	16	2.00%	23	3.30%
OVER 65	4	0.60%	5	0.70%	5	0.70%
TOTAL	714	100%	817	100%	702	100%

SUPREME COURT TRIAL DIVISION

The Supreme Court Trial Division contains four Felony Trial Bureaus, as well as the Grand Jury Bureau, Felony Conferencing Bureau, Discovery Compliance and Litigation Training. The division is responsible for the prosecution of much of the county's felony dockets from inception to disposition. Assistant District Attorneys investigate and present cases to the grand jury, negotiate pleas and sentences, and conduct suppression hearings and trials. They work very closely with felony problem solving courts, specifically, the Queens Drug Court, Queens Mental Health Court, Queens DWI Court, Queens Veterans Court, and Queens Judicial Diversion Court in which defendants with mental illness or substance use illnesses can be placed in community-based treatment programs in lieu of incarceration.

The division successfully works with the court to prioritize cases of violence, particularly armed robberies, to resolve more cases expeditiously and justly. While the division handles a broad spectrum of felony crimes, the bulk of their cases in recent years have involved shootings and illegal gun possession. In August 2021, the Office of Court Administration launched the Gun Violence Fast Track Initiative to address the backlog in gun cases that existed. In 2022, the backlog of gun cases decreased by 92 percent. In 2023, Queens led the city in the number of gun suppression hearings held, the number of pre-indictment dispositions, pleas, and trials on cases involving guns. **In 2024, Queens had the highest number and percentage of trial convictions on gun cases since the commencement of the Gun Violence Fast Track Initiative.**



Queens had the highest number and percentage of
trial convictions on gun cases since the commencement of
the Gun Violence Fast Track Initiative

FORENSICS

DA Katz created the Forensics department to support nearly all criminal prosecutions on legal and technical forensic issues. Forensics facilitates the presentation of forensic science evidence in the grand jury and at trial; conducts office-wide training regarding DNA, ballistic, and fingerprint evidence; closely collaborates with the Conviction Integrity Unit and the Cold Case Unit; and handles all complex litigation relating to reliability and relevancy of expert witnesses. Additionally, the department is the point of contact with the Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), Forensic Biology & Toxicology Laboratories and the New York Police Department Laboratory for all ballistics, latent fingerprint, and trace analysis sections.

In 2024, approximately **460 firearms were tested for DNA analysis** and many of those firearms for microscopic ballistic analysis related to criminal possession of a weapon and shooting cases.

Microscopic ballistic analysis involves the microscopic examination and comparison of fired ammunition samples, typically from fired bullets and spent cartridge cases recovered at crime scenes, in relation to each other and to test fires produced from recovered firearms. Qualified firearms examiners can identify a particular firearm as having fired a specific bullet or cartridge case. Investigators can then connect firearms to shootings, and even one shooting to another. As such, firearm identification evidence is critical to maintaining public safety and to holding shooters accountable.

To assist prosecutors in the office, as well as prosecutors across the nation, in how to interpret any present forensic evidence in light of recent court decisions, the forensics specialist participated in a working group and co-authored a discussion publication for the **Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations**.

460 firearms were tested for DNA analysis

many of those firearms for microscopic ballistic analysis related to criminal possession of a weapon and shooting cases



CRIME STRATEGIES AND INTELLIGENCE

In 2024, the Crime Strategies and Intelligence Bureau (CSIB) expanded its approach to intelligence-driven investigation and prosecution. In addition to tackling gun violence, CSIB applied its innovative model to narcotics trafficking, illegal cannabis dispensaries, multifaceted fraudulent schemes, and organized retail theft. While it initiates investigations, CSIB also provides valuable assistance in hundreds of pending cases throughout the office, analyzing social media intelligence, complex digital evidence, ballistic evidence, expert testimony and statistical data.

CSIB is helping the office lead the fight against ghost guns by dismantling the “Polymer Pipeline” – the source of unregulated personally made firearms that has become an ever-expanding threat to public safety. Through CSIB’s cutting-edge work, District Attorney Katz continues to prosecute individuals purchasing, building and 3D printing illegal firearms in Queens County.

For the fourth year in a row, the **Queens District Attorney’s Office led New York City in the total number of ghost gun recoveries**. Since 2021, Queens County has accounted for 38 percent of all ghost guns recovered citywide, more than any other borough. Consequently, the office has emerged as a national expert in personally manufactured firearms, providing training to law enforcement agencies across the country. Additionally, DA Katz filed an amicus curiae brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of federal regulations to stem the flow of untraceable ghost guns.

Since May 2021, investigations have resulted in the arrests of over

41 ALLEGED GHOST GUN MANUFACTURERS

Since May 2021, CSIB Ghost Gun Investigations have led to the recovery of hundreds of firearms, firearm components, and lethal firearm accessories:

- 449 total firearms;
- 290 ghost guns (handguns, assault weapons, machine guns);
- 8 improvised explosive devices;
- 1,190 high-capacity magazines;
- 329 firearm lower receivers;
- 55 silencers;
- 13 rapid-fire modification devices;
- twelve 3D printers; and
- approximately 140,500 rounds of ammunition.

DA Katz, in an opinion piece written for the New York Daily News, discusses the proliferation of ghost guns and the efforts being made within the office to curtail the spread of these deadly devices.

QUEENS IS STOPPING THE GHOST GUN FLOOD

BY MELINDA KATZ

PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 15, 2024

As the lead law enforcement officer for Queens County, I have seen a new, and dangerous, trend emerge — the building of personally manufactured firearms or "ghost guns" in residents' homes. Curbing the production of these lethal weapons is among my top priorities and it should be for all levels of government.

As a Daily News editorial last week noted, the U.S. Supreme Court has an opportunity to save lives by upholding the legality of the federal regulation restricting the sale of un-serialized "ghost gun" components.

At issue is whether kits or parts of an unassembled firearm can be classified as guns under federal law. My office filed an amicus curiae brief in this case so that these ghost guns can be regulated in the same manner as other firearms, which would mean that the parts possess serial numbers and that background checks are required for those who buy such parts.

The proliferation of ghost guns is one of the most startling trends to appear in recent years. These guns have been used in homicides and in gang warfare.

According to NYPD data, in 2020, ghost guns constituted less than 3% of all guns recovered at crime scenes citywide. By the end of 2023, 11% of all guns recovered at crime scenes were ghost guns, demonstrating the growing need to eradicate this threat.

Seeing this trend, in 2021 I created the first Crime Strategies & Intelligence Bureau (CSIB) in Queens, tasked with instituting a proactive, intelligence-based approach to crime prevention. My goal was clear: identify and interrupt crime trends before the public safety crisis emerges.

To date, my office's CSIB investigations have led to the recovery of more than 400 firearms, including 290 ghost guns; 1,040 high-capacity magazines; more than 50 silencers; more than a dozen machine gun conversion devices; 15 bulletproof vests; numerous 3D printers; more than 135,000 rounds of ammunition; and enough component parts to build an additional 311 ghost guns.

As a result, Queens is leading all of New York City in the total number of successful investigations and ghost gun recoveries for the fourth year in a row, with 151 (or 45.6%) of the 331 ghost guns recovered citywide year to date.

Many of our recent ghost gun investigations reveal that the people building these arsenals have expanded beyond drug runners and traffickers to people from a wide array of social, economic and

professional backgrounds. Now, we're seeing many defendants who are contending that this activity is a kind of "hobby."

We have prosecuted city workers, students, security guards, and a pharmacist, among others — some with criminal convictions, and others who had never previously been arrested or had so much as a traffic violation.

In our conversations with defendants and their attorneys, we commonly hear that they never intended to sell or use their personally manufactured firearms.

My response to that is simple. Possession of ghost guns is dangerous and it's a criminal act. You will be held accountable. Hard stop.

New York State law is clear and unequivocal: you cannot possess an un-serialized and/or unlicensed firearm regardless of whether you built it from component parts you ordered online, 3D printed it from plans downloaded from a website or bought it directly from a manufacturer. It does not matter whether the individual intended to use the firearm or not. Each of our ghost gun defendants was primarily charged with possessing the illegal firearms because we seized these weapons before they could ever be used.

Ghost guns are now much more easily made, and unlike a licensed gun owner, there are no background checks or restrictions to access these firearms, yet the constructed weapons are just as lethal.

Far too often children are the victims of gun violence. My office has recovered hundreds of illegal ghost guns that were not properly secured in homes where children were present. A recent study found that more than 90% of guns used in accidental shooting deaths of children were left unlocked and loaded.

Keeping our neighborhoods secure is a shared responsibility. I urge parents to remain vigilant about their children's activity on the internet. Stay connected, stay engaged, and remind them of the very real dangers that firearms can present.

No matter the outcome of the landmark Supreme Court case, my office will remain vigilant and enforce the laws of the state of New York to ensure that the residents of Queens are safe.

There are myriad "hobbies" that can keep your hands from becoming idle —but I caution that building illegal firearms is not one that will be tolerated in this borough.

BROTHERS CHARGED AFTER SEIZURE OF HOMEMADE EXPLOSIVES, GHOST GUNS IN THEIR ASTORIA APARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE – JANUARY 29, 2024

DA Katz announced that two brothers were indicted on 130 counts of criminal possession of a weapon and related charges after an arsenal of improvised explosive devices (IED) and ghost guns, including assault rifles, was found inside an Astoria apartment they shared with their mother and another brother. Instructions for making a variety of bombs, anarchist propaganda and a “hit list,” with “cops, judges, politicians, celebrities” and “banker scum” scrawled on it, were also found during a search of the home.

Both defendant one, 39, and defendant two, 51, were remanded into custody.

DA Katz said: “The city is safer today. My Crime Strategies and Intelligence Bureau launches investigations every day so that we find illegal weapons, including guns and in this case explosive devices. We cannot measure the number of lives that were saved, but we do know that these weapons will never hurt anyone. My Crime Strategies and Intelligence Bureau launched this investigation. Upon securing a search warrant we worked with the NYPD, Homeland Security, State Police and uncovered eight fully operable bombs, several guns and numerous other weapons.”

