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OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
RICHMOND COUNTY

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **RCDA and Mayor's Office to End Domestic Violence and Gender Based Violence Hold Virtual Intimate Partner Violence Training for Salon Professionals**

*\*\*Training teaches salon workers how to recognize signs of intimate partner violence and familiarize staff on resources available to survivors\*\**

Staten Island, N.Y. — Continuing to offer myriad resources and services during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the offices of Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon and Commissioner Cecile Noel of the Mayor's Office to End Domestic Violence and Gender Based Violence (ENDGBV) today held a virtual intimate partner violence training to teach salon stylists how to spot signs that their client or colleague may be in an abusive relationship or environment, what to do if that is the case, how to keep themselves safe in the process, and what resources are available to those in need. The hour-and-a-half training, held via Zoom, was led by members of the Staten Island Family Justice Center and presented to staff from Classique Salon & Spa. RCDA and ENDGBV launched the training program on Staten Island in 2017, with numerous sessions already held.

"As we continue to acknowledge Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I am proud to continue working closely with the Mayor's Office to End Domestic Violence and Gender Based Violence to hold another intimate partner violence training for salon professionals," **said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon.** "Salon workers have a unique relationship with their customers, and can offer a safe space for them to confide in a trusted source. When equipped with the proper training to recognize signs of abuse, salon workers can empower victims to find the help they need but may be too scared to seek on their own. This innovative approach has been yet another tool used by my office and ENDGBV in our mission to end domestic violence on Staten Island.

"The salon community can provide a safe space, and pass along vital resources to survivors particularly during the environment they endure during the COVID-19 health crisis," **said ENDGBV Commissioner Cecile Noel.** "COVID-19 puts into sharp focus the vulnerabilities that many people in our city face every day, especially gender-based violence survivors; and it highlights the barriers and challenges that we know keep people from seeking help and finding safety. Survivors need us now more than ever in these extraordinary times, and our top priority remains to ensure continuity of services and unwavering support. Together with our partner the Richmond County District Attorney's Office we can tell survivors that they are not alone, they are never alone...and help is here for them."

Salons interested in participating in the program can contact the Staten Island Family Justice Center at (718) 697-4300 or Lisa Thompson at (718) 876-5734, [Lisa.thompson@rcda.nyc.gov](mailto:Lisa.thompson@rcda.nyc.gov)

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