



MELINDA KATZ DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

FEBRUARY 2026



A Message from District Attorney

MELINDA KATZ

A LOOK BACK AT 2025

Throughout 2025, my office worked tirelessly to keep residents safe and secure in Queens County – taking guns and narcotics off our streets, targeting dangerous criminal enterprises, combatting retail theft and returning homes to their rightful owners. It was a busy year.

My office processed 60,041 arrests with 45,338 criminal court arraignments conducted. We had a total of 1,683 indictments against 2,034 defendants.

Our Crime Victims Advocates Program helped 4,976 people and the office disposed of 44,468 cases.

Shooting incidents in Queens declined by 25 percent as we worked relentlessly to remove illegal firearms from our communities. We've taken 617 firearms off the street in 11 gun buyback events during my administration.

Since 2021, Queens has accounted for 35.5 percent of all ghost guns recovered citywide – the largest average by borough.

I remain steadfast in my commitment to justice, fairness and public safety.

In Friendship,

STAY CONNECTED | [@QueensDAKatz](#) [QueensDAKatz](#) [@QueensDAKatz](#) [QueensDAKatz](#) www.queensda.org

DELIVERING RESULTS FOR QUEENS

District Attorney Melinda Katz began her seventh year as the county's top law enforcement official in 2026. Her focus has not changed since taking office in 2020 – she is dedicated to protecting those who live, work and visit Queens – and committed to making sure the justice system is equal for all.

As we begin a new year, it is a good time to reflect on the accomplishments of 2025.

In 2025, the DA continued to focus on drivers of crime and accountability. Through coordinated investigations with law enforcement partners, the DA's office removed hundreds of illegal firearms from the streets of Queens, dismantled violent and organized criminal activity and identified unnamed homicide victims whose lives were cut short too soon.

These steps helped to make our neighborhoods safer. Building on the future was also a top priority in 2025.

Office staff met young people in their classrooms, on playgrounds and at after-school events. Through these early intervention actions, children saw mentors, educators and law enforcement figures who demonstrated that they cared about the future of the borough's youth.

DA Katz is a firm believer that combining enforcement with engagement will help build pathways for young people away from violence and toward a more positive future.

Working with community organizations and other law enforcement entities, the DA's office continues to maintain strong partnerships that serve the residents of Queens County. By strengthening trust and providing open lines of communication this office is responsive to the people who call this borough home.

NOTABLE CASES OF 2025:

- A defendant sentenced to 28 years in prison for attempted murder for shooting at two police officers
- An accused Roosevelt Avenue corridor sex trafficker indicted for forcing women into prostitution
- A 25-year sentence for a man who attacked a commuter with a hammer as she entered the subway
- The successful prosecution of the man who killed FDNY EMS Captain Alison Russo, culminating in a sentence of 25 years to life in prison
- A guilty plea and sentencing of a doctor for rape and sexual abuse of both acquaintance and female patients
- Prison sentences for squatters in several cases and the prosecution of a John Doe defendant, who stole someone's identity and fraudulently acquired three homes



COMMUNITY OUTREACH THROUGHOUT 2025

The DA's Community Partnerships Division is composed of three units – Civic Awareness, Community Engagement and Youth Empowerment. These units participated in more than 600 public events in 2025 – meeting with the public, providing information and answering questions.

The staff organizes educational programs for students and coordinates with numerous community boards, business groups and advisory councils. The QDA Mobile Office also interacts with residents at area libraries, providing information and resources.



GANG TAKEDOWNS IN 2025

The District Attorney's office announced three major takedowns of violent street gangs last year, resulting in the arrests of 54 individuals.

Working in conjunction with law enforcement partners, the DA's office, working in conjunction with law enforcement partners, conducted long-term investigations into these gangs and their activities. In a January 2025 takedown, undercover officers met with various alleged members and associates of the Tren de Aragua gang to buy firearms and, in some instances, "pink cocaine" also known as Tusi.

Several of these meetings to swap guns for cash took place in a shopping center parking lot in College Point. On one occasion, an AR-15 wrapped in a plastic garbage bag was exchanged for cash in the middle of the afternoon in the Bronx. These illegal gun purchases occurred in public places and often in broad daylight.

This operation removed 30 illegal firearms from the streets of Queens including two AR-15 assault-style weapons.

Another high-profile case focused on the Floss Money Ballers gang. Twelve alleged members were indicted and variously charged with conspiracy, attempted murder and other crimes. The investigation focused on a series of shootings in and around Southeast Queens, where the defendants allegedly fired at rival gang members.

The third gang takedown culminated with



the arrests of 32 reputed members of the Bad-Co Ballout gang, who were variously charged in a 97-count indictment with murder, attempted murder, conspiracy and other crimes. This was the largest single gang takedown in the history of Queens.

The Bad-Co crew has been warring with rivals since 2021, with 13 known shootings attributed to the gang. An innocent motorist was shot in the head when an alleged gang member fired wildly into a busy St. Albans intersection. The driver died, and his car veered onto the sidewalk and struck a woman. A teenage girl also became an innocent victim when accused gang members fired outside her home and a bullet went through the exterior and struck the teen in the leg.

Seventeen firearms were also seized during this operation.

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

COMBATING RETAIL THEFT

The DA's office is tackling retail theft by using every tool at our disposal – and it is working.

DA Katz was joined by Governor Kathy Hochul last year as she announced the takedown of a major retail theft ring. Thirteen individuals were charged in a 780-count indictment with stealing more than \$2.2 million in merchandise from Home Depot stores located in nine different states.

The theft crew allegedly stole between \$1,800 and \$35,000 a day from 128 different Home Depot locations locally and as far away as Maryland and New Hampshire.

The locations of targeted Home Depots were determined by a review of merchandise in each store as shown on the retailer's website and app. The stolen items were then sold to black market retailers – known as fences – who allegedly resold those goods to consumers.

"Working with our partners at the New York State Police, we brought this brazen operation to a halt," DA Katz said.

The DA's office is also working with individual business owners through the Queens Merchant



Business Improvement Program to better protect them from shoplifters and others who engage in troublesome behavior. This initiative was launched in conjunction with the NYPD in June 2021 in Jamaica.

Merchants can have individuals who are disruptive or participate in illegal activity given a trespass notice by the local precinct. If the disruptive person persists and visits the business again, it could result in an arrest.

The success of this pilot initiative prompted the DA's office to expand to other commercial areas in Astoria and Flushing. The program has been operational throughout Queens since 2023, and 446 stores have registered. More than 2,600 trespass notices have been served while only 128 defendants have been arrested for returning to the store after being served.

"My office is committed to identifying and prosecuting retail theft recidivists, and using enhanced methods to stop shoplifters," DA Katz said.

