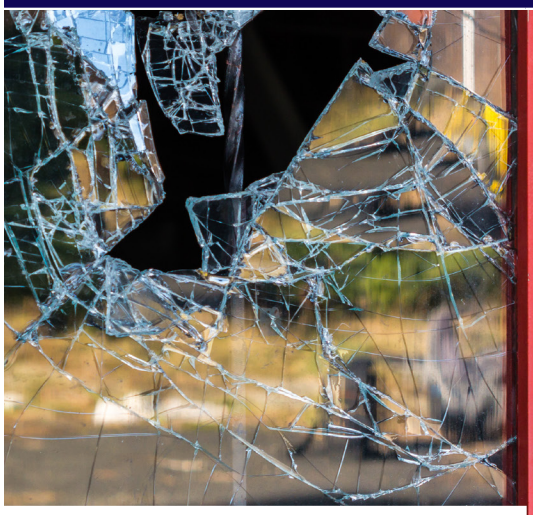


MELINDA KATZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SIGN UP FOR OUR
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
INFO@QUEENSDA.ORG
OR SCAN THE QR CODE

OCTOBER 2026





STAY CONNECTED | @QueensDAKatz | QueensDAKatz | @QueensDAKatz | QueensDAKatz | www.queensda.org

A Message from District Attorney

MELINDA KATZ

SENTENCING IN ILLEGAL MEETUP ATTACK

We recently announced that a Far Rockaway man who viciously assaulted a married couple during an illegal car meetup in Malba was sentenced to 4 ½ years in prison.

Numerous cars poured into the residential neighborhood in November 2025 and motorists screeched their tires and created smoke.

When a resident heard the commotion, he went outside with his wife. Six to eight people then approached him on his lawn and surrounded him.

The 20-year-old defendant – along with others – punched, kicked and stomped on the male victim after he was knocked to the ground. When the victim's wife attempted to intervene, the defendant punched her.

The defendant pleaded guilty in August to gang assault in the second degree in satisfaction of the indictment against him.

We will not allow illegal car meetups to disrupt our peaceful neighborhoods, and we will use every tool at our disposal to arrest and prosecute the organizers and participants who create mayhem.

In Friendship,

Melinda Katz

DA'S OFFICE DISRUPTS BURGLARY PATTERNS

The office of Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz is laser focused on stopping burglars who target homes and businesses.

In May 2025, the DA announced that a Jackson Heights resident was sentenced to up to 30 years in prison for a three-month burglary spree that targeted homes in Bayside, Fresh Meadows, Hillcrest and other communities. He took tens of thousands of dollars in cash, jewelry and designer handbags as well as passports and credit cards.

"Your home should be the safest place for you and your family. This defendant shattered that peace of mind for these victims," DA Katz said.

The DA recently announced that a Brooklyn man was charged in connection with a five-week burglary spree in May and June.

The defendant allegedly entered a Woodhaven trade school in May and took $700 cash from a locked drawer. The man is also accused of breaking into an Ozone Park deli, a Ridgewood physical therapy center, the residential entrance to a mixed-use building in Ozone Park and a Boys & Girls Club location.

The break-ins also caused hundreds of dollars in damage to the targeted buildings.

The 55-year-old defendant was charged in a 10-count indictment with burglary, grand larceny and criminal mischief. He faces between 16 years to life in prison to 25 years to life in prison, if convicted.

In April, a defendant was apprehended in Panama and extradited to New York to face charges for multiple home burglaries during which he and co-defendants allegedly stole cash, jewelry and designer goods. He allegedly removed a court-ordered ankle monitor after he was arraigned on burglary charges.

"As alleged, this defendant cut off his ankle monitor and left the country after being indicted for breaking into the homes of multiple people. He blatantly defied the criminal justice system and we were relentless in returning him to this borough to be held accountable for his actions," DA Katz said.

In February 2025, a burglary spree was stopped with the arrest of a 35-year-old Brooklyn man who was charged with a four-month-long wave of break-ins in Fresh Meadows, Hollis Hills, Whitestone, Bayside, Jamaica Estates and Forest Hills. This case is still pending in court.



COMBATTING MAIL THEFT



The DA's office recently charged a current and a former postal worker with grand larceny, criminal possession of stolen property and other crimes for allegedly lining their own pockets by cashing stolen government checks or money orders.

A 31-year-old Brooklyn woman was charged with knowingly cashing stolen U.S. Treasury checks that were primarily tax refunds meant for others, and receiving kickbacks.

The defendant had been a window clerk at the South Ozone Park Post Office. In March and April, she allegedly worked with an unapprehended individual to cash 20 stolen treasury checks worth $56,821.

She allegedly received approximately $50,330 for conducting the transactions through money orders that she processed and made out to herself. If convicted, this defendant faces up to five to 15 years in prison.

In August, a clerk at the Whitestone Post Office was indicted for allegedly stealing more than $20,000 in money orders from the mail. One of the victims in this case was sending a deposit for a memorial plaque for her parents' grave.

This defendant allegedly entered the post office's distribution room, opened envelopes and removed money orders. In some instances, she re-sealed empty envelopes that were then delivered to the intended recipients.

According to the charges, the 44-year-old Bronx woman would take the money orders to her workstation, forge a signature and cash them herself. She faces up to five to 15 years in prison, if convicted.

The DA thanked the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the USPS Office of Inspector General for their work on these cases.

If you suspect you have had mail stolen, contact our office at 718-286-6673.

CASES OF INTEREST

A 34-year-old defendant was sentenced to 24 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the first degree. **Joseph Gilbert Stevens** shot and killed a Valley Stream man as he walked toward a chapel where a funeral was underway.

Moments earlier, the defendant had entered the service, approached the casket and then left the funeral. He encountered the 49-year-old victim five minutes later, shooting and killing him.

In a separate case, a jury found a 38-year-old Brooklyn man guilty of assault, kidnapping, sexual abuse, robbery and other crimes for a brutal attack on a masseuse at an Astoria spa in May 2024.

Defendant **Tahir Toloa** pistol whipped and punched the 55-year-old woman, forced her to open a cash register at gunpoint and sexually assaulted the victim, who was able to escape by jumping from a window. At sentencing, the defendant faces up to life in prison.



REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF 9/11

This September 11 we marked 25 years since the attacks on the Twin Towers in New York City and our nation.

On that day in 2001, we lost nearly 3,000 people including the brave first responders who perished. Many of those victims were from Queens County.

DA Katz attended several commemorations, including one in remembrance of the 42 victims from Glendale, Middle Village, Ridgewood and Woodhaven. She also joined a candlelight vigil hosted by Community Board 3 at Travers Park in Jackson Heights and a ceremony at Tribute Park in Rockaway to honor those lost and reaffirm our commitment to never forget.

"Tragically, the events of 9/11 are still impacting the health and wellness of our city," DA Katz said. "Thousands of people have lost their lives to 9/11-related illnesses, and many continue to suffer with long-term health issues."





WELCOME TO A NEW CLASS OF PROSECUTORS

DA Katz swore in a new class of 33 assistant district attorneys in September. The incoming prosecutors then started a six-week orientation program that includes shadowing experienced ADAs and learning every aspect of working in the DA's office.

Training also includes visits to Rikers Island, the NYPD laboratory, the NYPD shooting range and firearms training facility and a ride-along with police officers.

The fall class will be well prepared to join the DA's office in its mission to keep the people of Queens safe and ensure a fairer criminal justice system for all.