Homeland Security Investigations New York Acting Special Agent in Charge Erin Keegan said: “HSI New York is committed to supporting our law enforcement partners when they call. In this case, the collaboration among various law enforcement agencies led to a discovery that most certainly could have saved lives. I thank the members of the HSI Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) and the Queens District Attorney’s Office, along with the NYPD, ATF, and the New York State Police,

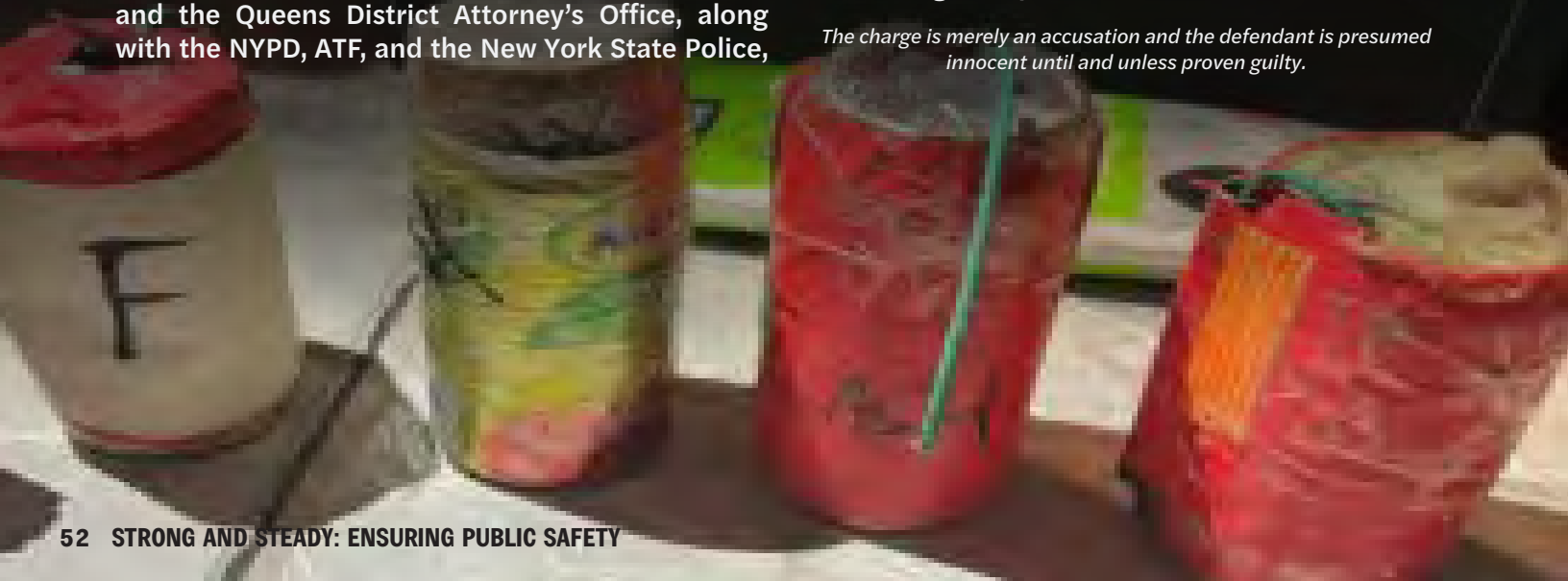
for their outstanding efforts to resolve a potentially dangerous situation.”

If convicted, they each face up to 25 years in prison.

According to the charges:

- Based upon prior intelligence, members of the Queens District Attorney’s Crime Strategies & Intelligence Bureau launched an investigation into the purchase of firearm component parts, accessories, and the manufacture of illegal ghost guns by the defendants.
- On January 17, law enforcement officials executed a search warrant on the brothers’ residence resulting in their arrests and the seizure of:
 - Eight operational improvised explosive devices and one partially constructed tripwire IED;
 - Two loaded AR-15 style ghost gun assault weapons, each with a detachable magazine, muzzle compensator and threaded barrel;
 - Two loaded 9 mm semiautomatic ghost gun pistols and two loaded 9 mm semiautomatic 3D printed ghost gun pistols;
 - One partially constructed AK-47 style ghost gun, six additional AR/pistol lower receivers;
 - Over 600 rounds of ammunition for each of the firearms above;
 - Three sets of body armor; and
 - 29 high-capacity ammunition feeding devices, 13 of which were personally manufactured utilizing a 3D printer.

The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.



CAREER CRIMINAL AND MAJOR CRIMES

The Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau is responsible for **prosecuting recidivist violent felons** who, based on their extensive criminal history, are subject to enhanced sentencing. Many of these repeat offenders are charged with crimes that include gun offenses, attempted murder, robbery, burglary, assault and kidnapping. The bureau is made up of experienced trial prosecutors committed to the successful prosecution and enhanced sentencing of these offenders.

QUEENS MAN SENTENCED TO 39 YEARS TO LIFE FOR SHOOTING NYPD OFFICER IN JAMAICA

PRESS RELEASE - DECEMBER 2, 2024

DA Katz announced that a defendant has been sentenced today to 39 years to life in prison for shooting NYPD Detective Brett Boller after an altercation. The defendant was convicted by a jury last month. The rookie officer and his partner, Officer Anthony Rock, were on routine patrol in the Jamaica business district in April 2023 when they confronted the defendant after he assaulted a passenger on an MTA bus.

DA Katz said: “All of this started because of a seat on a bus. A police officer has spent over a year with surgeries and physical therapy recovering from getting shot, and only by a twist of fate was not killed. The defendant used an illegal firearm and shot Police Officer Brett Boller. With the officer on the ground, this defendant did not attempt escape. Instead, he aimed that gun and pulled the trigger again. This would have been a cold-blooded execution, if not for the magazine dropping from the gun as the defendant ran from the police. A jury has spoken, and this defendant has now been sentenced to prison.”

The defendant, 24, of 93rd Avenue in Jamaica, was sentenced today to 39 years to life in prison.

The defendant was convicted by a jury last month of attempted murder in the first degree, assault in the first degree, aggravated assault of a police officer and assault of a police officer all pertaining to Officer Boller; of attempted assault in the first degree and menacing a police officer pertaining to Officer Rock; as well as two counts of criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree, tampering with physical evidence and assault in the third degree. He was acquitted of attempted murder of the second police officer.

According to the charges and trial testimony, on April 5, 2023, at approximately 3:20 p.m., the defendant was aboard an MTA bus traveling on Jamaica Avenue when he punched a fellow passenger as the bus neared 161st Street. The driver

flagged down Officer Anthony Rock for help, and Officer Rock retrieved his partner, Officer Brett Boller, who was nearby assisting with an illegally parked vehicle. Both officers had recently joined the NYPD and were patrolling the Jamaica business district. Officers Boller and Rock approached the front door of the bus and attempted to talk to the defendant.

The defendant pushed past Boller and ran. Officers Boller and Rock then pursued the defendant on foot.

At that time, the defendant turned toward Officers Boller and Rock while holding a gun, then turned and kept running away from the officers. The defendant also dropped a loaded magazine onto Jamaica Avenue.

As they continued running in pursuit, Officer Boller closed the distance and the defendant turned and shot him at point-blank range. The bullet pierced Officer Boller’s femoral artery and vein and shattered his hip. The defendant attempted to fire again at Boller but there were no bullets left in the gun, as the defendant dropped his magazine earlier in the foot pursuit. Moments later, the defendant racked the slide of his gun, took a shooter’s stance and aimed at Officer Rock.

The defendant then ran into a parking garage, where he was seen on video surveillance footage taking off his black jacket and sweatshirt and leaving in a white T-shirt.

Security camera video footage showed the defendant at 161st Street and Hillside Avenue getting into a black Nissan, identified as a for-hire Lyft vehicle that took him to a residence on 215th Street.

A search warrant executed at the property the next day produced information that led law enforcement to an address in the Bronx, where the defendant was arrested.

VIOLENT CRIMINAL ENTERPRISES

Created by DA Katz in 2020, the Violent Criminal Enterprises Bureau (VCEB) works to suppress violent crime by identifying and prosecuting drivers of violence including members of **street gangs, narcotics distribution operations, and firearms dealers**. The bureau uses every resource available to ensure criminal networks, gang activity and other illegal organized operations are dismantled and that the drugs and weapons they sell are taken off our streets.

In 2024, VCEB moved a number of cases to trial with great success and obtained convictions in two murder trials involving gang-motivated violence. In one case, the defendant was convicted of murder in the second degree for the death of an innocent bystander mistakenly believed to be a rival gang member in the Rockaways. In another case, the defendants were convicted of manslaughter in the second degree for causing the death of a woman outside the Woodside Houses. The defendants were shooting at a rival gang member when the victim was caught in the crossfire as she went to buy milk for her children. Additionally, defendant Sean Brown pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 30 years in prison for the mistaken-identity shooting death of 14-year-old Aamir Griffin in October 2019 on the basketball court of the Baisley Houses in Jamaica.

While shootings were down year to date boroughwide, VCEB continued to meet the challenges of spiking violent crime in Queens County. In December, the bureau secured a **57-count indictment against 11 gang members** on charges of conspiracy to commit murder, attempted murder, attempted assault, reckless endangerment and gun possession. The indictment was a culmination of a three-and-a-half-year investigation alongside the NYPD's Gun Violence Suppression Division.

ELEVEN REPUTED GANG MEMBERS CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER, ATTEMPTED MURDER, ATTEMPTED ASSAULT, RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT AND GUN POSSESSION

PRESS RELEASE – DECEMBER 5, 2024

DA Katz announced that a three-and-a-half-year investigation into gang violence in Southeast Queens led to the indictment of 11 alleged members of “Whole Blocc Boys” and “Score On Anything” – two subsets of the “8 Trey Movin Crips” street gang. The defendants are variously charged with conspiracy, attempted murder, attempted assault, reckless endangerment and gun possession in connection with nine shooting incidents dating back between March 2021 and December 2022. The defendants are accused of causing indiscriminate violence for the simple mission of protecting their home territory from perceived enemies. Five victims have been identified as part of this investigation, one of whom is paralyzed from the waist down.

DA Katz said: “The defendants are accused of causing frenzied violence in their own communities by trying to kill their gang rivals as part of an ongoing turf war. Violent gang activity places countless lives in danger and we cannot and will not surrender our streets to reckless gang warfare. Seven of the



defendants including two alleged ringleaders stand accused of conspiracy in the first degree, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison. I commend my Violent Criminal Enterprises Bureau and the NYPD's Gun Violence Suppression Division for helping to bring these individuals to justice, and I thank them for their unwavering dedication to public safety.”

NYPD Commissioner Jessica S. Tisch said: “The senseless violence described in this indictment has no place in our city, and we are committed to using all available resources to identify and dismantle gangs and crews wherever they operate. I commend the unwavering commitment of the investigators in our Gun Violence Suppression Division and at our local precinct detective squads. Their ongoing work, along with the efforts of our partners at the Queens district attorney’s office, will lead to a successful outcome in this long-term case.”

Five defendants were apprehended and arraigned Tuesday on a 57-count indictment charging them variously with conspiracy in the first degree, attempted murder in the second degree, attempted assault in the first degree, reckless endangerment in the first degree and criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree. The Queens Supreme Court Justice remanded the defendants and ordered them to return to court in December and January. If convicted of the top count, three of the defendants face a potential maximum sentence of 25 years in prison and two of the defendants face a potential maximum of life in prison.

One co-defendant was arrested Tuesday while bedside at a hospital due to an unrelated incident. His arraignment is pending. Three co-defendants are currently in the custody on other matters and will be arraigned at a later date. Two additional co-defendants remain at large.

An additional defendant was separately charged as part of the investigation and subsequently pleaded guilty to conspiracy in the second degree, assault in the second degree and criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree. He was sentenced to eight years in prison on July 25, 2024.

According to the charges and investigation, the defendants are members of the 8 Trey Movin Crips street gang, under the leadership of two of the defendants, who routinely gave orders to subordinates to kill rivals in an effort to establish geographical dominance and protect their home territory. The two subsets are: Whole Blocc Boys (WBB), which operates roughly in the Hollis area of Queens and includes five defendants and Score on Anything (SOA), which operates roughly in the South Jamaica area of Queens and includes six defendants.

