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With New York City slowly but surely recovering from the ongoing public health crisis brought on more than two years ago by COVID-19, I remain cautiously optimistic feeling as if we are finally beginning to see the light at the end of an incredibly long tunnel.

Our City is trying to bounce back; New Yorkers are out every day enjoying all the five boroughs have to offer, and tourists are returning to take advantage of the greatest City in the world. On Staten Island, where I proudly serve as District Attorney, I am extremely proud of all the work we have done in my office, working with our partners in the NYPD and many others throughout the community, to see our borough through these challenging times. It is because of this commitment that I know we can rise to meet any adversity if we work together.

As we continue to navigate new public health challenges, many New Yorkers are also now seriously concerned about the growing threat we have seen to public safety. A series of troubling and outrageous crimes in different parts of our city have resulted in both tragic loss of life and victims who will carry the mental and physical scars from their harrowing experiences with them for the rest of their lives. Rightfully so, many have had to grapple with the fear and uncertainty these incidents have brought to their communities, their blocks, and even their commutes to work.

Recognizing early on the seriousness these threats posed to public safety, my office developed a plan to address gun violence and other serious crimes through both targeted precision prosecution, which allowed us to hold serious offenders accountable, as well as intense community outreach to help solve the root causes of violent crime.

I am proud to say that last year most major crime categories were down on Staten Island, including murder, rape, robbery, felony assault, and burglary. The number of shooting incidents were also down by 9.1 percent on Staten Island in 2021.

Meanwhile, Citywide, shooting incidents were up 1.9 percent last year. This is a steep decline from 2020, however, when shooting incidents and victims were up more than 97 and 103 percent respectively from the previous year. While we can confidently say we have made tremendous progress as a city in addressing gun violence, we remain seriously concerned by the incidents of gun violence we are seeing on Staten Island and elsewhere, especially among teenagers and young people.

Therefore, we are doing all we can to address gun violence among young people, including increased community outreach and focused youth-oriented programing. But the fact remains that in 2021, 20 percent of people who were arrested with gun possession on Staten Island were between the age of 14 and 17, and over 30 percent of shooting victims were under the age of 20. In short, we must do more to keep our children safe.

As my office continues to work tirelessly to combat these challenges and many other drivers of crime, including substance abuse, mental illness, and domestic violence, our success depends on us working together to make our city as safe as possible.

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Despite the ongoing public health and public safety challenges that continue to face our borough, city, state, and nation, when I reflect on this year, I remain proud of the achievements and strides we made, and am focused on the work ahead of us in 2022.

In particular, your District Attorney’s office did incredible work over the last twelve months in the courtroom and in the community, all in dogged pursuit of our mission to ensure justice for victims of crime, effectively prosecute those who violate our laws, and address the root causes of criminal behavior to prevent crime before it occurs.

Although last year continued to present serious challenges, and more undoubtedly lie ahead, our pursuit of justice and commitment to serving our Island never faltered, because it is our mission to ensure justice and safety for the people of this borough.

I enter 2022 energized, committed, and laser focused on making positive progress on these issues. Alongside the men and women of the NYPD, we will keep Staten Island a beacon of safety and common sense in New York City.

Please enjoy our 2021 annual report, which includes a more in-depth look at all of our achievements on behalf of the people of Staten Island.

Michael E. McMahon
PART I:
OVERVIEW:
CRIME ON STATEN ISLAND

With crime increasing citywide in 2021, we are proud to report that on Staten Island there was a drop in most major crime categories in 2021. This was due to RCDA’s strong commitment to working with the NYPD and all of our law enforcement partners to investigate and prosecute criminals who threaten the safety and security of our communities.

During the year murders, rapes, assaults, robberies, and burglaries all decreased on Staten Island, thanks in large part to precision policing and prosecution. At the same time, our office and the NYPD remain concerned over the increases we have seen in several other crime categories, including grand larceny and car thefts. We continue to make arrests and prosecute these crimes to the fullest extent of the law and will not tolerate these actions on Staten Island.

### Citywide Crime 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>up 4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>up 3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>up 5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felony Assualt</td>
<td>up 9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>down 17.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Larceny: up 14.4%
Grand Larceny Auto: up 15.1%
Overall Index Crimes are up 6.8%

### Staten Island Crime 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>down 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>down 7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>down 15.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felony Assualt</td>
<td>down 1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>down 29.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Larceny: up 16.1%
Grand Larceny Auto: up 15%
Overall Index Crimes are up 1.7%
Shooting Incidents and Victims 2021

While gun violence remains a serious area of concern, we are encouraged to see shootings decreased on Staten Island in 2021. Citywide, shooting incidents were up 2 percent in 2021. On Staten Island, shooting incidents decreased by 10 percent. Shooting victims were also down 9.1 percent in our borough for 2021.

At the same time, gun arrests on Staten Island rose sharply in 2021, by 48.5 percent, with police making 150 arrests for firearm-related crimes compared to 101 in 2020. RCDA also continued to vigorously prosecute these gun cases to hold gun offenders accountable, ensuring our streets stay safe and free of violence.

Our most serious area of concern remains gun incidents involving youth and teenage offenders. In fact, 20 percent of people who committed shootings on Staten Island in 2021 were between age of 14 and 18. Additionally, 35 percent of shooting victims were under the age of 20.

Important Facts About Gun Crimes

- 95% of all firearms recovered in New York City are from out of state.
- Over 500 of the firearms recovered in 2021 were linked to “multiple sale” purchases.
- 31% of the firearms recovered have a gang/crew nexus.
- Shooting victims were up Citywide 0.4%
- Shooting victims were down on Staten Island 11.1%
- Shooting incidents were up Citywide 1.9%
- Shooting incidents were down on Staten Island 12.2%
Staten Island Crime 2016 v. 2021

Overall, major crimes are down 19.8% over the last five years from 2016, when DA McMahon first entered office. This is a testament to the tireless work of all who work at RCDA as well as our dedicated partners in the NYPD and other law enforcement agencies.
Advocating for Safer Communities

Throughout the year, District Attorney McMahon remained outspoken on criminal justice issues affecting the lives of Staten Islanders, advocating for more public safety and common-sense changes to New York’s “bail reform laws.”

DA McMahon joined a bi-partisan clarion call against the chaos that has been caused in our criminal justice system, on our streets, in our subways, and around our neighborhoods across this city by the misguided laws that came from Albany.

On Staten Island, the DA’s office will continue to fully prosecute crimes on the merits of each case, and we will never institute blanket policies which simultaneously disregard the laws set forth by our State Legislature, ignore the rights of victims, and seriously threaten public safety as a whole. We cannot turn a blind eye to crime or wave a magic wand to make it disappear. This not only does a disservice to victims of crime and the public we are trying to protect, but it also removes any possibility for a defendant to be held accountable or connected with services through the criminal justice system.

Immediate fixes to bail reform and discovery law the DA has advocated for include:

- Granting judges the power to keep pre-trial suspects they deem dangerous in jail, a practice used in every other state in America and in federal courts
- Fix the broken “Raise the Age Law”
  - This law increased the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 throughout the state, effectively handcuffing police and prosecutors from holding teenage and youthful offenders accountable for gun possession. While it is wholly appropriate to give kids a second chance for many non-violent crimes, our laws should send a message to everyone, regardless of age, that if they carry and use a gun they have gone over the line and must face consequences.
- Reform Discovery laws
  - The law sets deadlines for “discovery” — materials prosecutors are required to turn over to defense lawyers — of no longer than 20 days from the time a defendant is arraigned if they are in jail and 35 days if they are free pending the charges. This timeline creates an unfair burden on prosecutors to produce all evidence, no matter how seemingly irrelevant to the case. These stringent discovery requirements result in a workload that is leading to cases being dismissed and a marked increase in attrition due to the extreme workload. We have called for modest reforms to be made that would extend this timeline and make more reasonable accommodations for turning over evidence to ensure all cases are fairly prosecuted.
The Staten Island District Attorney’s Office has grown substantially over the last five years, now employing more than 70 Assistant District Attorneys, 15 detective investigators, 14 victim advocates, and 110 support staff. This represents a nearly 100 percent increase in total staff since 2016.

