



MELINDA KATZ DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR THE DA'S WEEKLY EBLAST,
EMAIL REQUESTS TO
INFO@QUEENS.DA.ORG

DECEMBER 2025



A Message from District Attorney **MELINDA KATZ**

JOHN DOE HOUSING SCAMMER SENTENCED

My office recently prosecuted a John Doe defendant, who used numerous aliases, for stealing three homes in Queens. Doe, whose true age and identity are still unknown, was sentenced to 4 ½ to nine years in prison after pleading guilty to identity theft in the first degree, grand larceny in the second degree and other crimes.

Three co-defendants also pleaded guilty to related charges and were sentenced for their roles in the deed theft. One home has been returned to its rightful owner, and my office is in the process of returning the other two homes to their legitimate owners.

Homeowners can help protect themselves from scammers by registering for fraud alerts through ACRIS with the New York City Department of Finance. The city will contact registered homeowners when there is a new filing on their property. If you think you've been victimized in a real estate scam, please contact my office at 718-286-6673.

In Friendship,

STAY CONNECTED



DA KATZ ANNOUNCES LARGEST SINGLE GANG TAKEDOWN IN QUEENS HISTORY WITH 32 DEFENDANTS INDICTED

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz recently announced the largest single gang takedown in the history of Queens County with the indictment of 32 reputed members of the violent Bad-Co Ballout street gang.

The accused assailants are variously charged in a 97-count indictment with murder, attempted murder, criminal possession of a weapon, conspiracy and other serious crimes.

"As per the indictment, the accused operated as a ruthless gang in Queens for the past four years and are now considered the most violent in the borough," DA Katz said. "They terrorized rivals and harmed innocent bystanders, to maintain and expand their geographic dominance."

These defendants are allegedly responsible for 13 different shootings throughout the borough dating back to November 5, 2021, when one of the accused fired multiple shots at a rival near 205th Street and Linden Boulevard. This particular defendant fired so often during the day his nickname was "Broad Day."

The gun violence often occurred near parks

and schools, restaurants, churches and in residential neighborhoods during the day.

Three people were killed, including an innocent motorist who happened to be driving by when a gang member spotted a rival and began shooting. When the 66-year-old driver was struck in the head and chest, he lost control of his car and crashed into a woman on the sidewalk.

A teenage girl, who was at home studying, became another innocent victim of the violence when a stray bullet from gunfire outside hit her in the leg.

The gang members used various social media platforms to communicate with affiliate gang members and used cryptic language to avoid detection by law enforcement.

Our year-long investigation, in partnership with the New York City Police Department, uncovered their alleged activities and resulted in the seizure of 17 illegal firearms.

"We will not relent in our work to dismantle gangs in this borough," DA Katz said.



SCOOTER SEIZURES CONTINUE



The DA's ongoing initiative to rid our communities of illegally parked and unregistered scooters and motorcycles continued with the recent seizure of 10 vehicles within the 107th Precinct in Fresh Meadows and Jamaica Estates.

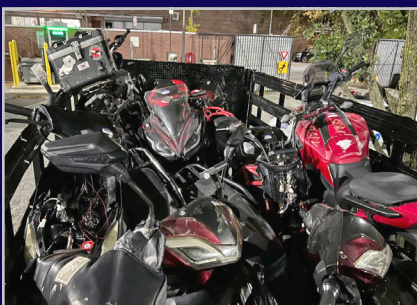
This operation began in February 2024 after there was an influx of scooters on the streets of Queens. The DA noted at that time that some of these motorized bikes were being used as getaway vehicles for individuals committing crimes, including drive-by shootings and robberies.

This crackdown has expanded into several neighborhoods, including South Jamaica, South Ozone Park, South Richmond Hill, Corona, Elmhurst, Long Island City, Sunnyside and Jackson Heights. Officials have also targeted commercial strips, including Roosevelt Avenue, Northern Boulevard and 108th Street.

This is an ongoing joint venture by the DA's Detective Bureau and the local precincts of the New York City Police Department. In the last 22 months, 1,288 vehicles have been confiscated.

"We are working with the NYPD to eliminate the threat that illegal motorbikes represent to our communities," DA Katz said.

Removing these illegally operating vehicles from our roadways -- where residents have undoubtedly seen riders speeding through solid red lights, ignoring traffic signs and mounting sidewalks -- helps make our borough safer.



CASES OF INTEREST

A 37-year-old defendant, **Marcin Pieciak**, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in October for viciously murdering his girlfriend at the Ceili House Bar in Maspeth. The victim, Sarah McNally, 41, was working at the tavern in March 2024 when Pieciak stabbed her 19 times, severing her spine.

The Glendale man was sentenced to 24 years in prison last month and ordered to serve five years post-release supervision after his imprisonment.

In another case, **Kiani Phoenix** of Far Rockaway and another woman got into an argument and a physical altercation outside a deli in August 2022. The defendant entered her vehicle and attempted to run the woman down with her car. Instead, she hit and killed a 59-year-old man who was seated in a walker on the corner of Beach 20th Street. Phoenix then drove away



from the scene.

The defendant was sentenced to 18 years in prison and five years post-release supervision after pleading guilty to manslaughter in the first degree.

DIWALI CELEBRATION

DA Katz hosted the office's annual Diwali celebration at the Queens Palace and honored several distinguished leaders and organizations in the community.

The Festival of Lights is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and many Buddhists around the world and marks a time of unity and reflection, and the victory of good over evil. The event was co-sponsored by the New American Voters Association and South Asians of New York.



HONORING OUR VETERANS

DA Katz joined veterans, U.S. Rep. Grace Meng and other local officials to honor the men and women who proudly served in our military at the office's annual observance of Veterans Day at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Elmhurst Park.

We stand with our veterans and pay tribute every year to those who served, and the many who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