As alleged in the indictment, WBB and SOA worked in tandem against their gang rivals such as members of Folk Nation, Money World, Mac Ballers, Dream Team and others.

Numerous crimes charged in the indictment arose out of gun fights and shootings that took place in broad daylight, often in the presence of innocent bystanders. At least one incident occurred

inside a public playground while another took place at Roy Wilkins Park in St. Albans. An additional shooting incident took place one block from Sutphin playground and P.S. 223 in South Jamaica.

On May 22, 2021, at approximately 8:30 p.m., SOA members were walking in the vicinity of Sutphin Boulevard and 112th Street. At approximately the same time, a Hyundai Accent turned onto 112th Street and parked. An occupant, a member of the rival “Dream Team,” exited the vehicle and fired several shots in the direction of the SOA members, causing them to flee. Minutes later, surveillance footage showed an SOA member walking toward the vehicle and firing several times at the Hyundai as it drove away. The car hit several other vehicles stopped at a stop sign on 148th Street and eventually rammed into a parked car at the corner of Linden Boulevard, causing all occupants to flee the location on foot.

The investigation later determined that the May incident was an act of retaliation for an earlier altercation which took place inside Roy Wilkins Park, where SOA members committed a gun-point robbery of members of the “Dream Team.”

In another incident, on June 27, 2021, at approximately 2:40 p.m., several purported WBB gang members were inside the Daniel M. O’Connell playground when they were approached by a “Dream Team” rival gang member who took out a gun and opened fire. Several children and families were present inside. WBB members returned fire, recklessly shooting at their enemies, before running away from the park.

On September 14, 2022, at approximately 8:40 p.m., police responded to a report of shots fired in the vicinity of Sutphin Boulevard and 123rd Avenue, a block away from a playground and elementary school. Upon arrival, officers discovered five 9 mm caliber shell casings and later found a gunshot victim with injuries to his leg inside a residential hallway two blocks away from the shooting scene. The investigation later determined that the victim – a purported “Money World” gang rival – was shot by an SOA member driving on the block, as he walked home from a bodega.

In addition to reckless shootings amid civilians in broad daylight, the indictment charges that the defendants routinely traveled to the geographic territory controlled by their rivals for the sole purpose of shooting and killing them on sight. The defendants are further accused of utilizing social media, including Snapchat, to provoke and lure rival gang members so that violent acts could be committed against them. Eleven guns were seized during the investigation.

The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

HOMICIDE

The Homicide Bureau is responsible for **investigating and prosecuting all homicide cases** which occur in Queens County. The bureau’s Assistant District Attorneys are divided into two groups, riders and trial assistants. ADAs assigned to the riding program are available 24 hours a day to respond to the scene of every Queens County death by homicide, deaths caused by vehicular collisions, or any other death in which criminal conduct may have played a role. The riders also assist NYPD detectives in investigating each homicide by taking statements, interviewing witnesses, drafting search warrants and other court orders as needed. Each year, riders respond to numerous notifications for assistance and inquiries on behalf of the office. The trial assistants work together with riders, after a homicide arrest is made, to present the case to a grand jury; if an indictment is handed down, the trial assistant takes the case from there and handles the trial. **There are two specialized units within the Homicide Bureau: the Vehicular Homicide Unit and the Cold Case Unit.**

As of December 31, 2024, homicides in Queens County were up 16 percent as compared to the same period in 2023.



*QDA data sourced from OCME

QUEENS WOMAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR FATALLY STABBING IMMIGRATION LAWYER

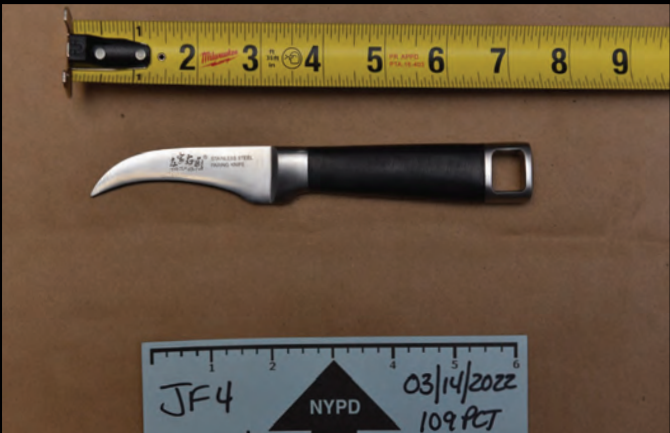
PRESS RELEASE – OCTOBER 2, 2024

DA Katz announced today that a defendant was sentenced today to 25 years to life in prison for the stabbing death of 66-year-old immigration lawyer Jim Li, who dropped the woman as a client days before the killing. The victim was well known for his legal work and activism during the Tiananmen Square uprising in China in 1989.

DA Katz said, “Jim Li was an activist in China and became a well-regarded immigration attorney here in the United States, where he represented those seeking political asylum. Li agreed to represent the defendant pro bono in her case, until she admitted to lying on her application and he subsequently dropped her as a client. The defendant could not accept this and days after being told never to return to the law office, she came back armed with two kitchen knives. She violently and viciously stabbed Li, killing him. A jury convicted the defendant and today a judge sentenced her to the maximum penalty under law. It is our hope that with this sentencing, the family, loved ones and legal community can find some solace in knowing the defendant has been

held accountable for her crimes.”

The defendant, 27, of Kissena Boulevard in Flushing, was found guilty by a jury last month of murder in the second degree, criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree, menacing in the third degree, criminal obstruction of breathing or blood circulation and harassment in the second degree. A Queens Supreme Court justice sentenced the defendant to 25 years to life in prison.



WOODSIDE MAN INDICTED ON FIRST-DEGREE MURDER, ATTEMPTED MURDER CHARGES FOR FATAL SHOOTING OF NYPD DETECTIVE JONATHAN DILLER

PRESS RELEASE - MAY 7, 2024

DA Katz announced that a defendant was arraigned today on an indictment secured by her office charging the defendant with first-degree murder in the fatal shooting of NYPD Detective Jonathan Diller and first-degree attempted murder for attempting to fire at an NYPD sergeant in Far Rockaway on March 25. The defendant, along with co-defendant, was also indicted on weapon charges.

DA Katz said: "Detective Diller was shot and killed while trying to rid our streets of illegal weapons, a lawless act that was an affront to a civilized society. His tragic death is a painful reminder that we must never let up in our quest to get these guns and those who use them off of our streets. We are grateful that the grand jury returned serious charges against the defendant. Our thoughts are with Detective Diller's family, friends and colleagues as they continue to grieve. We will seek justice for him."

The defendant, 34, whose last known address is on Broadway in Woodside, was arraigned on an indictment charging him with murder in the first and second degrees, attempted murder in the first and second degrees, four counts of criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree and criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree. The defendant faces up to life in prison without the possibility of parole if convicted. He remains remanded into custody and will return to court on July 22.

The co-defendant, 41, of Rockaway Beach Boulevard in Edgemere, was arraigned April 16 on charges of criminal possession of a weapon in the second and third degrees. He was remanded into custody and faces up to 30 years in prison. He is due back in court on June 12.

According to the charges and statements made in court:

- On March 25, at approximately 5:45 p.m., an officer on patrol in Far Rockaway saw the defendant with what looked like a gun in the front pocket of his sweatshirt, as he exited a store with the co-defendant. The defendant and co-defendant then got into a 2016 Kia Soul parked in front of 19-19 Mott Avenue, with the co-defendant in the driver's seat.
- Diller and other officers approached the car and repeatedly asked the defendant to roll down his window before they were able to open the car door. The defendant then removed a gun from his clothing and shot Diller. The officer was struck in the stomach.
- After shooting the officer, the defendant aimed his gun at Sergeant Sasha Rosen, who was with Diller. Sergeant Rosen used his hand to direct the gun away from his body. The defendant's finger remained on the trigger as he tried to point the .380-caliber pistol back toward the sergeant.
- The gun was loaded but jammed following the initial shot and was unable to shoot additional rounds.
- Diller was taken to Jamaica Hospital Medical Center where he died from his injuries.
- On March 26, as part of an ongoing investigation, members of the Queens District Attorney's office and the 101st Police Precinct obtained a court-authorized search warrant for the vehicle.
- The execution of the warrant led to the discovery of a loaded 9 mm pistol inside the glove compartment. The firearm was found to be defaced, with the serial number scratched off.

The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

VEHICULAR HOMICIDES

District Attorney Katz created a Vehicular Homicide Unit to address the dramatic increase in deadly collisions here in Queens County. The unit thoroughly investigates all fatal crashes and, when appropriate, prosecutes those who cause death while behind the wheel of a motor vehicle. Too many families know the heartbreak of losing a loved one due to speeding and distracted drivers, those under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and even those who drive without a license.

The unit oversees the investigation of all deaths – whether pedestrian, cyclist or motorist – that result from contact with a motor vehicle and our office examines more than 3,000 car crashes a year, many of which are criminal in nature.

Our specially trained Assistant District Attorneys are **on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to go to the scenes of collisions where there has been a fatality or serious injury**. Members of the Vehicular Homicide Unit work closely with the NYPD and respond to vehicular incidents to determine who was responsible and whether someone should be charged with a crime.

By holding these deadly drivers accountable we can make our streets safer for pedestrians, bikers and motorists.



PARENTS OF TEEN DRIVER SENTENCED ON CHILD ENDANGERMENT CHARGES IN GROUNDBREAKING CASE AFTER SON ALLEGEDLY KILLED 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN GRUESOME COLLISION

PRESS RELEASE - JULY 22, 2024

DA Katz announced that the parents of a teen driver – who was charged with manslaughter in the death of the 14-year-old passenger in the BMW he was driving – were sentenced today in a groundbreaking case on endangering the welfare of a child charges for facilitating the child's access to the car when he was legally unable to drive the vehicle.

DA Katz said: "The parents of a 16-year-old gave their son a BMW when he did not have legal authority to drive it anywhere in New York City. We allege that because of that teenager's actions, a 14-year-old victim is now dead after she was thrown from the car when it crashed into a UPS truck at more than 100 miles an hour. With this conviction, we have shown that the culpability in a fatal crash can go beyond the driver. Parents who provide vehicles to their children and let them drive illegally can be held

responsible in the case of tragedies such as this one. We will continue to seek justice for the victim and her grieving family."

The teen driver's father, 40, of 227th Street in Springfield Gardens, pleaded guilty on June 11 to endangering the welfare of a child. He was sentenced today to three years of probation. As a condition of the sentence, he must take a 26-week parenting class and attend the Victim Impact Panel Program.

The boy's mother, 43, also of 227th Street, pleaded guilty to endangering the welfare of a child and disorderly conduct on June 11. She was sentenced to a 26-week parenting class and to attend the Victim Impact Panel Program.