Throughout the year, our dedicated staff, many of whom are Staten Islanders, remained committed to making our communities safer while holding criminals accountable and ensuring justice for victims of crime and their loved ones.

In fact, Staten Island remains the safest community of its size in the country and our office boasts one of the highest conviction rate in the five boroughs. This is a testament to the tireless work done by the prosecutors and staff who make up RCDA’s bureaus and units working together with our partners in the NYPD.
Trials Bureau
The Trials Bureau is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of many violent felony crimes, including murder, felony assault, hate crime, vehicular crime, robbery, burglary, and arson. The Trials Bureau is composed of the Hate Crimes Unit, Vehicular Crimes Unit, and Juvenile Justice Unit. It now also includes the Firearms and Gangs Unit.

Notable Trials Bureau Cases

Staten Island Man Sentenced to More Than 23 Years to Life in Prison for Killing Ex-Wife

Dramatic court video: Killer of S.I. teacher chokes back tears, says ‘I’m sorry for everything.’ Then judge hits him hard.

Credit: silive.com

Following the tragic and horrific murder of teacher, mother, and beloved Staten Islander Jeannine Cammarata, RCDA was successful in holding her killer accountable. Following a jury trial, defendant Michael Cammarata was found guilty and sentenced to 23 years to life in prison for second-degree murder, as well as consecutive terms of 16 months to four years each for evidence tampering and concealing a human corpse. This defendant committed an unimaginable act of violence, forever robbing the world of a bright light that had shined in the lives of the victim’s children, her students, and countless others, but our tireless work to prosecute this case ensured the defendant was held fully accountable for this calculated and cold-hearted crime. The case was prosecuted by ADAs Adam Silberlight and Timothy Richard.

Staten Island Man Sentenced to 25 Years to Life in Prison for Fatally Shooting Acquaintance Outside Bar

Credit: silive.com

Combating gun violence and safeguarding our communities from violent crime will always be of the utmost priority. While homicides and shootings were up citywide, here on Staten Island, we saw a 30% drop in homicides and a 10% drop in shooting incidents. Part of our strategy on preventing violent crime is precision prosecution. In 2021, we successfully prosecuted many serious firearm and homicide cases, notably the prosecution of this defendant, Francis Batama, who was found guilty at trial of second-degree murder and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for fatally shooting an acquaintance outside a bar on Staten Island. The case was prosecuted by ADAs Mark Palladino and Kate Malloy.
Driver Sentenced to up to 12 Years in Prison for Fatal Crash That Killed Woman

RCDA’s Vehicular Crimes Unit is dedicated to investigating and prosecuting vehicular crimes, with this Unit regularly responding in person to serious crash scenes to conduct a thorough investigation to ensure justice can be served for victims and our roads made safer. Defendant Jahfare Ford pleaded guilty to second-degree manslaughter in connection with the death of Tierra Eddy, who was tragically killed when the defendant crashed his car into the victim. He was sentenced to four to 12 years in prison. The case was prosecuted by ADAs Frank Prospero and Mark Palladino.

Defendant Convicted of Hate Crime for Racist Graffiti on Campaign Posters

A Staten Island was convicted of a hate crime for scrawling racist graffiti on the campaign posters of North Shore City Council candidates. Defendant Ralph Tedesco pleaded guilty to a felony count of fourth-degree criminal mischief as a hate crime, facing prison time unless he completes racial-insensitivity treatment. RCDA takes hate crimes incredibly seriously and our Hate Crimes Unit is committed to thoroughly investigating these troubling cases and prosecuting all hate crimes to the full extent of the law, never allowing a defendant to plead guilty to any charge less than a hate crime. The case was prosecuted by ADA Mark Palladino.

Bank Robbery Defendants Sentenced to up to 12 Years in Prison

Defendants Dennis Rivera and Anthony Giovanniello pleaded guilty to robbery charges and were sentenced to a total of six to 12 years in prison for stealing $17,000 over the course of four bank robberies on Staten Island, one at gunpoint, during a crime spree in 2020. Keeping our communities and local businesses safe is crucial to the success of our borough, and we will continue to prosecute those individuals who threaten hardworking Staten Islanders. The case was prosecuted by ADA Adam Silberlight.
Narcotics-Investigations Bureau

RCDA remains committed to prosecuting drug dealers who are responsible for flooding our communities with deadly narcotics and destroying the lives of those suffering from addiction illness. Our Narcotics-Investigations Bureau is responsible for investigating dozens of drug cases during the year, working with our partners in the NYPD as well as those in state and federal law enforcement. Together, we work tirelessly to stem the tide of illegal drugs into our communities and hold serious drug dealers accountable.

Our Narcotics-Investigations Bureau is also tasked with overseeing RCDA’s Overdose Response Initiative, which DA McMahon created in 2016 to investigate all overdoses as a crime scene to trace back the source of the drugs and work to take down large-scale drug rings operating on Staten Island. These investigations have led to the arrest and prosecution of dozens of drug dealers and continues to lead to new investigations. Due to its success, ORI has been expanded and is the model for all 5 boroughs in New York City to investigate drug overdoses.

The Narcotics-Investigations Bureau is also comprised of the Cyber Crimes Unit and Animal Cruelty Prosecution Unit.

Staten Island Overdose Deaths 2016-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2021 Overdoses

There were at least 249 overdoses in 2021, that we are currently aware of and investigating–107 deaths and 142 saves.

When the final DOHMH numbers are released for 2021, we expect the fatality number to be much higher.

Fentanyl and fentanyl analogues were present in 80% of overdose fatalities in 2020.
Notable Narcotics-Investigation Bureau Cases

Staten Island Man Sentenced to Eight Years in Prison Following Major Drug Ring Takedown

Defendant Jahcaiy Moore took over a major drug-dealing ring operating on Staten Island following the arrest and prosecution of his father, Damien Rice, who was previously sentenced to 16 years in prison. Following a long-term investigation by RCDA and the NYPD, Moore was among 10 defendants arrested and indicted on varying charges of conspiracy, felony drug sale and related counts for their alleged roles in the drug organization. He pleaded guilty to a felony drug charge and was sentenced to eight years in prison for his actions selling large quantities of drugs throughout our borough. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Carrie Low, John Hall, and Timothy Pezzoli.

Takedown of Drug Ring Inside Hotel on Staten Island Where Fatal Overdoses Occurred

This long-term RCDA and NYPD investigation into overdoses being reported inside the Richmond Hotel located at 71 Central Avenue led to the takedown of a drug ring that was operating from their hotel rooms. Our office and the NYPD work closely together to investigate all overdoses in order to uncover large-scale drug operations such as the one that was operating inside this hotel. Following the takedown, three individuals were arrested and indicted on various felony drug and weapons charges.

