



MELINDA KATZ DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

APRIL 2026



A Message from District Attorney

MELINDA KATZ

CITY COUNCIL TESTIMONY

I joined my fellow district attorneys recently to testify at a preliminary budget hearing before the City Council's Public Safety Committee. I spoke about the high volume of cases my office handles and long-standing funding disparities that put Queens at a disadvantage compared to other boroughs.

In 2025 my office processed over 60,000 arrests, conducted over 45,000 arraignments and resolved over 44,000 cases.

When comparing 2025 case statistics with the preliminary city budgets for the five district attorneys' offices, Queens receives the least amount of funding per case filing, the least amount of funding per case disposition, the least amount of funding per arrest and the least amount of funding per resident

To accomplish our priorities, we need additional funds to ensure we are doing everything possible to keep Queens residents safe. That includes increased funding to support critical needs such as our Rehabilitation Programs and Restorative Services Bureau, Animal Cruelty Prosecutions Unit and Human Trafficking Bureau.

In Friendship,

STAY CONNECTED



@QueensDAKatz



QueensDAKatz



@QueensDAKatz



QueensDAKatz

www.queensda.org

KEEPING OUR MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM SAFE FOR ALL

Public transportation is the lifeblood of our city. It connects millions of people to their jobs, schools, entertainment and healthcare. The public transit system – including subway platforms and bus stops – must be safe.

The Queens District Attorney's Office is doing everything possible to hold those who create fear and chaos within the transit system accountable.

"Ensuring safety in these shared spaces is essential for every person who lives, works and visits this great city," District Attorney Katz said.

In one recent case, the office charged an 18-year-old man with attempted murder, assault and criminal possession of a weapon for allegedly stabbing a woman walking to an East Elmhurst bus stop last month on her morning commute.

The defendant – who did not know the victim – allegedly followed the 30-year-old woman and ambushed her.

"This was a calculated act of violence and my prosecutors will aggressively seek justice for the victim of this unprovoked stabbing," DA Katz said.

The victim suffered a punctured lung and needed 11 stitches to close the wounds.

If convicted, the defendant faces up to 25 years in prison.

In another case last month, the DA's office successfully prosecuted a defendant who shoved an elderly woman from the subway platform onto the tracks at the Flushing-Main Street station in October 2024.

The defendant, 36, of Flushing pleaded guilty to attempted murder and was sentenced to 15 years in prison. The senior citizen suffered

fractured vertebrae and other injuries.

"An 82-year-old woman was simply walking through a subway station when this defendant pushed her. The victim suffered life-threatening injuries, requiring treatment for a laceration to her head and surgery to repair two fractured vertebrae. It is a miracle she survived," the DA said.

Last year the DA's office successfully prosecuted a Manhattan man for a hammer attack on a 57-year-old woman as she entered the subway station at Queens Plaza in 2022.

The defendant approached the woman from behind, kicked her down the stairs and struck her 13 times on the head before fleeing with her tote bag. The victim fortunately survived. The defendant was found guilty at trial of assault in the first degree and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

"This, too, was an unprovoked, senseless attack that caught the attention of the entire country," DA Katz said.



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



DA Katz, along with the Center for Women of New York, hosted the office's annual Women's History Month celebration at the Helen Marshall Cultural Center in Borough Hall where award-winning journalist Chantee Lans of ABC7 Eyewitness News served as the event's emcee.

As the first woman district attorney of Queens, DA Katz applauded the many women who came before her in other notable roles.

"Women have been on the front lines, securing rights and opportunities throughout our country's history as abolitionists, civil rights leaders, suffragists and labor activists," DA Katz said.

"We have amazing women in power," the DA added.

The DA noted among those women are Gov. Kathy Hochul, the first female governor of the state of New York, and Letitia James, the first black woman Attorney General for New York.

During the evening's festivities, the DA's office honored three women who exemplify excellence in the community and in their professional roles.

The honorees were Kathryn Garcia, the executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the first woman to hold that role; Simone-Marie L. Meeks, a community health advocate; and Janet Helgeson, a senior deputy chief within the DA office's Detective Bureau.



CASES OF INTEREST

A sex trafficker who abused three women was sentenced to 44 ½ years to 52 years in prison. A jury convicted **Cleveland Sterling**, 38, of sex trafficking, promoting prostitution, robbery, grand larceny and other crimes in February.

The Uniondale man, who used the aliases "Rich" and "Dollarz," preyed on three women using threats and coercion to convince them to trade sex for cash.

In another case, a Glendale resident was sentenced to 17 years in prison for a May 2025 unprovoked attack on a 9-year-old girl and

for biting off the fingertip of an off-duty police sergeant who intervened when he saw the child assaulted.

Feliz Enrique, 32, pleaded guilty in January to assault in the first, second and third degrees, attempted assault in the second degree and endangering the welfare of a child.

The young victim was struck with such force she was knocked to the ground and sustained bruising. The sergeant had several bite marks, and doctors were unable to reattach his fingertip.

MOCK TRIAL COMPETITION

DA Katz hosted her 11th Annual Mock Trial Competition with 18 elite teams from law schools across the country. Each team of second-year law students studied a fact pattern and prepared a mock trial for the competition. Current and retired judges from Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Westchester volunteered to preside, along

with prosecutors and defense attorneys who acted as evaluators and bailiffs.

The winning team hailed from Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Florida. The top prize went to (left to right) Brandon Linzer, Jacob Rykiel, Aliza Khandelwal and Savannah DeLo.



CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY THROUGHOUT QUEENS

District Attorney Katz and members of the DA's office joined the festivities for the 27th year of the St. Pat's for All Parade in Sunnyside and days later gathered with celebrants for the 51st annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Rockaway.

Both events were festive occasions to see friends and celebrate the rich culture and traditions of Irish Americans. Coming together as neighbors builds trust that helps keep our communities safe and strong.