The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

COLD CASE UNIT

The Cold Case Unit is the **first of its kind in Queens County** dedicated entirely to investigating and solving the borough's oldest and most challenging unsolved homicide cases. The unit uses groundbreaking forensic testing and cutting-edge investigative techniques to examine unsolved crimes to bring long-awaited justice to victims and their families.

This year the unit indicted three cases. First, a defendant was indicted on second degree murder charges for the 2009 stabbing death of his 64-year-old uncle, Rosario Prestigiacomo, found dead in his Ridgewood home. This 15-year-old case was solved through **forensic genetic genealogy**, making it the first time a homicide suspect was identified and arrested in New York City making use of public genealogy databases. DNA from a discarded fork used by the defendant and retrieved in Florida was matched to DNA found at the crime scene.

Second, a defendant was indicted for the 2020 gang assault murder of Richard Hernandez in Astoria. The victim, who had no relation to the defendant, was stabbed and succumbed to his injuries.

Lastly, following a lengthy investigation, a defendant was indicted for second degree murder in connection with the fatal shooting of Frank Snyder outside of a Woodhaven bar in 2018.

All of these cases are currently pending prosecution in Supreme Court.

Additionally, in its review of unidentified homicide victim cases, the unit found a 1991 case with a female victim who was discovered in an advanced stage of decomposition alongside the road at the intersection of the Cross Island and Southern State Parkways. Subsequent investigation led to the arrest and successful prosecution of four individuals at that time. The Office of Chief Medical Examiner developed a female DNA profile from the remains, in the hopes of identifying a family member. That profile was searched within local, state and national databases with negative results, and the victim remained unidentified for 33 years.

In 2024, using forensic genetic genealogy, the victim was finally identified as 30-year-old Judy Rodriguez. Further investigation revealed that Ms. Rodriguez was last seen by family on January 23, 1991. At the time of her disappearance, she had three children and three siblings. Both of her parents survived her but have since passed.

This year, the office also finished its federal grant* awarded in 2022 to enhance cases and potentially resolve unsolved homicides and sexual assaults where DNA of a suspect has been identified, reducing cold cases awaiting prosecution. Since the unit's inception, 25 cases were sent out for forensic genetic genealogy, with grant funding covering 19 of them. Two arrests have been made: one has led to a successful conviction, while the other remains a pending case. The remaining cases sent out for genealogy are still under investigation. **The office was successfully awarded a renewal of this grant* for the fiscal year 2025, enabling continued investigations and the pursuit of new leads.**

Additionally, the office secured a grant from the Department of Justice which was appropriated and sponsored by Congresswoman Grace Meng **to identify human remains through DNA testing** advancements. In Queens County, approximately 47 unidentified homicide victims await identification. The funding of this project will enable the unit to work with external agencies and laboratories to identify these victims and provide long-awaited answers to their families. Though the work under this grant has just begun, the office is already investigating 14 cases, with grant funding supporting seven of them.

**These projects were supported by Grant No. 15PBJA-21-GG-04370-DNAX and 15PBJA-24-GG-02409-DNAX awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.*

FLORIDA MAN INDICTED ON MURDER CHARGE IN 2009 COLD CASE KILLING OF HIS UNCLE IN RIDGEWOOD

PRESS RELEASE - MAY 30, 2024

District Attorney Katz announced that a defendant was indicted by a grand jury and arraigned today on a charge of second-degree murder in the 2009 stabbing death of his 64-year old uncle, Rosario Prestigiaco, inside the victim's Ridgewood home. The 15-year-old case was solved through forensic genetic genealogy, making it the first time a homicide suspect was identified and arrested in New York City making use of public genealogy databases.

DNA from a discarded fork used by the defendant and retrieved in Florida in February was matched to DNA found at the crime scene.

DA Katz said: "I formed a Cold Case Unit to bring closure to grieving families and seek justice on behalf of victims. This case is an example of the perseverance and determination of the investigators on this, and every cold case, and highlights the successful partnership formed between my office and the NYPD Cold Case Squad. Defendants should not be able to evade justice no matter how much time has passed."

The defendant, age 41, of Boynton Beach, Florida, was arraigned today on an indictment charging him with murder in the second degree. He faces up to 25 years to life in prison if convicted.

According to the charges:

- On February 10, 2009, at approximately 2:15 p.m., police were called to Prestigiaco's home at 2031 Greene Avenue in Ridgewood after a neighbor reported hearing a disturbance.
- A responding officer gained access to the home through a first-floor window and saw the victim laying face down in a pool of blood in a hallway.
- NYPD crime scene detectives collected several blood swabs from the location. The OCME examined the swabs and was able to determine not only a DNA profile that matched the victim, but also an additional unknown male DNA profile.
- That profile was entered into local, state, and national databases with negative results.
- In March 2022, the Queens District Attorney's Office and the NYPD Cold Case Squad sought the assistance of a private laboratory and the



United States Department of Homeland Security to help generate leads to the unknown suspect's identity by using forensic genetic genealogy.

- The NYPD's Forensic Investigations Division, built a family tree to identify possible suspects, or relatives of a suspect, using information from the databases. In December 2023, NYPD turned over an investigative lead to the Queens District Attorney's Office and the NYPD Cold Case Squad.
- On February 17, 2024, Boynton Beach Detectives Marco Villari and Aramis Grigorian successfully obtained a fork used by the defendant.
- The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner analyzed the fork under the supervision of the Assistant Director of Cold Case and was able to produce a DNA profile. DNA testing confirmed that the profile matched the unknown male DNA profile developed from blood evidence left at the scene.
- The defendant is the son of the victim's ex-wife's brother.

The defendant was apprehended in Boynton Beach, Florida on May 14 by United States Marshals, NYPD's Regional Fugitive Task Force and Boynton Beach Police Department.

The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

ADVANCED DNA TESTING REVEALS IDENTITY OF VICTIM KILLED 33 YEARS AGO

PRESS RELEASE – DECEMBER 30, 2024

District Attorney Katz announced that a female homicide victim, whose identity remained unknown for more than three decades, has now been identified as Judy Rodriguez by using advanced DNA testing. Rodriguez's unidentified body, bound at the ankles with a cord and covered with a large wooden board, was discovered on August 25, 1991, in a grassy area at the intersection of the Cross Island and Southern State parkways in southeast Queens.

Four men were prosecuted and convicted in 1992 and 1993 for their roles in the killing, but the identity of the victim remained unknown. Rodriguez was reported missing by her family shortly after being last seen on January 23, 1991, at her daughter's first birthday party.

DA Katz said: "Three decades ago, four men were convicted for a gruesome killing of an unidentified woman. Though justice was served, the family went 33 long years without any answers about their loved one. Thanks to our partners at the NYPD and the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, we have now provided those crucial details, which I hope brings a measure of solace. This case is a prime example of the determination of my Cold Case Unit in identifying victims and solving the borough's oldest, most challenging homicides. And I extend special gratitude to U.S. Rep. Grace Meng for securing a \$500,000 grant for the Cold Case Unit in my office, which will be used to obtain such answers for other families."

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queen) said: "As I have said, it is never too late for justice, and the \$500,000 I secured for the D.A.'s Cold Case Unit will go a long way towards investigating and prosecuting local cold cases, and providing answers and closure for families. This latest case from 1991 underscores why this money is so important, and it's an example of the types of cases it will be used to solve. I'm proud to work with District Attorney Katz in pursuing justice for the victims of cold cases in Queens, and I continue to stand with her in never forgetting about them and their loved ones."

In November 2023, the Queens DA's Cold Case Unit and the NYPD sought the assistance of a private laboratory to help generate leads to the unknown victim's identity.

In April 2024, DNA Labs International used advanced DNA testing to produce a comprehensive genealogical profile from the skeletal remains. The genealogical profile was uploaded to public databases. The results were given to Detective



Joseph Rodriguez of the NYPD's Investigative Genealogy Squad, who built a family tree and turned over an investigative lead to the Queens District Attorney's Office and the NYPD's Cold Case Squad. Investigators then began to contact potential family members of the victim and obtained DNA samples for comparison to the discovered remains.

Through these combined efforts, investigators confirmed that the remains found were those of 30-year-old Judy Rodriguez. Further investigation revealed that Rodriguez was last seen by her family on January 23, 1991, and was reported missing shortly thereafter. Tragically, her disappearance coincided with the first birthday of her daughter, Stephanie Rodriguez. The child was later raised by Rodriguez's parents, who have since died. In addition to her daughter, Judy Rodriguez had two other children and three siblings.

The District Attorney's Cold Case Unit is currently investigating approximately 47 homicide victims who have yet to be identified. Earlier this year, the office received a \$500,000 grant, secured by U.S. Rep. Grace Meng, for advanced DNA testing and genealogical investigations on these types of cases. Since that time, the District Attorney's Cold Case unit has initiated genealogy investigations for 14 cases involving unidentified human remains.

The Forensic Biology Unit in the Office of Chief Medical Examiner has provided crucial assistance and is currently working in close collaboration with the District Attorney's office to develop the DNA profiles on the remainder of unidentified cases. The District Attorney thanks them for their continued support.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

District Attorney Katz continues to **expand efforts to end domestic violence and eliminate the stigma attached to being a domestic violence survivor**. In 2024, DA Katz increased the Domestic Violence Bureau's staff in order to continue to build new partnerships, increase community outreach, provide support for survivors, and utilize diversionary programs and education to change abusive behavior.

The Domestic Violence Bureau works closely with Safe Horizon and our partners at the Queens Family Justice Center, including the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence. This one-stop shop provides survivors the ability to meet with Assistant District Attorneys, an NYPD Domestic Violence Prevention Officer, and access resources, including safety planning, counseling, legal assistance, housing and financial assistance.

To reinforce her message that domestic violence survivors are not alone, DA Katz hosted her second annual Domestic Violence Survivors Empowerment Luncheon at Greater Allen Cathedral in October. That same month, **Governor Hochul announced that \$5 million would be distributed to district attorneys citywide to enable each office to develop a pre-arrest program modeled after Queens County's Proact-DV pilot program**. This program takes a proactive approach to enhancing domestic violence prosecutions, coordinating with law enforcement at every stage, and ensuring that victims are aware of available services as soon as possible.

The bureau also participated in numerous outreach events to spread awareness as well as education and training events, hosting law student interns, lecturing prosecutors statewide, and training police officers, hospital personnel and community partners.

The bureau places an emphasis on **alternatives to incarceration** as another means to combat intimate partner violence by **partnering with the Department of Probation's Interim Probation Domestic Violence Team (QIPDVT)**. This program seeks to change defendants' abusive behaviors by utilizing a trauma-informed approach that combines accountability measures with support. The office also continues to refer domestic violence defendants to the Fortune Society's Abusive Partner Intervention Program, which is the first free program offered in Queens County to address the dynamics and effects of domestic violence. These programs are designed to **create lasting change and break the cycle of abuse**.