Defendants Sentenced to Prison for Selling Cocaine on Staten Island

Defendant Keenan McMaster was sentenced to six years in prison and co-defendant Raheem Smith was sentenced to nine years in prison following a long-term drug investigation in which the pair sold cocaine to undercover police officers on multiple occasions in various locations near entertainment and shopping centers and schools across the North Shore, as well as in parts of the Mid-Island. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Carrie Low and John Hall.

Defendant Convicted for Selling Large Quantities of Cocaine on Staten Island

Following an investigation by the NYPD and RCDA, defendant Richard Jackson was sentenced to six years in prison for selling large quantities of crack cocaine nine times to undercover officers on Staten Island. Our office remains committed to working closely with our partners in the NYPD to investigate those who peddle poison in our communities and vigorously prosecute these cases. The case was prosecuted by ADAs Matthew Signorile and Michele Molfetta, Chief of the Narcotics-Investigations Bureau.
Firearms and Gang Violence Unit

The Firearms and Gang Violence Unit was created by District Attorney McMahon to investigate and prosecute cases involving firearms and gang violence as part of the office’s continued effort to combat shootings and other violent crime on Staten Island. In addition to handling all felony gun cases, including homicides committed with a firearm, the Unit works to identify drivers of violence to reduce the incidence of street crime in our communities.

Defendant Responsible for Shooting on City Bus is Sentenced to Seven Years in Prison for Attempted Murder.

Defendant Kameek Salinsky shot and wounded a victim exiting a City bus, not only endangering the victim’s life but also passengers and the bus operator. Following a thorough investigation, this defendant pleaded guilty to attempted murder and was sentenced to seven years in prison for his callous actions, which seriously endangered the lives of others. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Signorile.

Nine Year Prison Sentence for Defendant Convicted of Weapons Possession

Defendant Anthony Lawrence pleaded guilty to second-degree criminal weapon possession and was sentenced to nine years in prison following an incident in which he fired a gun at another person on a residential street. There were no injuries in this incident, but our office takes all gun crimes incredibly seriously and will continue to work gun offenses are vigorously prosecuted. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kate Malloy, Firearms and Gang Violence Unit Chief.

Domestic Violence Bureau

RCDA’s Domestic Violence Bureau handles nearly 2,000 domestic violence related offenses each year. These serious crimes account for a large portion of the felony assaults we see on Staten Island, with 63.2 percent of all cases involving domestic violence, and domestic violence also contributes to many other crimes handled by our office.

Since 2016, RCDA has implemented several new initiatives focused on prosecuting domestic violence offenders and helping survivors, including:

- Advocated and pushed for an expedited opening of the newly named William L. Murphy NYC Family Justice Center, which opened ahead of schedule in June 2016 and has since grown to help and provide resources to more domestic violence victims on Staten Island.
- Created a Domestic Violence Bureau, where there are now 13 ADAs who are specially trained in trauma-informed practices and handle cases vertically, meaning that the same ADA handles the case from beginning to end, which creates continuity and lessens the trauma for the victim of the criminal justice process. In 2021, the DV Bureau had the highest conviction rate and lowest dismissal rate in the city.
- Implemented best practice of e-corroborations for victim statements, which encourages early direct engagement with victims and our office.
- Created a Victim Services Unit and more than doubled the number of victim advocates in the office.
- Started the Early Victim Engagement program, which connects victims with an advocate and the services of the Family Justice Center before an arrest is made.
Engaged in community outreach and public awareness campaigns centered around providing information and resources to domestic violence victims.

Funded and supported a high-risk victims’ services program with Community Health Action Staten Island (CHASI), that focuses on intimate partner victims who have been victim to strangulation which is a predictive crime for homicides involving domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy

RCDA has a strong commitment to advocating on behalf of domestic violence survivors, sponsoring several community-oriented events during the year, and particularly during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

This year, RCDA held another Day of Action, where volunteers from the DA’s office set out across Staten Island, posting flyers with resources for victims of domestic violence in the windows of local businesses. Volunteers engaged the public and offered information about resources available to anyone experiencing domestic violence while also gathering donations for RCDA’s Emergency Survival Kit Supply Drive, which includes personal hygiene items and basic needs toiletries for victims.
**Resources for Domestic Violence Survivors:**

**The NYC William L. Murphy Family Justice Center:**

Renamed in honor of former Staten Island DA William Murphy, who championed many early domestic violence initiatives while in office, is located at 126 Stuyvesant Place. The NYC William L. Murphy Family Justice Center offers vital services including immediate safety planning, shelter assistance, legal consultations, counseling sessions, case management sessions, mental health counseling, and more. All services are free, confidential, and available to survivors of intimate partner and family violence, stalking, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and elder abuse. People of all ages, sexual orientations, and gender identities, regardless of language spoken, income, or immigration status are welcome. They can be reached at (718) 697-4300 Monday through Friday 9am-5pm.

For evenings and weekends, survivors can call NYC’s 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-621-4673), to access assistance with immediate safety planning, shelter assistance and community resources. Survivors with access to the internet can visit nyc.gov/NYCHOPE for additional resources and information. Survivors are additionally encouraged to call NYC Well (1-888-692-9355) for help with stress and anxiety, as well as to call 911 for emergencies.

**Notable Domestic Violence Cases**

**Husband Who Fatally Shot Wife Sentenced to 22 Years in Prison**

Prosecuting domestic violence cases, holding abusers accountable, and delivering justice to victims and their loved ones is at the heart of what the Domestic Violence Bureau does every day. In this case, our DV Bureau secured a conviction of defendant Kevin Smith, who pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter for fatally shooting his wife inside their home. He was sentenced to 22 years in prison for committing this horrific act of violence. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Victoria Levin and Timothy Richard.

**Staten Island Man Sentenced To 10 Years in Prison for Holding Ex-Girlfriend and Family at Gunpoint**

Defendant Leonardo Brown was sentenced to ten years in prison and five years post release supervision after pleading guilty to Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree. This case involved a harrowing incident in which the defendant was accused of terrorizing his ex-girlfriend, her children, and other relatives with a firearm. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Joshua Freeman.

**Defendant Sentenced to Ten Years in Jail in Domestic Violence Incident**

Defendant Shawn Younger, charged with attempted murder of his girlfriend after he beat her profusely and stabbed her multiple times, causing her severe injuries, all while their two-year-old child was in the room. The defendant pleaded guilty to first-degree assault and was sentenced to ten years in prison, with our office’s DV Bureau working tirelessly on this case to achieve justice for the brutalized victim. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jeanine Ruggiero.
Staten Island Man Convicted of Stabbing 83-year-old Father

Defendant Pavel Geller pleaded guilty to first degree attempted assault for stabbing his 83-year-old father multiple times. Our office takes all domestic violence cases incredibly seriously, with this defendant receiving a sentence of six years in jail for committing these acts of violence. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Victoria Levin.

Special Victims Bureau

The Special Victims Bureau works in the pursuit of justice for our Island’s most precious citizens: Our elders, children, and those with disabilities. Prosecutors in SVB are specially trained to make certain victims are afforded the utmost care and attention, while those who stand accused of a crime are held fully accountable for their actions.

This includes investigating and prosecuting sex crimes, child abuse and neglect, child pornography, human trafficking, and crimes that target other vulnerable populations, including the elderly.

Additionally, at the Child Advocacy Center, Assistant District Attorneys work closely with advocates, the NYPD, ACS, and doctors in investigating and prosecuting child sexual and physical abuse.

