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PRESS RELEASE

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DA McMahon Announces New Initiatives Against Hate Crimes During Meeting of Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force

Staten Island, N.Y. - Staten Island District Attorney Michael E. McMahon this week held a meeting of the Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force to provide updates on his office's latest hate crime investigations and prosecutions in the borough as well as to announce new and upcoming initiatives to help combat hate and bias on Staten Island. This includes the launch of RCDA's "Staten Islanders Against Hate" campaign and the companion website, www.statenislandda.org/silove/, modeled after the successful "Staten Islanders Against Drug Abuse" campaign and SIHOPE.org. The site features profiles of several HCTF members, information on what is and is not a hate crime, educational efforts, and a full resource listing of the members and what they have to offer to the people of Staten Island.

"Our Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force continues to work together to stand up against hate and bias in all its forms. To that end, we are excited to announce the launch of our "Staten Islanders Against Hate" campaign and the companion website, SILove.org," said **District Attorney Michael E. McMahon**. "This new tool will provide information and resources for Staten Islanders of all ages to learn about hate crimes as well as our efforts to prevent the spread of intolerance in our borough. We welcome all on Staten Island to join us in our effort to stop hate."

During the meeting, DA McMahon briefed the group on three successful arrests in cases worked on by RCDA's Hate Crimes Unit, Cyber Crimes Unit, and the NYPD's Hate Crimes Unit and REME, including the most recent arrest of a defendant charged in connection with anti-Semitic postings made on the borough.

The DA also welcomed Inspector Jessica Corey, the new chief of NYPD's Hate Crimes, who spoke to the Staten Island Task Force about the work her team has been doing in our borough and across the City.

Additionally, during the meeting, DA McMahon announced an upcoming "Day of Action" for Staten Island, where HCTF members and community volunteers will travel cross the Island promoting the message of love and tolerance by asking businesses to show their support by placing a "Staten Islanders Against Hate" banner in their window.

More information on this initiative will be provided in the coming weeks.

The Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force, composed of leaders who represent communities that are historically targeted and victimized by hate-based crime, is committed to securing the right of every person to live their lives free from bias and hate on Staten Island. Led by District Attorney Michael E. McMahon & Scott Maurer, CEO of COJO of Staten Island, the Hate Crimes Task Force was convened in direct response to the unspeakable tragedy that occurred at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh in October 2018. The Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force works together with all our communities to develop solutions and inform our neighbors that our differences make us stronger, and hate has no place in our borough.

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