The office is equally committed to keeping families safe by holding violent offenders and recidivists accountable. Utilizing a survivor centered, risk-based approach in the analysis of domestic violence cases, the bureau reviews each individual case for nationally recognized risk factors, including a history of strangulation, threats and access to firearms. **ADAs are on call 24/7 to provide support and enhance the most dangerous domestic violence cases.**

ANIMAL CRUELTY

The Animal Cruelty Prosecutions Unit is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of all crimes against animals. Ample research shows that there is a direct link between acts of cruelty to animals and violence toward humans, including family violence and other violent behavior. Under the direction of District Attorney Katz, the Animal Cruelty Prosecutions Unit was integrated within the Domestic Violence Bureau. Beloved pets are often used by intimate partner abusers as an effective tool of power and control over their partners and children in the household.

Studies show that approximately 70 percent of domestic violence survivors with pets reported that their abuser had killed, harmed, or threatened their pets and many felt that they could not leave the abusive relationship for fear that their pets would suffer dire consequences. Animal abuse that occurs in the presence of children in the household can also contribute to the cycle of abuse.

The Animal Cruelty Prosecutions Unit also investigates and prosecutes the gross neglect and abandonment of pets, the intentional abuse, injuring, torturing, and killing of wild and companion animals, and organized dogfighting and gamecock fighting. The unit works closely with the NYPD Animal Cruelty Investigation Detective Squad and the police precinct animal liaisons and the ASPCA's team of forensic veterinarians, whose expertise is critical in determining the extent and cause of conditions, injuries, or death of animal victims.

Following convictions for animal cruelty crimes, the unit refers offenders to the NYC Department of Health Animal Abuse Registry as those offenders are required to be listed on the registry for a five-year period. Any registrant found to own or possess a companion animal while on the abuse registry is subject to an arrest for additional charges.

As part of the initiative to prevent and address crimes against animals, the unit also participates in public education and training for investigators and prosecutors and has worked to develop alternative sentencing programs geared specifically for animal abusers.



FACILITY DOG “KIMI”

DA Katz announced a new addition to the office, appointing Kimi, a golden retriever and Labrador retriever mix, as the office's official facility dog to help provide comfort and companionship to crime victims and witnesses. The service animal was provided free of charge by Canine Companions and is currently the only facility dog working in a New York City district attorney's office.

District Attorney Katz introduced Kimi in October as part of the office's public information campaign during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Kimi is both affectionate and highly trained to assist survivors of traumatic events and those who witness horrific crimes. Kimi understands and can respond to 40 different commands. She has been trained to know how to provide comfort and to put people at ease during stressful situations.

For many, it is extremely difficult to speak about traumatic events and service dogs like Kimi help vulnerable people feel more comfortable as they navigate through a prosecutor's office and the courthouse.



SPECIAL VICTIMS

The Special Victims Bureau (SVB) is charged with the investigation and prosecution of felonies involving sex crimes against adults and children, physical abuse of children and violence against the elderly. In 2024, the bureau experienced an increase in felony cases of sexual assault, child physical abuse and elder violence, with a 40 percent increase in cases as compared to 2023. In 2024, the bureau handled just over 70 sex offender registration hearings on convicted sex offenders. As part of District Attorney Katz's "instant response" program for special victims cases, ADAs worked with police to investigate and enhance almost 200 of the most serious and difficult felony cases prior to the arrest of suspects.

The Queens Child Advocacy Center (QCAC) is a state-of-the-art child-focused environment where all child sexual and physical abuse cases are handled. The QCAC provides, in a single location, a dedicated multidisciplinary team who specializes in working with children. This team includes child protective and social services provided by the NYC Administration for Children's Services and Safe Horizon, a pediatrician affiliated with Cohen Children's Medical Center who has extensive training in providing care for abused children, and a squad of NYPD detectives whose sole focus is crimes against children. Working together, this team reduces the number of interviews a child must undergo and provides them with a path to healing and safety. As part of this team, the bureau has conducted 275 forensic interviews of children at the Queens Child Advocacy Center in 2024.

Reflective of the deep expertise SVB managers and trial Assistant District Attorneys have in advanced trial advocacy and trauma-informed approaches to working with victims, SVB attorneys served as instructors at dozens of trainings including those within the office, around the city, and throughout the state on best practices for the investigation and prosecution of special victims crimes.

QUEENS MAN INDICTED ON PREDATORY SEXUAL ASSAULT, RAPE, KIDNAPPING AND OTHER CHARGES FOR HORRIFIC ATTACK ON 13-YEAR-OLD IN KISSENA PARK

PRESS RELEASE - SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

DA Katz announced today that a defendant has been indicted by a Queens County grand jury and is now charged with predatory sexual assault, rape in the first degree, criminal sexual act in the first degree and numerous other crimes for a June attack on a 13-year-old girl and her friend.

DA Katz said: "This was a daytime nightmare for two children who were simply enjoying a day in the park after school. The defendant is accused of raping the girl after threatening the youngsters with a knife, forcing them into a wooded area, tying them together and gagging them. These children gave a detailed description of their alleged attacker and thanks to community members and the NYPD, the defendant was arrested after an intensive manhunt. The defendant is now charged with predatory sexual assault – one of the highest charges available in New York state – and will face justice in our courts."

The defendant, 25, of Waldron Street, was

arraigned on a 16-count indictment charging him with three counts of predatory sexual assault, rape in the first degree, two counts of criminal sexual act in the first degree, two counts of criminal sexual act in the second degree, two counts of kidnapping in the second degree, two counts of robbery in the first degree, sexual abuse in the first degree, two counts of endangering the welfare of a child and criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree.

The defendant has been remanded since his original court appearance. If convicted, he faces up to 25 years to life in prison.

The children gave a detailed description of the attacker to authorities and - after an intensive manhunt –the defendant was spotted in Corona and subsequently arrested by members of the NYPD.

The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

MAJOR ECONOMIC CRIMES

The Major Economic Crimes Bureau focuses on large-scale financial crimes that are often the foundation of criminal enterprises that plague our communities. The bureau handles a broad array of crimes, including drug trafficking, identity theft, mail theft, auto theft, organized retail theft, money laundering, illegal gambling and extortion.

The bureau traces and recovers criminal proceeds so that they can be returned to crime victims and stops the perpetrators from profiting from their crimes. The bureau works in collaboration with various local, state and federal law enforcement partners to fight crime.

The **Cyber Crime Unit** within the Major Economic Crimes Bureau investigates and prosecutes technology facilitated crimes against adults and children. These crimes include unique cases involving cryptocurrency and non-fungible tokens (NFTs), as well as account hacking, identity theft, inappropriate digital content and online predatory behavior toward minors. Experienced prosecutors use all the digital and traditional tools at their disposal to delve into the virtual world we live in today and ensure justice for all victims of crime.

TACKLING COMPLEX FRAUDULENT SCHEMES

Often bureaus work hand in hand to gather evidence to enhance cases. One such investigation was initiated by a member of the public reporting that she did not receive her new credit card in the mail. She discovered that the card had been activated by another individual and used in several unauthorized purchases. In a joint investigation with the NYPD, members of the Crime Strategies and Intelligence Bureau and the Major Economic Crimes Bureau were able to identify a Brooklyn resident for allegedly operating a **large-scale mail theft scheme** resulting in the recovery of numerous stolen credit cards, benefits cards, and tens of thousands of dollars in stolen checks.

BROOKLYN MAN CHARGED WITH RUNNING A LARGE-SCALE POSTAL THEFT OPERATION

PRESS RELEASE – OCTOBER 30, 2024

DA Katz announced that a defendant has been charged with criminal possession of stolen property, identity theft and other crimes after a court-authorized search warrant revealed a slew of stolen bank checks, credits cards, debit cards and driver's licenses in open view inside the defendant's home in Brooklyn. The defendant's girlfriend was present at the home and was also arrested upon the execution of the warrant. The investigation was initiated by the Queens District Attorney's office after a Laurelton resident reported fraudulent charges on a credit card that was ordered but never received.

DA Katz said: "As alleged, the defendant orchestrated a large-scale mail theft operation, targeting innocent victims to pilfer their bank accounts, credit cards and public assistance funds



to line his own pockets. Identity theft is a serious crime that can have a lasting impact on a person's

credit rating, ability to buy property or even rent an apartment. We will not allow such activity to take hold in Queens. Thanks to the resident who came forward and the subsequent work of my Crime Strategies and Intelligence Bureau, the person allegedly responsible has been apprehended and hundreds of sensitive documents recovered.

The defendant, 32, of Sterling Place, Brooklyn was arraigned yesterday on a 152-count complaint charging him with criminal possession of stolen property in the second degree, eight counts of criminal possession of stolen property in the third degree, 99 counts of criminal possession of stolen property in the fourth degree, 18 counts of criminal possession of a forged instrument in the second degree, six counts of petit larceny, seven counts of attempted petit larceny, six counts of identity theft in the third degree and seven counts of attempted identity theft in the third degree. He was ordered to return to court on November 19. If convicted of the top count, the defendant faces a potential maximum sentence of up to 25 years to life in prison.

The defendant's girlfriend, 31, of New Jersey Avenue, Brooklyn, was arraigned yesterday on a criminal complaint charging her with criminal possession of stolen property in the second degree, eight counts of criminal possession of stolen property in the third degree and 99 counts of criminal possession of stolen property in the fourth degree. She was ordered to return to court on December 11. If convicted of the top count, she faces a potential maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

According to the charges and investigation, on or about September 19, 2024, a Laurelton resident attempted to use her credit card for a purchase, but the transaction was declined. After checking her account statements, the victim saw several unrecognized and unauthorized charges to the account. Several days prior, the victim had applied for an additional credit card in her husband's name under the same account, which she never received.

An investigation was launched into the incident by the Queens District Attorney's Crime Strategies and Intelligence Bureau and the NYPD's Financial Crimes Task Force. Bank records revealed that the secondary card was mailed to the victim's address and activated on September 19 using a telephone number that was later linked to the defendant.

After the fraudulent activation of the victim's credit card, six unauthorized charges were made at various retail establishments including a Party City in Queens, a liquor store in Nassau County and a convenience store in the Bronx. The card was later declined after the defendant allegedly tried using it at various restaurants and retailers in Brooklyn

more than five times. Video surveillance obtained by law enforcement depicted the defendant at various locations conducting the alleged fraudulent purchases, and historical location information provided by court order further revealed that his cell phone was present at the locations of the alleged fraudulent transactions.

On October 28, at approximately 7:00 a.m., law enforcement officials executed a court-authorized search warrant inside the defendant's home, where he was found with the co-defendant and arrested.

A total of 89 credit cards, 88 debit cards, 11 public benefit cards, 18 driver's licenses and more than a dozen checks – including those made out to the St. Clare Catholic Academy in Laurelton, a plumbing and heating small business, a member of the Excavator's Union and several checks issued to Queens residents by the U.S. Treasury Department – were recovered from the premises. None of the documents recovered was issued in the name of either of the defendants.

The approximate sum of all the seized funds is estimated to be in excess of \$125,000. Additionally, approximately \$11,000 in cash was recovered from the location.

The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.