Notable SVB Cases

Staten Island Man Sentenced to 27 Years in Prison for Sexually Abusing Children

Due to the tireless work of our office’s Special Victims Bureau, defendant Courtland Lovelace was convicted of committing a series of abhorrent crimes against children. He was sentenced to 27 years in prison and seven years’ post-release supervision stemming from three convictions at trial. The case was prosecuted by ADAs Rhiannon La Tour and Toniann Tuccio.

Jail For Staten Island Man Convicted of Sex Crime

Our office’s Special Victims Bureau is committed to following a case to the very end, always working tirelessly to ensure justice on behalf of the victim no matter the challenges that arise in these often-sensitive cases. Following a jury trial, defendant Naflan Doole was found guilty of felony third-degree criminal sexual act as well as attempted third-degree rape and two counts of forcible touching for his actions against the victim in this case. The judge sentenced the defendant to two and a half years in jail, followed by 5 years post release supervision. The case was prosecuted by ADA Amir Fadl.
Expanding and Upgrading Special Victim Services

RCDA and our partners in the NYPD remain committed to upholding and strengthening our ability to respond effectively to survivors. To that end, we were proud to recently have space in the NYPD’s Special Victims Unit in our building renovated to better serve the public and those in need of our services. These upgraded facilities include a new waiting room and two new interview rooms designed to be more welcoming and staffed by sensitive, competent, and dedicated professionals. Additional renovations include:

- New wing that was previously not allocated for the Special Victims Division
- Proximity to DA’s office located on an upper floor
- Safe Horizon Child Advocacy Center and ACS representatives are in a connected space
- Designated child friendly waiting room and Victim Interview Rooms
- Designated spacious interview rooms with natural light
- Comfortable furniture designed with the victim in mind
- Aesthetic improvements – welcoming signage, art, paint, plants

Staten Island Comprehensive Sexual Assault Plan

In 2021, RCDA renewed its partnership with the College of Staten Island, Wagner College and St. John’s University to make all survivor and investigative services available to the Title IX coordinator at each school should a survivor wish to pursue an investigation. Under this agreement, counseling, medical resources, discussion of legal options, and a dedicated support person to help guide a survivor through the criminal justice system will all be made available if the survivor wishes to report the incident. A meeting with an RCDA Victim Services advocate for assistance and counseling will be available even if a survivor chooses not to file a report.
Staten Island SAFE Program
The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Program is located at Richmond University Medical Center and consists of 24 nurses specially trained to recognize trauma. Working with our office, the SAFE program provides special care to sexual assault patients and connects their stories with the District Attorney’s office and other groups that can support survivors of violence and abuse.

RUMC’s SAFE program is embedded in their emergency department, located at 355 Bard Avenue, Staten Island. Services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For assistance and additional information, call 718-818-2995 or 718-818-1151.

Additional services for survivors include:

- **SAFE Horizon**: Provides advocacy, crisis counseling and supportive services
- **The Special Victims Unit of the New York City Police Department**: Will investigate cases, if individuals choose to report their assault.
- **Staten Island Child Advocacy Center (CAC)**: All cases involving children ages of 17 and under are reported to the CAC for additional services and investigation.

Elder Abuse Unit
The Elder Abuse Unit investigates and prosecutes crimes committed against senior citizens, including both financial and physical crimes. This Unit was created to help protect our vulnerable fellow Staten Islanders amid a rise in crimes targeting the elderly.

In fact, a study from the Department for the Aging (DFTA) and other organizations found that 76 in 1,000 older New York state residents were victims of elder abuse during a one-year period.

In addition to investigating and prosecuting crimes against the elderly, the Elder Abuse Unit also works closely with RCDA’s Community Partnership Unit to raise awareness of the types of scams and crimes that typically target seniors on Staten Island. Often, these involve phone scams and various types of financial fraud.

Economic Crimes Bureau
The Economic Crimes Bureau, created under DA McMahon, prosecutes cases of fraud, grand larceny, wage theft, and many other financial crimes. This includes cases of entitlement fraud such as Medicaid or unemployment fraud, construction fraud including the prosecution of construction site fatalities, and theft of goods or services.

Additionally, the Economic Crimes Bureau assists the office by seeking the forfeiture of funds which were earned via illegal activity. Some of these assets come back to our office, to be used in furthering the Office’s mission of preventing crime before it happens.

Additionally, this bureau works closely with our office’s Community Partnership Unit to investigate tips regarding scams or other types of financial fraud while also working to educate the public about best ways to protect against scams. The bureau also includes the office’s Public Corruption Unit.
Public Corruption Unit

DA McMahon created RCDA’s first Public Corruption Unit to investigate and prosecute crimes of corruption involving government employees or other individuals working on behalf of the state or city. This Unit is committed to rooting out these crimes and prosecuting all egregious acts of government fraud and malfeasance on Staten Island.

Notable Economic Crimes Bureau Cases

Staten Island man indicted in multi-million-dollar unemployment fraud scheme

After receiving numerous complaints from Staten Islanders claiming their information was being used to apply for unemployment benefits, our Economic Crimes Bureau began investigating defendant, Deji Adetimirin. It was later discovered he allegedly used the identities of 170 unknowing victims to file false claims in order to attempt to collect $3.2 million in unemployment benefits. Thanks to our office’s Economic Crimes Bureau, we were able to detect his alleged scheme and put an early end to it. He now faces numerous charges including first-degree attempted grand larceny, first-degree identity theft and second-degree falsifying business records.

Five Individuals Arrested and Indicted for Participating in Million-Dollar Gift Card Fraud Scheme

This long-term investigation, led by our Economic Crimes Bureau and Detective Investigators, put an end to a million-dollar gift card scheme that was being carried out on Staten Island. From July 2021 to September 2021, the defendants allegedly engaged in a million-dollar scheme which included illegally obtaining gift cards by using information previously stolen from American Express account holders. To “wash” the stolen gift cards, the defendants allegedly used the illegally obtained cards to purchase legitimate Apple gift cards. The defendants would then use the Apple gift cards to purchase Apple products from the Apple Store in the Staten Island Mall. As a result of this investigation, five individuals were arrested and charged with various felonies. RCDA will always remain vigilant against scams and other schemes, and we encourage anyone who thinks they have been a victim of a scam to contact our office.

Parole Officer Convicted of Forging Records of Visits to Parolees

Following an investigation by RCDA’s Public Corruption Unit, Parole Officer Joseph Poser was convicted of forging records of visits for four parolees he was supervising on Staten Island, including two who served time for murders in Brooklyn. In this case, the defendant completely neglected his duties by failing to properly monitor at least four parolees under his supervision and then allegedly attempted to cover it up by submitting false paperwork to his superiors. The defendant pleaded guilty to tampering with public records and was sentenced to one year in jail. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Chananie, Unit Chief, Public Corruption Unit, and Jeffrey Curiale, Bureau Chief, Economic Crimes Bureau.
Conviction Integrity Review Unit
Under DA McMahon’s leadership, RCDA created its first Conviction Integrity Review Unit to review past convictions to ensure justice was properly handed down for all defendants. This work enhances the community’s trust in the criminal justice system and our ability to pursue justice without bias. As prosecutors, we have a legal obligation and an ethical duty to ensure that the right person is convicted for the crime charged. Justice depends on us not only correcting these past mistakes but working diligently to avoid the same errors from happening again.

In 2021, RCDA delivered justice for multiple defendants following thorough reviews by our Conviction Integrity Review Unit.