SECTION IV

TRUST IN THE PROCESS: RESTORING CONFIDENCE AND FAIRNESS

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CONVICTION INTEGRITY UNIT

The Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) serves a critical function to ensure that our criminal justice system is **fairer and more responsive to the needs of our community**. The CIU reinvestigates and resolves credible claims of actual innocence, wrongful conviction, or other circumstances of a case which undermines the District Attorney's confidence in a just outcome. The work of the Conviction Integrity Unit also serves a vital law enforcement function for both victims and public safety, because if the wrong person is convicted, the actual perpetrator has not been brought to justice.

Although the CIU prioritizes cases in which a convicted person remains incarcerated, the CIU may consider claims regardless of the nature of the offense, whether there was a trial or plea bargain, and whether the person is represented by an attorney. Cases are reviewed either at the request of the convicted person, an attorney, community member, or through our own initiative. Where appropriate, the CIU will work collaboratively with defense counsel or the convicted person to conduct a thorough investigation and reach a just resolution of the case. Claims are investigated based on their factual merit, without regard to procedural barriers to legal review. CIU investigations consider evidence that was not part of the trial record. Where available, the CIU utilizes DNA testing, fingerprint comparison and other forensic techniques to obtain new evidence that may uncover a miscarriage of justice.

Since its establishment in 2020, **263 individual cases have been submitted** to the CIU for review. After a thorough investigation by a team of experienced prosecutors and detectives, the CIU has thus far **vacated 17 convictions** based on evidence pointing to innocence or other fundamental errors that had been overlooked through the ordinary judicial process. The CIU has vacated convictions for a variety of reasons including: eyewitness misidentification, false confession, credible recantation of witness testimony, DNA evidence, fingerprint evidence, cell phone location data and misconduct by a prosecutor in jury selection.

The CIU has **evaluated or completed investigations of an additional 93 cases** in which no further action was deemed necessary.

In addition to individual investigations, the CIU addresses more systemic issues that may affect past convictions. For example, the CIU has reviewed hundreds of cases involving New York Police Department officers who were later convicted of various crimes including perjury, falsifying evidence and other serious offenses committed while they were on the job. Where the essential witness in a case is a law enforcement officer who has been convicted of crimes which irreparably impair their credibility, the office cannot stand behind a criminal conviction. Vacating and dismissing these cases is both constitutionally required and necessary to ensure public confidence in our justice system. Based on this ongoing review, **122 felony and misdemeanor convictions have been reversed on our own initiative**.

263

TOTAL CASES SUBMITTED TO THE
CIU FOR REVIEW

17

CONVICTIONS WERE VACATED
BASED ON EVIDENCE OF
INNOCENCE OR FUNDAMENTAL ERRORS

93

SUBMISSIONS HAVE
BEEN REVIEWED AND CLOSED

122

FELONY AND MISDEMEANOR
CONVICTIONS HAVE BEEN REVERSED
ON OUR OWN INITIATIVE

JUVENILE PROSECUTIONS

The Juvenile Prosecutions Unit serves as a resource for all cases involving **juvenile offender “JO” and adolescent offender “AO” defendants** throughout the office and acts as liaison to the New York City Law Department and Queens County Family Court. Several attorneys are assigned to the unit, one of whom is dedicated to the Supreme Court Youth Part; they help to manage cases, streamline court processes, and better assist with the growing number of JO and AO cases in the office.

JOs are 14- to 15-year-olds charged with certain violent felonies and 13-year-olds charged with murder in the second degree. JO cases are heard in the Supreme Court Youth Part unless they are removed to Family Court. As of December 9, 2024, there were 107 juvenile offender cases in Queens County; 57 were removed to Family Court and the remaining 50 cases were prosecuted in the Youth Part. The crimes charged in these remaining cases include attempted murder, assault and robbery in the first degree.

Under New York’s Raise the Age law, AOs are 16- and 17-year-old defendants who have been charged with committing a felony. Misdemeanor cases are sent directly to Family Court and most non-violent felony cases are removed to Family Court.

To retain a violent felony in the Supreme Court Youth Part, the judge must review the felony complaint and determine if one of the factors in the three-prong test is present. Generally, if none of the three factors is present, and there are no extraordinary circumstances to retain the case, the violent felony case is removed to Family Court.

THE THREE-PRONG TEST

During the course of the crime, the adolescent offender:

1. Caused significant injury to the complainant, or
2. Displayed a firearm, rifle, shotgun, or deadly weapon, or
3. Unlawfully engaged in vaginal sexual contact, oral sexual contact, anal sexual contact, or sexual contact as defined in Penal Law section 130.00 with the victim.

If the Youth Judge determines the three-prong test was not met, the District Attorney may file a motion to retain the violent felony based on "extraordinary circumstances" within 30 days of the decision.

The number of juvenile and adolescent offender cases have increased. Additionally, the office now prosecutes a greater percentage of these cases in the Supreme Court Youth Part. As of December 9, 2024, there was a total of 606 Raise the Age cases in Queens County, which is a 15 percent increase from 2023. **In 2024, fewer cases were removed to Family Court than in 2023.**

JUVENILE OFFENDER CASES THAT WERE REMOVED TO FAMILY COURT

60%
2023

50%
2024

ADOLESCENT OFFENDER CASES THAT WERE REMOVED TO FAMILY COURT

85%
2023

76%
2024

APPEALS AND SPECIAL LITIGATION DIVISION

The Appeals and Special Litigation Division is made up of the Appeals Bureau, the FOIL and Civil Litigation Unit, and the Immigration Unit.

APPEALS BUREAU

The Appeals Bureau handles all the office's post-conviction litigation, which includes primarily responding to defendants' briefs in the Appellate Division and post-conviction motions in the Supreme Court.

Some of the **significant convictions that the Appeals Bureau successfully defended in 2024** include:

In *People v. Cid Franklin*, while responding to a road rage incident that included a report of a firearm, police officers searched the defendant's basement and discovered a gun in a basement closet. The defendant was convicted of Second-Degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon. The Court of Appeals reversed the decision of the Appellate Division and affirmed the defendant's conviction, finding that the prosecution properly used an arraignment interview report at trial.

In *People v. Richard Trantham*, the defendant was convicted of Compelling Prostitution, Sex Trafficking, Promoting Prostitution in the Second Degree, Promoting Prostitution in the Third Degree, Rape in the Third Degree, and Endangering the Welfare of a Child. The 33-year-old defendant had recruited a 16-year-old through Facebook and over two months, had sexual intercourse with her 10 times and initiated her into prostitution.

In *People v. Chilo Petiti*, the defendant was convicted of 11 counts of Rape in the Second Degree, Kidnapping in the Second Degree, and Promoting Prostitution in the Third Degree after the victim testified that, when she was 14 years old, the defendant, knowing that she was a runaway, prostituted her, engaged in sexual intercourse with her, and secreted her in his room for more than one week.

In *People v. Viktoria Nasyrova*, the defendant was convicted of Attempted Murder in the Second Degree and other charges in connection with the poisoning of the victim in August 2016. At trial, the victim testified that the defendant came to the victim's home with cheesecake, which the victim consumed. Soon afterwards, the victim vomited, lost consciousness, and was hospitalized. The trial evidence showed that cheesecake residue on the box contained phenazepam, a drug that can cause, among other things, loss of consciousness, amnesia, and death, and that cannot be legally prescribed or used in the United States.

In *People v. Raymond Cowan*, the appellate court reversed the lower court's ruling and reinstated the charges against the defendant based on an investigation by the NYPD Gun Recidivist Investigations Program and the Queens County District Attorney's Office termed "Operation Sandbox," into the trafficking of firearms and narcotics throughout Queens County. The investigation utilized physical surveillance, search warrants, undercover officers, and a court-ordered eavesdropping warrant.

In *People v. Damian Bachu*, the court rejected the defendant's challenge to his conviction of Criminal Possession of Stolen Property. The Criminal Investigations Division of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance had conducted an investigation that revealed that the defendant, who was a practicing attorney, failed to file personal income tax returns for three years.

SEALING CONVICTIONS

A significant function of the Appeals Bureau is to respond to motions to seal convictions under section 160.59 of the Criminal Procedure Law that allows for sealing of 10-year-old, non-violent convictions under certain circumstances. In coming years, with the passage of the Clean Slate Act in 2023, the sealing of many convictions will be automatic.

In 2024, DA Katz's decision to not object to **46 sealing applications** will free these former defendants of the encumbrance of decades-old, non-violent convictions.

FOIL AND CIVIL LITIGATION UNIT

The FOIL and Civil Litigation Unit handles requests under the Freedom of Information Law and responds to inter-agency and law enforcement requests for records on specific cases as well as subpoenas for records or testimony in civil litigation.

In 2024, the unit received approximately **800 FOIL requests**, inter-agency request for records related to state or federal lawsuits, and subpoenas related to state or federal lawsuits and responded to approximately 600, providing the public and litigants in civil lawsuits with access to thousands of pages of documents.

In 2024, the FOIL and Civil Litigation Unit received approximately

800 FOIL REQUESTS

providing the public and litigants in civil lawsuits with
access to thousands of pages of documents

IMMIGRATION UNIT

With the continued influx of the noncitizen population throughout Queens County, the Immigration Unit continues to support prosecutors in matters before the court by providing individualized support on active cases involving immigration and plea negotiation. The Immigration Unit also works closely with the Appeals Bureau in matters involving immigration. Whether it is helping defend significant convictions or providing relief to transformative noncitizens with decades-old convictions affecting their ability to remain in the United States, the unit provides **unbiased immigration expertise in helping obtain a fair result for our community**.

The Queens County District Attorney's Office encourages all victims to come forward, regardless of status.

REHABILITATION PROGRAMS AND RESTORATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Rehabilitation Programs and Restorative Services Bureau continues to serve people engaged with the criminal legal system in myriad ways. Providing services to crime victims, witnesses, survivors, and defendants charged with criminal offenses, the bureau continues to expand its offerings, and collaborations with stakeholders and community-based organizations. The bureau works to increase alternative dispositions and paths of diversion from jail and consists of the Diversion and Alternative Sentencing Unit and the Crime Victims Advocate Program.

Throughout 2024, the Crime Victims Advocate Program (CVAP) has been actively involved in community events, trainings, and workshops. They are committed to raising awareness of trends in various communities and learning more about the needs of victims, witnesses, and survivors of crime. Staffed by licensed social workers, mental health counselors, advocates, and application assistants, CVAP has been proactive in providing resources to walk-in clients and they ensure that victims have access to the information and assistance they require during challenging times. CVAP advocates accompany victims to onsite law enforcement interviews with NYPD and forensic interviews with Assistant District Attorneys and escort witnesses to court to testify during trial.



DIVERSION AND ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING UNIT

The Diversion and Alternative Sentencing Unit is responsible for managing opportunities for arrested persons to **participate in treatment and community-based resources**.

PROJECT RESET

Project Reset, a citywide initiative and project of the Center for Justice Innovation, is utilized to engage participants prior to arraignment. Clinically trained staff work with participants to explore challenges that may have led to their misdemeanor arrest and discuss strategies to avoid future involvement with the legal system. In 2023, the bureau implemented a new daily screening and referral process with a goal to increase the number of referrals and successful participants, resulting in favorable outcomes for the participants and fewer cases on the arraignment court calendar. In the month of December, the office referred 65 new cases and had 30 successful completions. Since the inception of the program, the office has referred 1,301 cases and 750 people have successfully completed the program.

FAR ROCKAWAY COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM

Arrested persons are also referred to Community Court in both the Far Rockaway Community Justice Center and a second location in Jamaica, allowing more defendants access to programming. The Center provides restorative justice-based solutions to local crime that positively addresses the justice needs of the victim, offender and the Rockaways community. Community-led hearings allow people to repay their community, maintain their dignity and learn new skills that can help them lead more successful lives.

YOUNG NEW YORKERS AND MOMA AT PSA 1: ART DIVERSION

Young New Yorker's (YNY's) Re-imagining and Recreating Experiences (R.A.R.E.), is a five-week arts-immersed program, offered in a group setting for young adults ages 18-24. This arts-based diversion program offers young adults an opportunity to explore time, space, energy and community, through the transformative practice of art. YNY's teaching artists use the power of art to help participants visualize the racial, social and economic implications of their arrest, further contextualizing the circumstances influencing the decisions leading to their current charge. The R.A.R.E. program also takes a deeper dive into personal and community safety, mindfulness and need-based decision making. Participants learn from leading artists in the field of contemporary arts and use their voices to develop a cumulative art piece to display in a public exhibition. The program is free for participants and all sessions are in-person at MoMA PS1, a long-standing contemporary art institution in Queens County.

QUEENS COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER | CENTER FOR JUSTICE INNOVATION

Our Diversion and Alternative Sentencing Unit continues to work diligently with the Criminal Court Bureau to identify cases for services, which includes a clinical assessment for needed resources and individual counseling. As of December 31, 2024, our office referred 937 cases for services.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service is also an integral part of the District Attorney's commitment to alternative dispositions. Through December 2024, more than 1,600 defendants were referred to community service and more than 820 defendants successfully completed their service mandates.

SPECIALIZED COURT PARTS AND POST-ARRAIGNMENT DIVERSION PROGRAMS

The bureau is also responsible for 10 specialized court parts and calendars involving a program disposition. The Queens County District Attorney's Office has diverted cases into programming since 1987, and formally entered into agreements with specialized court parts as they were created.

QUEENS MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Operating since 2005, the Queens Mental Health Court (QMHC) seeks to improve the wellbeing of justice involved individuals living with mental and behavioral health issues by linking them with court-supervised, community-based treatment. Its goals include improving public safety and the quality of life for people living with mental illness. In 2024, 44 individuals had their criminal cases in QMHC.

QUEENS DWI COURT (QDWI)

Queens Criminal Court DWI offers defendants with their first felony driving while intoxicated (DWI) offense the opportunity to receive treatment under close court supervision for a minimum of one year as an alternative to incarceration and/or a felony conviction. If the defendant voluntarily agrees to enter the program, they must plead guilty to both the felony and a misdemeanor DWI charge and sign a document agreeing to abide by the treatment plan and the rules of the program.

Participation in the program requires the defendant to wear a SCRAM Alcohol and Location Monitoring System bracelet for 90 days, refrain from driving, and be on interim probation for the year. If the defendant successfully completes the program the felony charged is dismissed and they are sentenced to the misdemeanor.

QUEENS VETERANS COURT AND QUEENS MISDEMEANOR VETERANS COURT

The Queens Veterans Court and Queens Misdemeanor Veterans Court provides treatment opportunities to people who have served our country in the armed forces. Substance misuse and mental health problems may stem from service in combat zones and can be exacerbated as veterans return to civilian life. Both the felony and misdemeanor Veterans Courts offer a solution by connecting veterans to appropriate services with mandated court supervision. District Attorney Katz worked with the NYPD to ensure we learn at the time of arrest whether the defendant served in the military. The Diversion and Alternative Sentencing Unit proactively screens NYPD paperwork and clinical information is gathered to determine the next best steps to resolve pending criminal charges when arrested persons identify as having served in the military. Through December 2024, 14 cases were pending in the felony Veterans Treatment Court and 19 cases were pending in the Queens Misdemeanor Veterans Court.

COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

The bureau works with Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities (TASC) to facilitate specialized programming for people with substance misuse or mental health needs.

SUPREME COURT: DIVERSION AND ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING UNIT

The unit handles a revolving caseload of nearly 600 felony cases for screening, assessment, and program placement. Cases are referred from throughout the office, including the Felony Trial, Career Criminal and Major Crimes, Domestic Violence, Special Victims, and the Violent Criminal Enterprises Bureaus.

GUN DIVERSION PROGRAM

In March 2022, DA Katz launched the Gun Diversion program. The office continues to pursue the drivers of gun violence while simultaneously ensuring that appropriate offenders are afforded interventions and rehabilitative services. This gun diversion initiative aims to steer those charged with gun possession into a program using a restorative approach. This program engages participants to understand the harm caused to the community and address traumas and/or community conditions leading to possession of a firearm. Participants interact with clinical professionals and culturally competent credible messengers during the 12-month-long program.

The office has reviewed 622 cases for eligibility and 40 participants enrolled in the program. To date, 23 participants successfully graduated from the program and are currently completing the remainder of their probationary sentences. The bureau works closely with the Crime Strategies and Intelligence Bureau to vet candidates and assessments are coordinated with The Fortune Society. Regular case conference meetings are scheduled with The Fortune Society and the Department of Probation to foster good communication and manage expectations.

CRIME VICTIMS ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Through December 31, 2024, the CVAP offered services to more than 4,000 individuals providing safety planning and supportive counseling. The office's advocates also supported 68 families of homicide victims, with emotional support, connection to services and application assistance. Examples of services provided to survivors of homicide include referrals to grief counseling, group counseling, NYCHA Emergency Transfer – Section 8 and assistance with emergency funeral expenses through the Office of Victim Services.

The following chart contains data points gathered on services provided to crime victims:



On National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, the Crime Victims Advocate Program gathered at Baisley Pond Park for a heartfelt ceremony to pay tribute to those lost and offer support to the loved ones left behind.

CRIME VICTIMS ADVOCATE DATA	FULL CALENDAR YEAR		AS OF 12/31/24
	2022	2023	2024
INDIVIDUALS OFFERED CVAP SERVICES	2,520	3,024	4,613
CONTACTS/FOLLOW-UPS MADE	9,981	9,647	15,597
PERSONAL ADVOCACY	2,318	7,473	7,948
COUNSELING SESSIONS	695	2,027	3,698
HOMICIDE FAMILIES SUPPORTED	66	55	68
CAB LINE DATA (ALL QDA)	3,998	5,911	7,175





SECTION V

BLAZE THE TRAIL: TURNING POLICY INTO PRACTICE

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2024 EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



JENNIFER NAIBURG

CHIEF ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Chief Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Naiburg has been a prosecutor for over 30 years. Prior to DA Katz's administration, Ms. Naiburg served the office in many capacities: as an accomplished trial lawyer, instructor, manager and innovator. Since DA Katz took office in January of 2020, Ms. Naiburg has worked tirelessly to fulfill the District Attorney's mission of Brave Justice – keeping the communities of Queens safe while helping to implement fairness and equity within the criminal justice system. In addition to her leadership of DA Katz's executive team, Ms. Naiburg serves as an adjunct professor at Cardozo Law School after having taught at Fordham Law School for the preceding 10 years.



WENDY ERDLY

CHIEF OF STAFF/ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Erdly was appointed Chief of Staff to the Queens District Attorney's Office in April 2023. She is an attorney and public administration executive with more than a decade of public service experience. Since joining the Queens District Attorney's Office, Ms. Erdly has worked to enhance the technological and data capacity of the office and to support the growth and development of the non-legal professional staff.

2024 EXECUTIVE TEAM AND DIVISIONS

The Queens District Attorney's Office is organized by division with each Executive Assistant District Attorney managing bureaus and units as follows:

JOHN CASTELLANO

COUNSEL TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

With 40 years of experience in the Queens District Attorney's Office, Mr. Castellano has handled cases at all levels of the state and federal court systems. This includes over 100 cases in the highest court in the State of New York and numerous matters in the Supreme Court of the United States. As counsel, he advises the District Attorney and Assistant District Attorneys throughout the office on legal matters.

VINCENT CARROLL

COUNSEL TO THE CHIEF ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

In 1976, Mr. Carroll joined the Queens DA's Office and worked in numerous bureaus until 1982, when he became Deputy Chief of the Appellate Division Grievance Committee for the Second and Eleventh Judicial Districts. In 1991, Mr. Carroll returned to the Queens DA's Office and became Counsel to the Chief Assistant in 2002.

APPEALS AND SPECIAL LITIGATION DIVISION

EADA JOHNNETTE TRAILL

APPEALS BUREAU

- FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOIL) AND CIVIL LITIGATION UNIT
- IMMIGRATION UNIT

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS DIVISION

EADA COLLEEN BABB

CIVIC AWARENESS UNIT

- OFFICE OF IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UNIT

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT UNIT

CRIMINAL PRACTICE AND POLICY DIVISION

EADA THERESA SHANAHAN

CRIMINAL COURT BUREAU

INTAKE AND ASSESSMENTS BUREAU

REHABILITATION PROGRAMS & RESTORATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

- CRIME VICTIMS ADVOCATE PROGRAM
- DIVERSION AND ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING UNIT

MAJOR CRIMES DIVISION

EADA SHAWN CLARK

CAREER CRIMINAL MAJOR CRIMES BUREAU

FORENSICS

HATE CRIMES BUREAU

HOMICIDE BUREAU

- COLD CASE UNIT
- VEHICULAR HOMICIDE UNIT

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

EADA GERARD BRAVE

CRIME STRATEGIES AND INTELLIGENCE BUREAU

FRAUDS BUREAU

- CRIMES AGAINST REVENUE UNIT
- ELDER FRAUD UNIT

HOUSING AND WORKER PROTECTION BUREAU

- REAL ESTATE THEFT UNIT

HUMAN TRAFFICKING BUREAU

MAJOR ECONOMIC CRIMES BUREAU

- AIRPORT INVESTIGATIONS UNIT
- AUTO CRIME UNIT
- CYBER CRIME UNIT

PUBLIC CORRUPTION BUREAU

VIOLENT CRIMINAL ENTERPRISES BUREAU

SPECIAL PROSECUTIONS DIVISION

EADA JOYCE SMITH

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BUREAU

- ANIMAL CRUELTY PROSECUTIONS UNIT

JUVENILE PROSECUTIONS UNIT

SPECIAL VICTIMS BUREAU

- CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER
- ELDER ABUSE PROJECT SOCIAL WORKERS

SUPREME COURT TRIAL DIVISION

EADA PISHOY YACOB

DISCOVERY COMPLIANCE UNIT

FELONY CONFERENCING BUREAU

- EXTRADITIONS, RENDITIONS AND PROPERTY RELEASE SERVICES

FELONY TRIAL BUREAUS I, II, III, IV

GRAND JURY BUREAU

LITIGATION TRAINING

TRAINING

DA Katz ensures that **all Assistant District Attorneys abide by the highest ethical and moral standards** assigned to prosecutors. To accomplish this, enhanced training requirements, including tiered career training and the continuing legal education of the professional staff, were implemented early in her tenure.