In one case, DA McMahon agreed to vacate the 1997 murder conviction of Grant Williams (pictured above), who was incarcerated for 23 years for the homicide of Shdoll Lewis on Staten Island. Mr. Williams, 50, was paroled in 2019. The extensive and far-reaching reinvestigation by the Staten Island DA’s office uncovered exculpatory evidence about the case, including numerous credible witnesses who gave testimony to the innocence of Mr. Williams. Additionally, it was discovered that identification procedures used by police at the time did not meet with modern standards or current best practices for ensuring fair and impartial justice. The conviction review was investigated by Assistant District Attorney Wanda DeOliveira, CIRU Chief and Executive ADA For Litigation, and Assistant District Attorney Thomas Ridges, Executive ADA For Investigation, and RCDA Detective Investigators Thomas Joyce and Guy Gazzillo.

In a separate case, RCDA also reduced the 75-to-life sentence of defendant Calvin Taylor, who was convicted on robbery charges in 1994 and sentenced to three consecutive sentences of 25 to life, leaving him with a minimum prison sentence of 75 years. Taylor and his attorney maintained that this sentence was unfairly harsh and should be reduced to ensure he would be eligible for parole in his lifetime. RCDA’s Conviction Integrity Review Unit led a meticulous and exhaustive review of the case and agreed with the Court’s decision to reduce his sentence to 25 to life, giving him the eligibility of parole. The case was investigated by CIRU Chief Wanda DeOliveira and Assistant District Attorney Taylor Goodspeed, finding that the original sentence, in essence, 75 years to life for 3 robberies, was too much and should be reduced in the interest of justice.
Alternatives to Incarceration Unit

Recognizing the need to address underlying causes of crime related to issues such as addiction, mental illness, and poverty remains a priority for RCDA and we are proud to offer numerous diversion programs to eligible participants.

These come with the goal of offering a more productive means of serving justice that is intended to improve the lives of the accused while ensuring they are held accountable and no longer a threat to the safety of our community.

ATI programs serve to help those struggling with substance abuse illness, mental health issues, financial difficulties, and other personal challenges find the help they need to address the root cause of their criminal behavior.

**HOPE Program**

The Heroin Overdose Prevention & Education (HOPE) Program, and its expansions to HOPE 2 and Overdose Avoidance & Recovery (OAR) have continued to show success in diverting individuals with substance use disorder and low-level criminal histories out of the criminal justice system. Launched in 2017, the Heroin Overdose Prevention & Education (HOPE) Program is a first-of-its kind diversion program in New York City that redirects low-level drug offenders in Staten Island, pre-arraignment, to community-based health and treatment services, instead of jail and prosecution. Hundreds more were offered the opportunity to participate in these programs and a high percentage completed successfully in 2021.

RCDA’s HOPE Team is here to help. Our dedicated staff also continues to remain a resource for the community and in particular for those families and individuals who need to be connected with treatment. We have multiple certified CASACs, including a peer recovery coach, who work to connect victims of overdoses and families who do not know where else to turn to receive support and treatment services.

There are resources to help! RCDA’s HOPE team, which includes peer advocates, social workers, and attorneys, is always available to help and we continue to increase outreach efforts.

**The ATI Unit also works with the community on overdose outreach and prevention, launching multiple programs to address this serious need.**

**Helping U Get Safe (HUGS) Program**

RCDA launched the HUGS program in 2020 in partnership with the Staten Island Performing Provider System (SIPPS) and regional community partners to pilot this innovative overdose outreach effort with hopes of assisting individuals with substance use disorder or mental health issues BEFORE they suffer another crisis—overdose, arrest, or suicide. Our team will receive information regarding social determinants of health and will tailor a response team using RCDA staff of partner agencies. These custom teams will connect with the individual and craft a care plan to assist them with all their needs.

**Ripples of Hope Program**

This program focuses on children as victims of the opioid crisis. Our team connects with parents and caregivers of children who have someone in their life with a substance use disorder and links the family to Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

The HOPE team can be reached at 917-334-8019 or by emailing Floyd.Miller@rcda.nyc.gov.

Remember: Don’t give up—help is only a phone call away.
RCDA offers a wide variety of ATI programs. Just some of these programs include:

**Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC)**
*Eligibility:* Felony or Misdemeanor cases where the defendant has charges related to substance abuse or a history of substance abuse

**Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities Mental Health (TASC MH)**
*Eligibility:* Felony or Misdemeanor cases where the defendant has charges related to mental health or a history of mental health

**Community Re-Entry Assistance Network (CRAN)**
*Eligibility:* Felony or Misdemeanor cases where the defendant has a history of mental health issues and an SMI diagnosis, and has been incarcerated in a city jail during the past 2 years

**Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor (SCRAM)**
*Eligibility:* Felony or Misdemeanor cases, primarily DWI, where the defendant has charges related to alcohol abuse or a history of alcohol abuse

**Youth Court**
*Eligibility:* Misdemeanor cases where the defendant is 16 or 17 years old

**Driver Accountability Program (DAP)**
*Eligibility:* Felony or Misdemeanor cases where the defendant charged with a driving-based offense

**Theft Accountability Program (TAP)**
*Eligibility:* Misdemeanor cases where the defendant is charged with petit larceny or other theft related offenses

**Project Reset**
*Eligibility:* Misdemeanor cases where the defendant received a DAT, is charged with specified crimes, and has no more than 2 prior misdemeanor convictions

**Alcohol Treatment Program**
*Eligibility:* Misdemeanor cases where the defendant has charges related to alcohol abuse or a history of alcohol abuse

**Staten Island Drug Treatment Court (SITC)**
*Eligibility:* Felony or Misdemeanor cases where the defendant has charges related to substance abuse or a history of substance abuse

**Staten Island Mental Health Court (MHC)**
*Eligibility:* Felony cases where the defendant has a history of mental health issues and is in need of mental health treatment

**Richmond County Veterans Court (RCV)**
*Eligibility:* Misdemeanor or Felony cases where the defendant is a veteran
Immigrant Affairs Unit

The Immigrant Affairs Unit (IAU) works to investigate and prosecute crimes that target the Staten Island immigrant communities. This Unit leads and participates in various events and workshops to ensure that Staten Islanders from all backgrounds are protected and feel safe.

Additionally, Immigrant Affairs certifies U-Visas for victims of certain designated crimes and also assists other bureaus when dealing with crimes that impact immigrant communities. The Unit also participates in various citywide meetings and are members of task forces with federal, state, and local agencies to ensure the rights of immigrants are protected.

In 2021, IAU continued to process U-Visa and T-Visa applications to assist undocumented witnesses who have cooperated with the prosecution of their cases or been the victims of trafficking crimes.

RCDA IAU led a nationwide training and symposium on April 29, 2021, hosted by the NYC District Attorneys’ Offices on hate crime.

The Immigrant Affairs Unit also hosts in-house Diversity, Equity and Inclusion events and programs.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts

As part of RCDA’s commitment to ensuring fairness and equality in the criminal justice system and to better serve all Staten Islanders, DA McMahon and his office instituted several new policies and partnerships to help enhance RCDA’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts.

These include:

- Partnership with MindOpen Learning Strategies, a Staten Island based consulting organization, to provide training and coaching to RCDA staff to enhance DEI efforts
- Earlier this year we named a Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer and expanded by 200% the number of EEO Counselors in our office. We also sent several leaders to both City-sponsored and privately sponsored EEO & Diversity and Inclusion trainings and virtual conferences.
- Since being named, our new Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer has already established internal affinity groups, hosted multiple staff events highlighting and celebrating our staff diversity, expanded recruitment and outreach efforts nationwide, and created a spotlight page in our weekly office newsletter to promote these ideals.

Appeals Bureau

The Appeals Bureau provides New York’s appellate courts and all federal courts with in-depth written and oral analyses of legal and factual issues arising in a full range of criminal prosecutions.

The Bureau ensures that properly obtained convictions are upheld and that no defect in the trial-level proceedings unduly affects either the public or the accused. Our attorneys have regularly appeared in some of the most highly respected appellate courts in the nation, including the New York Court of Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.
Criminal Court Bureau

Criminal Court Bureau, which operates 365 days a year, is the point of entry for almost all prosecutions conducted by the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office. In 2021, Criminal Court handled more than 5,000 cases.

The Assistant District Attorneys and Legal Support Staff draft criminal complaints and submit cases within 24 hours after an arrest is made, including interviewing witnesses and NYPD officers, and analyzing evidence before conducting arraignments.

Felonies, the most serious level of crime, are screened in Criminal Court and directed to the appropriate bureau or unit within the District Attorney’s Office for eventual prosecution in Supreme Court. All misdemeanors and violations are prosecuted directly in Criminal Court.

Crime Strategies Unit

The Crime Strategies Unit analyzes data to focus prosecutorial resources on crime-drivers in order to reduce criminal activity on Staten Island.

By connecting and processing data from numerous law enforcement partners, utilizing and implementing technological solutions, and providing support and analysis, the Unit targets cases to ensure enhanced prosecutorial outcomes. The unit identifies criminal organizations and crime trends via communication with various law enforcement agencies such as the NYPD, the Department of Parole, and the Department of Probation. The unit consists of analysts and lawyers that provide material support to prosecutors in augmenting cases with technological resources such as mapping, forensic multimedia enhancement, and social media investigations.

Administration Division

The Administration Bureau performs several critical functions that allow the office to effectively serve the people of Staten Island.

Administration staff handles all budget and fiscal planning to ensure our team has the resources to effectively prosecute and prevent crime. The Administration team also handles procurement of goods and services critical to achieving our mission of keeping Staten Islanders safe, as well as the acquisition of grants from local, state, and federal sources.

Detective Investigators Bureau

The RCDA Detective Investigator’s Squad is responsible for responding to the immediate, short and longer term needs of our ADAs and RCDA staff. Our squad is comprised of one Chief Investigator, two Deputy Chief Investigators and 12 Senior Detective Investigators all of whom are sworn Peace Officers and retired members of the NYPD.

Our Detective Investigators respond to various ADA requests including: Locating missing victims and or witnesses; Transportation for victims and or witnesses; Securing court documents including supporting depositions and orders of protection; Serving subpoenas for required court appearance, etc.
Human Capital Division

Human Capital serves as a strategic HR business partner to the Richmond County District Attorney's Office.

Through core HR, talent/workforce management and employee engagement—we cultivate an organizational environment that promotes change and improvement.

Community Partnership Unit

The Community Partnership Unit was created by District Attorney McMahon in an effort to better serve the communities that the Office represents. The Unit serves as the bridge between Staten Islanders and the Office. This includes attending community meetings and events, hosting our own gatherings to inform and protect the public from crime, and developing initiatives to attack a variety of criminal and social problems that our Island faces, notably domestic violence, street crime, and the drug epidemic.
Working With Staten Island Communities to Combat Gun Violence

**DA's Office and Partners Host Gun Buy Back Events for Staten Island**

Working with the NYPD and our community partners, RCDA was proud to host more gun buyback events for Staten Island in 2021. As a result of these events, dozens of firearms were safely collected and removed from the streets. Community members are welcome to attend future events, where they can anonymously trade in their old firearms in exchange for various pre-paid gift cards and other items.

**Neighborhood Action Plans**

In response to a troubling rise in shootings and other serious violent crimes on Staten Island, RCDA began working with our partners in the NYPD and the community to develop and implement new and effective crime fighting strategies. This includes putting neighborhood action plans into practice, working with community leaders, local organizations, and violence interrupter groups to bring about tangible improvements to communities traditionally facing higher rates of gang and street violence. Not only do we continue to investigate and prosecute gun crimes, we are also trying to improve conditions and the overall wellness of those communities that are most vulnerable and susceptible to a sense of lawlessness.

RCDA's Neighborhood Action Plans have resulted in:

- Gun buybacks to prevent firearms from falling into the wrong hands.
- Dozens of graffiti removal and litter cleanups at sites across different target neighborhoods.
- Led outreach for domestic violence victims.
- Developed new youth-oriented athletic and educational programing, including:
  - Launching RCDA's Youth Advisory Council;
  - Working with our partners to expand the popular Saturday Night Lights program to even more Staten Island communities;
  - We also continue to hold regular community convening meetings to discuss topics ranging from gun violence to juvenile justice, to mental health, to economic and job security, to drug abuse and alternatives to incarceration, and so much more, all while soliciting community input as to how RCDA can better serve Staten Island.
Community Anti-Drug Initiatives

Hotspotting the Opioid Crisis

In the face of an unprecedented 50% increase in overdose deaths across the United States, the Staten Island Performing Provider System (SI PPS) and RCDA joined our partners to announce a game-changing $4 million investment to combat the opioid crisis, funded both by Northwell Health and by a $3 million grant from the Secure Future Project and its founders.

The grant launches “Hotspotting the Opioid Crisis,” a data-driven program designed to provide high-risk individuals with peer-centered, recovery-focused care. This program is implemented by SI PPS alongside local treatment providers and the Office of the Richmond County District Attorney, with the goal of providing care before, not after, an opioid overdose.

In collaboration with the MIT Sloan School of Management, SI PPS has developed a predictive algorithm to focus the initiative’s efforts on community members who are most at risk of suffering from an overdose.

Many of these individuals have been inadequately engaged in care, have left treatment programs, or have been impacted by system-wide issues such as a lack of access to in-person services. The “Hotspotting the Opioid Crisis” program deploys fully-funded teams whose sole focus will be on preventing opioid harm by engaging and coordinating these high-risk individuals in their recovery journey, thereby improving outcomes and delivering value to the health system.

SIHOPE.org & “Staten Islanders against Drug Abuse” Public Awareness Campaign

Staten Islanders against Drug Abuse is a grassroots public awareness campaign aimed at combating the heroin, fentanyl and opioid epidemic on Staten Island while also providing resources and help to those battling addiction. The initiative includes a one-stop shop website, SIHOPE.org. This online resource was designed for those struggling with addiction, those with a loved one struggling with substance abuse, and those that simply want to get involved to help stop the heroin and opioid epidemic on Staten Island.

As part of this campaign, more than 5,100 “SIHOPE” lawn signs have been placed in public locations throughout Staten Island to help raise awareness of this serious issue.

Faces of HOPE

In an effort to bring more awareness to Staten Island’s drug epidemic, RCDA launched the “Faces of HOPE” initiative to highlight the personal stories of 10 individuals who have suffered from substance abuse but successfully found help through RCDA’s HOPE program. The “Faces of HOPE” series is featured on the SIHOPE.org website.
“MedSafe” Drug Disposal Receptacles

DA McMahon sponsored the installation of “MedSafe” Drug Disposal Receptacles in several pharmacies throughout Staten Island. These bins allow any Staten Islander a secure and environmentally safe way to dispose of any unused medication, preventing them from falling into the wrong hands.

See the flyer for a full listing of MedSafe locations.
Supporting Survivors and Protecting Crime Victims’ Rights

Over the last year, victims of crime have undoubtedly been faced with many serious challenges and they continue to need our help and support. At RCDA, we renew our commitment to seeking justice on behalf of all victims of crime while ensuring that survivors of crime and their families receive the services and support they need, even after their case has been prosecuted and justice served.

While we continue to see policies pushed by our city and state legislators that seem to leave the victims of crime by the wayside in the pursuit of so-called justice, here on Staten Island, we continue to give voice to the voiceless and honor the victims of crime.

Here’s a look at how RCDA supports victims’ rights year-round:

**Victim Services Unit**

Victims of crime are automatically paired with an RCDA Victim Advocate to provide support services to individuals who have witnessed or been victimized by crime on Staten Island. The advocates in this unit are dedicated to empowering and guiding victims and witnesses through the criminal justice process, a critical function of the District Attorney’s office.

In addition to providing other supporting services, these advocates accompany victims to court appearances, discuss safety issues, provide referrals for counseling and other services, and connect victims with resources and benefits they are entitled to as victims of crime.

RCDA’s Victims Services Unit works year-round to provide meaningful resources to victims of crime, helping them from the very start of their case and long after to find support, recovery, and hope.

**National Crime Victims’ Rights Week on Staten Island**

Each year, RCDA is proud to partner with Safe Horizon and the William L. Murphy NYC Family Justice Center to participate and host a series of events focused on supporting crime victims during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week on Staten Island.

The week of victim-focused events culminates with our Annual Crime Victim’s Rights Week Candlelight Vigil. A dedication to the victims of crime, this annual remembrance allows survivors and their families to share their stories and ensure their loved ones are never forgotten.
Standing Up Against Hate Crimes

RCDA not only vigorously prosecutes hate crimes, but our office also works to advocate for the rights of targeted and vulnerable groups and to stand up for communities of all backgrounds on Staten Island.

In response to a rise in hate crimes, RCDA organized a bi-partisan and interfaith rally on the steps of Borough Hall in May 2021 to denounce the wave of hate-based incidents and attacks across our city. The rally included local elected officials, the borough’s NYPD commanding officer, and faith and community leaders.

Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force

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.

Task Force members also serve as ambassadors within their own communities to promote greater understanding of those with diverse identities and experiences and will work with fellow members to accomplish this outside their own communities to educate Staten Islanders of all ages about tolerance and understanding.

More information about HCTF can be found at StatenIslandDA.org/silove/
Bringing Together a United Front Against Acts of Hate

When horrific acts of hate have sadly occurred on Staten Island and throughout the City, the SIHCTF has come together to stand as a united front in solidarity to condemn these acts and uplift our community. Some examples include:

- On May 28, 2019, after someone spray painted the deplorable words “Synagogue of Satan” on a wall of the Chabad of Staten Island, the DA, along with community leaders and other elected officials, came together to denounce these acts and paint over the heinous graffiti.

- On March 30, 2021, the DA attended a vigil with community leaders at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center to support the Asian and Asian-American community and stand in solidarity with them amid rising acts of violence and hate against Asians and Asian-Americans across the United States.

- On May 26, 2021, after a citywide spike in hate crimes, the SIHCTF organized a bipartisan and interfaith press conference on the steps of Borough Hall to condemn these heinous acts.

- On January 17, 2022, after a College of Staten Island student was attacked in Brooklyn for wearing clothing that showed his Jewish heritage and a hostage incident at a synagogue in Texas, the SIHCTF and elected officials from across the Island held a press conference at Borough Hall to denounce the attacks and hateful actions against any ethnicity or religion.

Staten Islanders Against Hate ‘Day of Action’

As part of its Staten Islanders Against Hate campaign, the borough’s Hate Crimes Task Force (HCTF) hosted a “Day of Action” celebrating diversity. RCDA firmly believes that the diversity of our Island makes us stronger, not weaker, and that celebrating these differences is a key component in fighting back against hate, bigotry and intolerance. The event featured live music, a DJ, free food, games, T-shirts and performances from cultures around the world. The HCTF event also encouraged others to spread the message of Staten Islanders Against Hate by encouraging patrons to place its campaign posters and banners throughout the borough.
Citywide Collaborations Against Hate

A couple of years ago, the Mayor’s Office formed a Citywide Hate Crimes Taskforce, which includes representation from the District Attorney’s offices. RCDA staff regularly attends meetings of this taskforce and participates in its collaborative efforts.

Similarly, last year, RCDA joined with the city’s other DA’s offices and the Anti-Defamation League to host a Hate Crimes Symposium that provided continuing legal education credits to lawyers across the country. These efforts are important to help harness the specialization and expertise of prosecutors across New York to educate and help prepare new generations of prosecutors.

Prosecuting Hate Crimes:

At RCDA, we are committed to working tirelessly to prevent hate from spreading on Staten Island. We take all instances of bias and hate crimes incredibly seriously and our Hate Crimes Unit works collaboratively with the New York City Police Department’s (NYPD) Hate Crimes Task Force as well as the NYPD’s Racially and Ethnically Motivated Extremism Unit (“REME”) to thoroughly investigate these troubling cases and prosecute all hate crimes to the full extent of the law.

The seriousness and wide-ranging ramifications of these crimes are why at RCDA we adhere to an internal policy regarding the prosecution of these cases, never allowing a defendant to plead away the hate crime once they have been indicted on a hate crime charge.

In addition to holding perpetrators of hate crimes strictly accountable under this policy, our office’s Hate Crimes Unit is also led and directly supervised by one of our most experienced and senior ADAs, our Executive ADA for Trials and Court Operations.
Cleaning Up Staten Island: Boroughwide Anti-Litter, Graffiti, and Illegal Dumping Initiatives

RCDA Partnership with DSNY To Clean Staten Island and Hold Illegal Dumpers Accountable

Working with NYC Dept. of Sanitation, RCDA was able to assist DSNY with issuing more than 40 enforcement actions against those who illegally dumped their trash and other large debris in our public spaces. These have resulted in summonses totaling approximately $117,775 in fines.

Cleaning Up Litter:

We have also worked together to identify litter-filled public areas, with DSNY teams being deployed for large-scale clean-up and enforcement actions. Due to these actions, multiple large sites on Staten Island were properly cleaned.

RCDA is also proud to partner with many different community groups to organize and participate in numerous community cleanups during the year.
Sanitation police and RCDA issues summonses totaling around $7,000 to a man placing “Cash 4 Cars” stickers on locations across Staten Island.

Investigators from the DA’s office and DSNY began a joint investigation, entitled Operation “Beautify Staten Island,” to locate the alleged perpetrator. Anyone who travels around Staten Island has surely noticed these hideous stickers defacing traffic poles and other public spaces all across our borough. To address this offensive eyesore, investigators from my office and DSNY worked in conjunction to identify and hold accountable the individual allegedly responsible for these illegal postings.

Following this takedown, RCDA, the NYPD, and community groups traveled Staten Island removing these and other signs from our public spaces.

Working With DOT To Stop Illegal Dumping on Our Highways

RCDA worked with the New York State Department of Transportation, the Borough Presidents Office, and Assemblymember Michael Cusick to have new DOT signage installed on the West Shore Expressway notifying drivers that dumping trash and debris along the road is illegal and subject to large fines.

The newly unveiled NYS DOT signs are placed in both directions near the South Avenue exits. As these two locations continued to present challenges, our office asked NYS DOT to step up and install signage to further deter illegal dumping. We are grateful that they agreed and share our mission to prevent, and, when necessary, penalize careless and selfish dumpers who treat the Island as their own personal landfill.
Continuing our Crusade to Clean Up Staten Island with Where to Turn

It is obvious to anyone who drives around our borough that trash, graffiti, and overgrowth are a problem that confronts us all. While we will continue to shame those who think the earth we share is their personal dumping ground, that businesses are a blank canvas for them to destroy, and that landscaping is an optional activity, we are picking up their slack for them.

Thanks to our partnership with Where to Turn, we are cleaning up graffiti and litter wherever we can. Above are a few examples of what we have done recently along Castleton Avenue.

If you have sites that are in need of paint or cleanup, let us know and we can organize an office cleanup, help supply you and your neighbors to join the fight, or have the Where to Turn team address it as soon as possible.

Scam Prevention and Education

In the past few years, we have seen a dramatic uptick in scams which has resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars from Staten Islanders to these schemes. Although scammers target seniors more than any other group, we have seen victims of all ages and demographic groups. It is incredibly frustrating and sad to hear that a hard-working Staten Islander has lost tens of thousands of dollars of their life savings and limited income to these unscrupulous criminals.

Working with our partners in government, and the NYPD, we have been raising public awareness of this issue. Prevention is the best course in these cases, as it remains difficult to track and identify these scammers because of technological barriers and because many of them operate from overseas.

For more information on scams, please visit our website www.statenislandda.org/scams-information

To report scams, call our Scams Hotline at (718) 556-7226 (SCAM) or contact us at: reportscams@rcda.nyc.gov.
Protecting Our Pets

RCDA has taken on several initiatives to keep our pets and animals safe, and we remain committed to prosecuting these serious cases through our Animal Cruelty Prosecution Unit.

The purpose of this Unit is to investigate and prosecute crimes against animals, to highlight and increase awareness of animal abuse, to educate the community about available resources and programs that could prevent neglect, abuse, and injury to animals, and to develop and facilitate relationships with Staten Islanders and local veterinarians to encourage the reporting of animal abuse by speaking for those who have no voice.

The Toby Project

In 2020, RCDA partnered with The Toby Project to provide low-cost spay and neutering services to animals under the care of local rescue organizations in an effort to keep animals safe and also help mitigate the growing feral cat population on Staten Island. Over the past several months, cat colonies have grown exponentially in size due partially to the lack of affordable spay/neuter options caused by the COVID-19 crisis. This partnership between RCDA and The Toby Project seeks to fill the current gap in affordable spay/neuter services for local animal rescue organizations.

Luv on a Leash Program

The Richmond County District Attorney’s Office is happy to continue our partnership with Luv on a Leash, a project of the Pride Center of Staten Island, which is dedicated to placing trained, registered therapy dog teams in meaningful programs throughout Staten Island. Through this partnership, we have been able to utilize therapy dogs to comfort crime victims and witnesses, in order to help them to better cope with the emotional and physical challenges that can arise during the criminal justice process. The therapy dogs also assist our staff at community and school events throughout the year to help teach children and adults about animal cruelty prevention and reporting, in addition to other educational and safety initiatives.

If you are interested in volunteering with Luv on a Leash you can contact them by calling (718) 808-1381 or by visiting their website at www.pridecentersi.org/luv-on-a-leash.
RCDA Youth Programming

Saturday Night Lights
Saturday Night Lights is a youth-development and violence prevention program that is aimed at building trust between law enforcement and the communities they police.

The Staten Island SNL locations are open and available for our young people to play basketball, soccer, dance, football, and so much more, every Saturday from 5pm-9pm.

Staten Island already had two Saturday Night Lights locations — PS 44 and IS 49. However, the program was expanded to six new buildings:

- Mariners Harbor Cornerstone
  157 Brabant Street

- PS 18
  221 Broadway

- Berry Homes Cornerstone
  211 Jefferson Street

- Broadway YMCA
  651 Broadway

- Richmond Terrace Community Center
  71 Jersey Street

- Gerard Carter Center
  230 Broad Street

RCDA Youth Advisory Council
Recognizing the perspective, strength, and conviction of voices of our younger generation, we launched an RCDA Youth Advisory Council that is comprised of about two dozen diverse young Staten Islanders (ages 14-20). The YAC is designed as a place for youth to share their ideas and vision for the needs and problems facing the community, to develop initiatives to deal with those needs, and also for our office to help give them a chance to better connect with their community through service and learning opportunities, exposure to mentors, résumé building, and expanded knowledge of the criminal justice system.
Anti-Bullying Initiative

RCDA’s “Step Up. Step Forward. Stop Bullying” Campaign was started in 2016 to bring awareness to the issue of bullying. Each year, RCDA holds an art contest that allows elementary and middle school students to showcase the feelings and experiences around bullying. Due to its success, the program was expanded in 2018 by providing posters to places where parents and their children frequent such as doctor’s offices, libraries, supermarkets, laundromats, schools, and other public spaces to get this critically important conversation out into the open on Staten Island. The campaign was once again held in 2021.
# RCDA OVERVIEW

## RCDA Leadership

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Attorney</td>
<td>Michael E. McMahon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief of Staff</td>
<td>Ashleigh Owens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief Assistant District Attorney</td>
<td>Timothy Koller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive ADA for Investigations</td>
<td>Thomas Ridges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive ADA for Litigation</td>
<td>Wanda DeOliveira</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive ADA for Trials &amp; Court Operations</td>
<td>Mark Palladino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive ADA for Special Victims &amp; Pathways to Justice</td>
<td>Tuesday Muller-Mondi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Advisor</td>
<td>Yolanda Rudich</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Bureau and Unit Leaders

### RCDA Bureaus & Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bureau</th>
<th>Chief/Supervisor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narcotics-Investigations Bureau</td>
<td>Michele Molfetta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence Bureau</td>
<td>Victoria Levin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Crimes Bureau</td>
<td>Gregg Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Victims Bureau</td>
<td>Rhiannon La Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trials Bureau</td>
<td>Adam Silberlight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Court Bureau</td>
<td>Darren Albanese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeals Bureau</td>
<td>Morrie Kleinbart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elder Abuse Unit</td>
<td>Rhiannon La Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Firearms and Gangs Unit</td>
<td>Kate Malloy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Corruption Unit</td>
<td>Jonathan Chananie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant Affairs Unit</td>
<td>Euna Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigations Division Chief</td>
<td>Jeffrey Curiale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Cruelty Prosecution Unit</td>
<td>Travis Atkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conviction Integrity Review Unit</td>
<td>Wanda DeOliveira</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Unit</td>
<td>Jason Cohen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juvenile Justice Unit</td>
<td>Antonia Assenso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicular Crimes Unit</td>
<td>Nicholas Agostino</td>
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<td>Cybercrimes Unit</td>
<td>Matthew Signorile</td>
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### Non-Legal Bureaus & Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Supervisor/Coordinator</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victim Services Unit</td>
<td>Nicole Rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternatives to Incarceration Unit</td>
<td>Amanda Wexler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Partnership Unit &amp; Intergovernmental Affairs</td>
<td>Andrew Crawford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Bureau</td>
<td>Monique Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Fiscal Officer</td>
<td>Matthew Morea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Procurement</td>
<td>Belkis Palacios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Director</td>
<td>Ellen Brennan Hearn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Support Unit</td>
<td>Maria Scarna</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detective Investigators</td>
<td>Dave Nilsen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Director</td>
<td>Rob Lenza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities Supervisor</td>
<td>Colin Thorne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Worn Camera Unit</td>
<td>Michael Genoino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Ryan Lavis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case &amp; Data Management</td>
<td>Lisa Deforte</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>