New prosecutors begin with an intensive, six-week **Incoming Orientation Training Program**, designed to prepare new hires to succeed. This training includes lectures and interactive sessions on criminal law and procedure, ethics, and basic courtroom skills.

Throughout their careers, prosecutors receive training, including the Felony Assistant and Grand Jury Training Program, and trial advocacy training for both misdemeanor and felony assistants. Litigation Training also hosts weekly and monthly office-wide Continuing Legal Education lectures on a variety of topics to ensure all QDA Assistants stay up to date on the latest and best practices.



As part of the Incoming Orientation Training Program, new prosecutors were able to visit the Queens South Emergency Services Unit at the 113th Precinct, Jamaica.



New Assistant District Attorneys visited some of Queens' most noteworthy sites as part of their training, including the Unisphere in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

QDA EXPERTS LEADING THE NATION

The expertise of our staff is frequently sought on a variety of topics at the local, state, national and international levels. ADAs also teach as adjunct professors at universities and law schools.

In 2024, some of the presentations at which we have participated include:

Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (Norwood, MA)

Prosecution of Cryptocurrency Cases ADA Jahn

San Francisco District Attorney's Office (San Francisco, CA)

Admissibility and Challenges with Firearm Toolmark Analysis ADA Valerio

New York Prosecutors Training Institute

Fourth Amendment Law Surrounding Vehicle Stops and Searches EADA Yacoub

Zero Abuse Project (Albany, NY)

Making an Appeal Proof Record. Counsel Castellano

Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory Council & Yale University Public Safety (New Haven, CT)

Prosecution of Hate Crimes ADA Brovner

New York Court System Judicial Institute (Westchester, NY)

Wrongful Convictions and Conviction Integrity Units ADA Benjet

New York Statewide Senior Action Council

Elder Fraud: Scam Awareness ADA Fitzgerald & Coordinator Wilkes

Rockland County Police & Public Safety Academy

Courtroom Testimony CADA Naiburg

Whitehall Township Police Department, Office of Chief Medical Examiner (Allentown, PA)

Ghost Gun Investigations and Prosecution ADA LaCorte

Queens Borough President's Office

How to Identify and Respond to Human Trafficking ADA Melton

North American Securities Administrators Association (Minneapolis, MN)

Cryptocurrency Investigative Techniques and Best Practices ADA Scharf

Counter Gang Symposium (Kingston, Jamaica)

Investigating & Prosecuting Large-Scale Gang Cases ADA Dunn, ADA Frankenstein, & Coordinator Millard

Korean Prosecutors International Criminal Law Conference (Irvine, CA)

Intersection of Criminal Law and Immigration. ADA Yi

New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

Domestic Violence and Rehabilitation Programs EADA Smith

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Mental Health Courts and Diversion/Alternatives to Incarceration ADA Greene

ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY CLASS OF 2024

District Attorney Katz **appointed three new Assistant District Attorneys (ADAs) in the Spring of 2024, and 52 Assistant District Attorneys in the Fall of 2024.** Their orientation included a six-week training program, with courtroom observation, interactive workshops, and hands-on practical experience. The new ADAs visited the NYPD Firearms Training Facility at Rodman's Neck and the NYPD Laboratory for a full day of tours and presentations. The NYPD Lab visit included the Controlled Substance Analysis, Firearms Analysis, and Criminalistics sections, which are all vital to the day-to-day work of an Assistant District Attorney. The class members also toured the NYPD's 113th Precinct in Jamaica, which is home to the Queens South Emergency Services Unit.

Additionally, the new prosecutors visited correctional facilities to understand the implications their work has on defendants. They toured the Eric M. Taylor Center and the Rose M. Singer Center on Rikers Island. The new ADAs visited Samaritan Daytop Village, a non-profit organization, to learn more about alternatives to incarceration. On their final day of training, the new ADAs visited some of Queens' most significant sites including the Unisphere in Flushing Meadows Corona Park and John F. Kennedy International Airport.



BRAVE JUSTICE SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The fifth annual Brave Justice Summer Internship Program **welcomed 49 law students and 15 college students for a nine-week internship**. The interns represented 22 different law schools and 12 colleges. Many of the interns were bilingual, speaking a total of 11 different languages — Spanish, Russian, French, Chinese, Pashto, Farsi, Dari, Hindi, Urdu, German, and Korean.

The internship focused on a variety of topics including legal research and writing, motion and discovery practice, crime scene visits, witness interviews, and direct and cross examinations. Interns received presentations from senior staff and guest speakers as well as hands-on training to put the lectures into practice. Many had the opportunity to apply their knowledge in court appearances where they appeared alongside ADA supervisors pursuant to the student practice order. The summer-long practical trainings culminated in an opportunity to conduct a mock suppression hearing. Afterwards, interns were able to receive feedback from supervisors within the office.



MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

The ninth Annual Mock Trial Competition included 18 law school teams, each participating in at least three rounds. New York Supreme and Criminal Court judges from Queens and Brooklyn presided as second-year law students from law schools across the nation participated in the competition. Teams were evaluated by seasoned prosecutors and defense attorneys who gave feedback and scored each round. For the second straight year an all-female team won the competition, as Stetson University College of Law prevailed over St. John's University School of Law in the final round.



The all-female team from Stetson University College of Law comprised of (from left) Juliana McCabe, Carmela Brazzale, Kristen Ballard, and Marjorie Kammerlohr won the competition.



Kevin Jones of Fordham University School of Law cross examining a defense witness during the competition.

PROFESSIONALISM RECOGNIZED



JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AWARD

The Jewish American Heritage Month Award was presented to Senior ADA Mark Katz of the Major Economic Crimes Bureau, former New York State Assembly Member Daniel Rosenthal, Jenna Citron Schwab of Queens Hillel, and Howard Pollack of the Jewish Community Relations Council.



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Rookie of the Year award is presented to an outstanding “rookie” of the previous year’s incoming class of ADAs. This year, ADA Angelica Judge and ADA John Tjartalis of the Class of 2023 received the award.



HISPANIC HERITAGE AWARD

In celebration of the contributions of the Hispanic community, DA Katz honored Elmhurst Hospital, ADA Aharon Diaz, Supervisor in the Criminal Court Bureau, and Administrative Assistant Isabel Torres of the Crime Victims Advocate Program.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

The Women's History Month Award honors women throughout the Queens community and this year awards were presented to Detective Tanya L. Duhaney of the NYPD Community Affairs Bureau, Gianna P. Cerbone, owner of Manducatis Rustica, Bureau Chief Anne-Marie Mullaney of the Intake & Assessments Bureau, and Community Coordinator Rokeya Akhter of the Community Partnerships Division.



THOMAS E. DEWEY AWARD

This year's Thomas E. Dewey Award was presented to Bureau Chief Mark Osnowitz of Felony Trial Bureau IV. The Thomas E. Dewey Award is presented to an outstanding prosecutor who has exhibited high ethical standards and a strong record of achievement in each of New York City's five DA's offices and the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor.



ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE AWARD

In recognition of the achievements of the Asian American Pacific Islander community, DA Katz presented awards to New York City Council Member Linda Lee and President of CUNY Queens College Frank Wu, along with QDA's ADA Olivia Quinto of Felony Trial Bureau III and Yijun Wang, Director of Fiscal Services and Budgeting.



RICHARD A. BROWN PROSECUTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Richard A. Brown Prosecutor of the Year award was presented to Assistant Deputy Chief of the Appeals Bureau, Danielle O'Boyle. The award named in honor of former DA Richard A. Brown is annually presented to an ADA who demonstrates distinguished professionalism, unwavering integrity, legal ingenuity and acumen, and a steadfast dedication to the pursuit of justice.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH AWARD

In honor of the central achievements of African Americans in this country, DA Katz presented awards to ADA Vinnette Campbell of the Public Corruption Bureau and Trial Preparation Assistant Myriam Defay of Felony Trial Bureau I, as well as Eva Knight, educator, and Marc Taylor, founder of With Actions and in Truth.



VETERANS DAY AWARD

DA Katz paid tribute to those who have served and sacrificed for our nation. Specialist 4th Class Leonard Williams of the US Army, MS4 William McDonald of the US Navy and Sergeant Michael Coston of the US Army and the Queens DA's Office were honored at this year's Veterans Day Observance ceremony.



MEMORIAL DAY AWARD

At the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Elmhurst Park, DA Katz honored Sergeant Harry McMahon and Sergeant Kathy Dean of the US Army and Technical Sergeant Michael Murphy of the US Air Force and QDA's Detective Bureau. A special Veterans Service Award was presented to the family of former New York City Council Member Paul Vallone.



ASPCA AWARD

This year, Animal Cruelty Unit ADA Justin Bobko received an award from the ASPCA for his dedication and commitment to keeping New York City's animals safe.

OFFICE CONTACTS

CALL THE QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

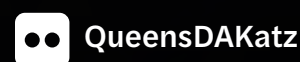
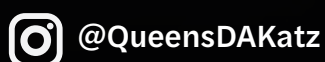
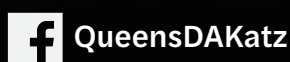
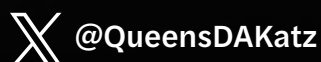
General Number	718.286.6000
24 Hour Hotline	718.286.6580
Animal Cruelty Helpline.....	718.286.6622
Case Information	718.286.6000
Community Partnerships.....	718.286.6400
Communications	718.286.6315
Consumer Fraud Helpline	718.286.6673
Cyber Crime Unit	718.286.6673
Crime Victims Advocate Program.....	718.286.6812
Domestic Violence 24/7 Helpline	718.286.4410
Elder Abuse Project Social Worker.....	718.286.6562
Elder Fraud Helpline.....	718.286.6578
Gang Violence.....	718.286.7045
Hate Crimes Helpline.....	718.286.7010
Housing and Worker Protection Helpline	718.286.6673
Human Trafficking Bureau.....	718.286.6548
Immigration Helpline	718.286.6690
Intergovernmental Affairs & Policy	718.286.6506

The Queens District Attorney's Office does not report immigration status and we do not tolerate any actions intended to interfere with or retaliate against potential crime witnesses.

EMAIL THE QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

General Information.....	Info@QueensDA.org
Consumer Fraud	Frauds@QueensDA.org
Conviction Integrity Unit	CIU@QueensDA.org
Crime Victims Advocate Program.....	CVAP@QueensDA.org
Elder Abuse.....	ElderAbuse@QueensDA.org
Elder Fraud	ElderFraud@QueensDA.org
Hate Crimes Bureau.....	HateCrimes@QueensDA.org
Housing and Worker Protection Bureau	HousingWorkerProtection@QueensDA.org
Human Trafficking	HumanTrafficking@QueensDA.org
Office of Immigrant Affairs	OIA@QueensDA.org
Work at the Queens DA's Office	Career@QueensDA.org

Visit our website at www.QueensDA.org





MELINDA KATZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY