OFFICE OF THE
RICHMOND COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
MICHAEL E. MCMAHON

2022
ANNUAL
REPORT
TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM RICHMOND COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY MICHAEL E. MCMAHON ........ 3

PART I: Overview: Crime on Staten Island ................................................................. 6
  ◗ 2022 Gun Violence in Review .............................................................................. 7
  ◗ Demanding Our Lawmakers Confront Reality and Fix City and State Criminal Justice Laws to Restore Public Safety ......................................................... 8
  ◗ Our Advocacy for Needed, Critical Fixes to Bail Reform, Discovery Laws, and Raise the Age .......................................................... 9

Part II: RCDA Bureaus & Units: Fighting for Justice and Accountability Through Precision Prosecution ................................................................. 10
  ◗ Trials Division ...................................................................................................... 11
  ◗ Narcotics-Investigations Bureau ........................................................................ 14
  ◗ Firearms and Gang Violence Unit ..................................................................... 16
  ◗ Domestic Violence Division ............................................................................. 18
  ◗ Special Victims Bureau ..................................................................................... 21
  ◗ Elder Abuse Unit ............................................................................................... 23
  ◗ Economic Crimes Bureau ................................................................................ 24
  ◗ Public Corruption Unit ....................................................................................... 26
  ◗ Conviction Integrity Review Unit ..................................................................... 28
  ◗ Alternatives to Incarceration Unit ................................................................. 28
  ◗ Immigrant Affairs Unit ...................................................................................... 32
  ◗ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts ........................................................... 32
  ◗ Appeals Bureau ................................................................................................. 33
  ◗ Criminal Court Bureau ..................................................................................... 34
  ◗ Crime Strategies Unit ......................................................................................... 34
  ◗ Administration Bureau ....................................................................................... 34
  ◗ Detective Investigators Bureau .......................................................................... 34
  ◗ Community Partnership Unit .......................................................................... 35
    – Working with Staten Island Communities to Combat Gun Violence .................. 35
    – Community Anti-Drug Initiatives ................................................................... 36
    – Protecting Our Fellow Staten Islanders from Property Crime .......................... 38
    – Supporting Survivors and Protecting the Rights of Crime Victims .................. 40
    – Standing Up Against Hate Crimes .............................................................. 41
– Cleaning Up Staten Island: Boroughwide Anti-Litter, Graffiti, and Illegal Dumping Initiatives . . . 45
– Scam Prevention and Education ................................................................. 47
– Protecting Our Pets ............................................................................. 47
– RCDA Youth Programming .................................................................. 49

Part III: RCDA Overview ........................................................................ 52
▷ RCDA Leadership .................................................................................. 52
▷ Bureau and Unit Leaders ..................................................................... 52
The year 2022 brought an exceptional number of challenges but also many successes in the District Attorney’s office. As we look to the future, we proudly recommit ourselves to the people of Staten Island and pledge our steadfastness in delivering on our essential mission: keeping you, your families, and our neighborhoods safe.

Make no mistake, 2022, and frankly the past several years, have been a difficult time for those of us working in law enforcement. Ever-increasing demands have been met with insufficient resources and manpower, all while reckless elected officials have chosen to play politics with our public safety, tying one hand behind the backs of those of us charged with keeping you safe. Policies from so-called “bail reform,” Raise the Age, and discovery reform, coupled with a lack of effective prosecution in the other boroughs have combined to erode public safety.

We know that you and your loved ones are feeling it. Trust us, we are too.

Yet while it is easy to become discouraged, our prosecutors, detective investigators and our entire staff at RCDA continue to fight tirelessly to uphold a different reality here on Staten Island, where those who break the law are held accountable and justice is pursued on behalf of the victims of crime. We refuse to allow our city to be dragged back to the days of murder and mayhem and continue to stand against progressive propaganda and legislative lunacy that threatens the safety of our Island.

The fact is: Staten Island remains the safest community of approximately 500,000 people in the entire country. That does not happen by accident. Here on Staten Island, serious crime is always met with serious consequences.

Our office proudly requests bail and jail on every case that involves an illegal firearm and we prosecute those who carry, brandish, or fire illegal weapons to the full extent of the law. In just this year alone, my office, working with our partners in the NYPD, removed hundreds of firearms off our streets through effective prosecution and our Cash for Guns programs, all while working with anti-violence groups to attack the root causes of gun violence as well. We also launched and have proudly made 65% of the entire City’s “Extreme Risk Protection Order” applications to ensure dangerous individuals do not have access to firearms, despite only being 5% of the City’s population.

We have no tolerance for those who have terrorized our neighborhoods by breaking into and stealing our cars, or worse, breaking into our homes. Often, these brazen crooks are juveniles coming to our streets from outside Staten Island, yet because of the ill-conceived “Raise the Age” laws, we are too often unable to prosecute these cases. However, when these defendants do come into court, we aggressively pursue top charges and seek prison time when appropriate.

Meanwhile, fentanyl has ravaged and destroyed an untold number of lives on Staten Island, wreaking havoc on countless families across

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our borough. Capable of delivering death in an instant, fentanyl was responsible for nearly 80% of all fatal overdoses on Staten Island in 2022 and throughout the country since 2020. While we continue to aggressively prosecute those who peddle this poison, raise awareness through educational campaigns, and investigate each and every overdose death that occurs on Staten Island, fentanyl’s destructive emergence warrants an emergency-level response and we continue to urge all levels of government to join us in treating this five-alarm fire with the audacious, resolute, and swift response it deserves.

With that said, we also know we cannot arrest and prosecute our way out of all of society’s problems. Part of running a 21st century prosecutor’s office requires the fundamental understanding that crime prevention is also a critical part of our mission. A shining example of this philosophy is our approach to low-level offenders struggling with addiction. **Through our Heroin Overdose Prevention and Education (HOPE) program, which was recognized by the White House as a model for the nation in combatting the drug epidemic,** we have diverted thousands of Staten Islanders out of the criminal justice system and into meaningful and often life-saving treatment and recovery programs.

**We remain laser focused on improving and responding to quality-of-life issues** for the residents of Staten Island. In 2022, our office hosted and sponsored **dozens of community cleanups removing litter, graffiti, illegal signs and more** in an effort to connect with the communities we serve, instill pride in those neighborhoods, and improve overall living conditions for Staten Islanders in an attempt to mitigate crime.

Our office also continued its **leading role in combating intolerance and the troubling rise in hate crimes seen not only on Staten Island but across our city and country as well.** While we have and always will vigorously prosecute hate crimes, our office has taken proactive steps to prevent future hate-inspired acts through our Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force and campaigns like “Staten Islanders Against Hate.” As the proud Co-Chair of the Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force and as your District Attorney, I believe it is incumbent upon all leaders to unequivocally denounce hateful behavior wherever and whenever it occurs.

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We will continue to do so while working alongside the NYPD to conduct swift, thorough, and complete investigations and bring justice to the victims of crime as we seek to do in each and every matter brought to our attention.

While we are proud of our record and all we have accomplished for Staten Islanders, we know that we must drive crime back down to pre-COVID levels, and even lower. Unfortunately, thanks to pro-criminal policies passed across our state, recidivism has been allowed to run rampant while fentanyl has claimed the lives of more Americans than ever. **These are five-alarm fires which threaten the public safety of all New Yorkers and warrant an emergency level response.**

Much must be done to reverse these terrible developments, starting first with a long-overdue and desperately needed significant increase in the number of police officers and detectives assigned to Staten Island. The year 2022 saw less uniformed NYPD personnel assigned to our borough than there were in the 1960s, despite our population more than doubling in that time. Without sufficient NYPD manpower to deter, investigate, and apprehend lawbreakers, and the necessary prosecutors to finish the job in the courtroom, we simply cannot do our best possible work in fighting crime. Until real fixes are made, we will continue to speak and demonstrate as loudly as possible to Governor Hochul and Albany legislators to remedy the so-called reforms which have made our city, state, and borough less safe, and continue our advocacy for investments in technology and improvements to our laws to beat back the fentanyl crisis that has claimed the lives of far too many of our loved ones.

Lastly, while it is an honor and privilege to serve the people of Staten Island as your district attorney, none of this would be possible without the office’s over 200 dedicated, diligent, and determined staff. Day in and day out, these incredible public servants ensure violent criminals are effectively prosecuted, those in need of help are given a chance at life-saving programming, and most importantly, the victims of crime are protected, remembered, and respected. **Their work is why the Richmond County District Attorney’s office is the best in all of New York State and why Staten Island is the safest borough in New York City.**

Please enjoy our 2022 Annual Report, which includes a more in-depth look at all of our achievements on behalf of the people of Staten Island.

Sincerely,

Michael E. McMahon
While crime on Staten Island bucked citywide trends in 2021, decreasing significantly while the other four boroughs saw crime continue to rise, our borough was not spared from this terrible and troubling trend in 2022.

While murder and rape continued to decline to historic lows, down 27% and 24% from 2021 respectively, the other five “Index Crimes”: robbery, felony assault, burglary, grand larceny, and particularly grand larceny auto all saw increases of between 16.8% and 81.9%. Make no mistake: these increases are unacceptable and fixing a laser focus on driving down these numbers is our top priority in 2023. Working with our partners in the NYPD, we will continue to fully investigate, arrest, and prosecute these lawbreakers to the fullest extent of the law because serious crime will never be tolerated on Staten Island.
2022 Gun Violence in Review

While gun violence remains a serious area of concern, we are encouraged that shooting incidents remained an incredibly rare occurrence on Staten Island in 2022. A total of 35 people were shot in our borough in 2022, representing 2.25% of the citywide total, significantly less than our share of the city population.

At the same time, gun arrests on Staten Island continued their sharp rise, increasing by 15.9%, with police making 175 arrests for firearm-related crimes compared to 151 in 2021 and 101 in 2020. RCDA also continued to vigorously prosecute gun cases to hold gun offenders accountable, ensuring our streets stay safe and free of violence by requesting bail and jail on cases involving possession and use of illegal firearms.

Despite the relatively low levels of gun crime on Staten Island, a serious area of concern remains gun incidents involving youth and teenage offenders. **One in five gun possession arrests were of juveniles between the ages of 14 and 17, and the rate of shooting perpetrators in this age group rose 500% from 2021 to 2022. Underage homicide suspects have doubled across the City since 2019.**

We must restore consequences and accountability for our young people, to prove to them that engaging in gun crime will only end with incarceration or the loss of their life.
Demanding Our Lawmakers Confront Reality and Fix City and State Criminal Justice Laws to Restore Public Safety

Throughout the year, District Attorney McMahon continued to loudly and consistently express his demand that Albany legislative leaders and the New York City Council recognize our pressing public safety challenges and the feeling of unease so many New Yorkers experience each day as they go about their lives in our city.

While some mild improvements have been made to the state’s bail laws, the unreasonable timelines and demands of our discovery laws, the failed implementation of “Raise the Age,” and New York’s infamous distinction as the only state in the country that prevents judges from considering a defendant’s risk to public safety when determining pre-trial detention, an immense amount of work remains to bring our state to a place where law enforcement professionals are set up to succeed in holding dangerous lawbreakers accountable and keep our communities safe from those who pose a safety risk to us all.

Despite these headwinds, DA McMahon will continue to fully prosecute crimes on the merits of each case, and 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 to prevent recidivism through the criminal justice system.
Our Advocacy for Needed, Critical Fixes to Bail Reform, Discovery Laws, and Raise the Age

- Granting judges the power to detain suspects determined to be a threat to an individual(s) or public safety pre-trial, a practice used in every other state in America and in the federal courts.

- Fixing 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 many serious crimes, including gun possession, grand larceny auto, and more. While it is wholly appropriate to give kids a second chance, our laws should send a message to everyone, regardless of age, that if they carry or use a gun they will face serious consequences.

Reforming Discovery laws
- The law sets deadlines for “discovery” — materials prosecutors are required to turn over to defense — 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 charges. This timeline creates an unfair and unrealistic burden on prosecutors to produce all evidence, no matter the information’s relevance to the case. These stringent discovery requirements have resulted in an unmanageable workload for prosecutors that has directly led to an unsustainable attrition rate of seasoned, veteran prosecutors. We have called for common sense reforms that would break the discovery process into three phases, ensuring the most vital information is turned over immediately while more extraneous information is handed over on a more extended timeline. This would continue to ensure fairness to both our prosecutors and defense counsel, while making certain justice is not denied because of an unnecessarily tight deadline imposed on us by our legislators.
PART II:

RCDA’S BUREAUS & UNITS:
FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH PRECISION PROSECUTION

The Staten Island District Attorney’s office has grown substantially over the last six years, now employing 73 assistant district attorneys, 17 detective investigators, 12 victim advocates, and 121 support staff. This represents a nearly 100% increase in total staff since District Attorney McMahon took office in 2016, and a long overdue influx of staff to bring us to parity with the other four boroughs, and enabling us to run a 21st century prosecutor’s office on behalf of the people of Staten Island.

Throughout the year, our dedicated staff, most of whom are proud 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 the highest conviction rate in all of New York City. 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 Division

The Trials Division is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of many violent felony crimes, including murder, felony assault, hate crimes, vehicular crimes, robbery, burglary, and arson. The Trials Division is composed of the Hate Crimes Unit, Vehicular Crimes Unit, and Juvenile Justice Unit and the Firearms and Gangs Unit.

Notable Trials Division Cases

Staten Island Man Sentenced to More Than 150 Years to Life in Prison for Murder, Rape, & Kidnapping of 69-Year-Old Grandmother

Following the tragic and horrific kidnapping, rape, and murder of Staten Island grandmother, Johynita Jordan, RCDA was successful in holding her killer accountable. Following a nine-week jury trial, defendant Linden Beaton was found guilty and sentenced to 150 years to life in prison for Murder in the 2nd degree, Rape in the 1st and 3rd degrees, Kidnapping in the 1st degree, predatory sexual assault and 11 other charges. The shocking and depraved crimes this defendant committed warranted nothing less than a lifetime behind bars, and his sentence affirmed that undeniable truth. The case was heroically prosecuted by ADA’s Victoria Levin and Lisa Davis.

Staten Island Man Sentenced to 18 Years in Prison for Multiple Assaults Committed Against Courthouse Officers

Over four years ago, defendant Darren Thomas put the safety and livelihood of eight brave New York State Court Officers and New York City Corrections Officers at risk when he violently attacked them in the courthouse during a court proceeding. As a result of his violent acts, Thomas was found guilty on 13 counts of Assault in the 2nd degree in addition to two counts of obstruction of governmental administration and two counts of criminal contempt. Our office has no tolerance for violence committed against our uniformed officers, and this defendant was held fully accountable for his conduct thanks to Assistant District Attorneys Adam Silberlight and Nancy Carrington.
After Senseless Killing of West Brighton Grandmother, Staten Island Man Sentenced to 32 Years in Prison

A lab technician and mother of two, West Brighton grandmother Geetha Howie was returning to her home on Bement Avenue after a trip to the bank when she was confronted by Dantey Moore. Unprovoked and unjustified, Moore brutally stabbed Howie over 15 times in the face and torso before the horrid assault was witnessed by a neighbor who sought to intervene. Moore then turned his violent attack to this good samaritan, stabbing him in the arm until he eventually dropped his knife and fell to the floor. Thanks to Assistant District Attorneys Tuesday Muller-Mondi and Wanda DeOliveira, our office was able to secure a combined prison sentence of 32 years after the defendant pleaded guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st degree and assault in the 2nd degree.

New Jersey Man Earns 26-Year Prison Sentence for Manslaughter in Staten Island Car Crash

A Newark resident, defendant Tashawn Beckford was fleeing law enforcement after making off with a stolen Lexus SUV in April 2020. Traveling at a dangerously high speed, Beckford blew through a red light while driving on the wrong side of the road at the intersection of Annadale Road and Arden Avenue. That decision proved fatal as Beckford’s stolen SUV careened into the Ford Escape of Michael Burmeister, seriously injuring him and fatally injuring his girlfriend, Theresa Dahlstrom. Beckford’s acts took the life of one Staten Islander far too soon and seriously injured another, and while these tragic consequences cannot be undone, we are grateful to Assistant District Attorney Nicholas Agostino who was able to secure a 26-year prison sentence after a jury found the dangerous defendant guilty of Assault in the 1st degree, manslaughter, and a series of other charges.

Brooklyn Man Sentenced to Nearly Two Decades in Prison for Killing of Staten Island Teen

In December 2019, Stephon Durham took the life of 16-year-old Shane Kelly after a brief verbal dispute turned violent. A fitting and just end to a case that spanned nearly three years due to court delays caused by the pandemic, Durham pleaded guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st degree and thanks to Assistant District Attorney Kate Malloy and the brave men and women of the NYPD, this violent defendant will spend the next 18 years behind bars.
Total of 24 Huskies Rescued as DA Continues to Prosecute Alleged Animal Abuser

On July 29, 2022, in partnership with our office and the ASPCA, the New York City Sheriff’s Office executed a search warrant for a property at 137 Van Duzer Street, which is a large fenced-in lot with trailers, a bus, and an RV parked on it. Upon entering the property, members of the Sheriff’s Office observed and rescued a total of 24 huskies living in unhealthy and unsanitary conditions throughout the lot. There were approximately five huskies loose on the property, and once the trailer was opened, approximately 10 huskies came running out of it. Many huskies were running around, apparently searching for food, and were drinking from a small children’s pool filled with dirty, foul-smelling water, which was the only source of water for the dogs available on the property. The only apparent food accessible to the dogs was found in large white buckets with maggots crawling all over it. The inside of the trailer was overall unsuitable for animal habitation and covered in urine and fecal matter, with the animals defecating and urinating freely inside the small space.

Additionally, there was no food or water present in the trailer, and it was extremely hot and stuffy inside, with no light fixtures or air flow. An adult husky and eight husky puppies were found underneath the first trailer, with one of the puppies found deceased. Two additional adult huskies were found inside of the second trailer, one roaming freely, and the other laying on its side, initially unresponsive. The second trailer also had a strong odor of feces and urine, had very little air flow, and was very hot inside. In total, 24 husky type dogs (16 adults, 7 live puppies, and 1 deceased puppy) were found on the property.

The dogs and puppies were immediately transferred to the ASPCA’s care where they have been receiving medical care and behavioral treatment and enrichment. Thankfully, an arrest was made and our office continues to aggressively prosecute this matter to secure justice on behalf of the many four-legged and voiceless victims in this case.
Narcotics-Investigations Bureau

RCDA remains committed to prosecuting the drug dealers responsible for bringing deadly narcotics to our communities and destroying the lives of those suffering from addiction illness. Our Narcotics-Investigations Bureau is responsible for investigating complex drug cases, working with our partners in the NYPD as well as state and federal law enforcement agencies to track these often multi-national schemes to profit from the sale of poison to our family members and neighbors. We know that we must continue to work to stem the tide of illegal drugs into our communities and hold serious drug dealers accountable.

Our Narcotics-Investigations Bureau also oversees RCDA’s Overdose Response Initiative, created by DA McMahon in 2016 to investigate all overdoses in the same manner as a crime scene to trace the source of the fatal 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 continue to lead to new investigations to this day. Due to its success, ORI has been expanded and is the model for all five boroughs in New York City to investigate drug overdoses.

Staten Island Overdose Deaths 2016-2022

According to our Overdose Response Initiative, there were at least 311 overdoses in 2022, 146 of which were fatal and 165 of which resulted in a “save” thanks to the administration of Narcan to reverse the overdose.

Notably, fentanyl and fentanyl analogues remained present in nearly 80% of overdose fatalities in 2022. We are also newly concerned about the rise in xylazine present in a significant portion of Staten Island’s fentanyl supply.
Operation "D-Rail the Corridor" Takes Down Drug Dealing Ring in New Brighton After 15-Month Investigation

Credit: silive.com

In August 2022, a 15-month investigation of a violent, drug dealing gang in New Brighton came to a close as 15 suspects were arrested and charged with criminal sale of a controlled substance, conspiracy, and related charges. For far too long, these individuals peddled poison to struggling Staten Islanders, selling substances including cocaine, oxycodone, methamphetamine, and marijuana. The takedown, dubbed “D-Rail the Corridor” after the head of the ring, Durail Miles, put an end to the grip that these dangerous defendants had on the Jersey Street corridor, and resulted in the recovery of large amounts of cash and narcotics from Miles’ house. The investigation was led by ADA Michele Molfetta, Matt Gamberg, and Matthew Signorile.

Repeated Drug Sales to Undercover Officers in 2019 Land Kenneth Duncan in State Prison for Six-Plus Years

Credit: silive.com

While justice was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Kenneth Duncan could not avoid accountability for his actions in selling deadly drugs on Staten Island, and in June was sentenced to 78 months in prison for his greedy, life-threatening acts. On nine separate occasions in a four-month period, Duncan unwittingly sold drugs to undercover officers. This type of enforcement is critical to not only disrupting individual drug sales, but to working up the chain to identify the source of these deadly narcotics. The case was prosecuted by ADA Michele Molfetta.

Violent Ex-Con Caught Selling Drugs on Staten Island Once Again, Hit with an “A” Felony and an 8-Year Sentence

Credit: silive.com

In 2016, Willie Baker was one of several individuals caught and prosecuted for their role in selling deadly narcotics on Staten Island and was sentenced to prison shortly thereafter.
Unfortunately, his stint in state custody did not dissuade Baker from returning to his life of drug dealing, as he was caught again selling large quantities of methamphetamines and cocaine. Due to his prior convictions for similar crimes, Baker faced a significant mandatory minimum prison sentence and although our office advocated for him to spend 12 years behind bars, a judge sentenced him to the minimum eight years behind bars for his crimes that put the health and safety of our neighbors at risk. The case was prosecuted by ADA Matt Signorile.

**Raid on Sunnyside Home in 2021 Yields Shotgun, Shells, Heroin, Cash, and NYPD License Plate; Leads to Defendant Edwin Vasquez’s Guilty Plea and an Eight-Year Prison Sentence**

In March 2021, the NYPD executed a search warrant on the home of Edwin Vasquez in Sunnyside and recovered a cache of weapons, drugs, cash, and equipment indicating Vasquez was a drug dealer. They also found a license plate from an NYPD vehicle and an imitation gun as well. Our office’s Narcotics-Investigations Bureau was eager to take this case to trial; however on the eve of trial, Vasquez accepted a court offer of 10 years’ incarceration over our strong objection. While we do not believe Vasquez will spend as much time behind bars as he deserves, our gratitude is extended to the NYPD for bravely executing the warrant and to ADAs Jon Chananie and Jeff Curiale for their excellent work.

**Firearms and Gang Violence Unit**

The Firearms and Gang Violence Unit was created by District Attorney McMahon to enhance the office’s focus on investigating and prosecuting cases involving firearms and gang violence, as part of the office’s comprehensive strategy 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 and prosecute the drivers of violence to reduce incidents of street crime in our communities.

**Defendant Responsible for Shooting Staten Island EMT Sentenced to 11 Years in Prison for Attempted Murder**

On an otherwise typical day serving the people of Staten Island, EMT Rich McMahon nearly lost his life at the hands of an armed man in the back of his ambulance. While being treated in the moving ambulance, defendant Thomas McCauley seriously wounded the first responder, firing a shot that narrowly missed McMahon’s heart. Ensuring this defendant was held fully accountable under the law for his horrific act, ADAs Nick Agostino and Jeanine Ruggiero did an exemplary job securing an Attempted Murder plea and an 11-year prison sentence.
New Brighton Ex-Convict Sentenced to 10 to 12 Years in Prison for Attempted Assault and Robbery

He was accused of beating woman with shopping cart during S.I. mugging. Prison is his destination.
Published: May 25, 2021, 11:01 a.m.

No stranger to prison, Joseph Carter was sent back behind bars after a string of criminal activity in the spring of 2021. On April 21, 2021, Carter and an accomplice mugged an unsuspecting female victim in front of her 3-year-old son, striking the victim with a shopping cart and stealing the victim’s cell phone. Carter was arrested and taken into custody just four days later after he committed multiple traffic violations and fled his vehicle once stopped by NYPD officers. Exiting his vehicle and attempting to hop a fence on Maple Parkway, officers witnessed a shiny object fall from Carter’s person. The shiny object turned out to be a fully loaded 25 caliber Titan semiautomatic handgun. Thanks to Assistant District Attorney Travis Atkinson and the NYPD officers involved in this case, this defendant was held fully accountable for his crimes, and justice was served for his victims.

Clifton Resident Caught with 9mm Handgun Hit with Seven-Year Prison Sentence

What ‘fidgeting’ man allegedly had hidden under his butt in squad car
Published: May 26, 2019, 5:29 a.m.

In the early morning hours of May 25, 2019, NYPD officers witnessed defendant Keoma Carter toss a 9mm handgun into a garbage can outside the Stapleton NYCHA complex. Promptly arrested, NYPD officers noticed Carter squirming in the backseat of the patrol car. Upon investigation, police recovered nine plastic bags containing cocaine on Carter’s person as well. Illegal firearms and narcotics are a deadly combination and will be met with the full force of our office. Thanks and gratitude are due to Assistant District Attorney Kate Malloy for ensuring that this defendant faced serious consequences for his repeated offenses.

Nine Bullets and One in the Chamber Lead to Seven-Year Prison Sentence for Graniteville Man

One day after firing a loaded firearm at a fellow Staten Islander, defendant Andrew Henry’s residence was raided by law enforcement officials who recovered a loaded Ruger firearm with nine bullets in the magazine and one in the chamber. Thanks to Assistant District Attorney Travis Atkinson and arresting officers, our streets now have one less gun, and Henry faces nearly a decade behind bars for his acts that endangered himself and all around him.
Domestic Violence Division

RCDA’s Domestic Violence Division handles nearly 2,000 domestic violence-related offenses each year. These tragic, intimate crimes make up over half of the felony assaults that take place on Staten Island, and domestic disharmony contributes to many other serious crimes as well. This Unit, created by DA McMahon as the first stand-alone Domestic Violence Division in the history of the Staten Island District Attorney’s office, is a living testament to our commitment to aiding victims and survivors of these traumatic crimes.

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

- During his tenure as District Attorney, DA McMahon advocated and pushed for an expedited opening of the William L. Murphy NYC Family Justice Center, which opened ahead of schedule in June 2016 and is now an invaluable part of our office’s offerings to domestic violence survivors on Staten Island.

- Fully staffed with a dozen assistant district attorneys, District Attorney McMahon created a Domestic Violence Division with prosecutors specially trained in trauma-informed care, who are responsible for handling cases via “vertical prosecution,” meaning they carry each case from beginning to end. This approach creates continuity and lessens trauma for victims. In 2022, 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 nearly tripled 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), which focuses on intimate partner victims who have been victim to strangulation, a predictive crime for homicides involving domestic violence.

In late 2022, our Victim Advocates Unit was honored by City Hall for their remarkable work in support of Staten Island crime victims. Pictured above are just some of the incredible members of our Victim Advocates Unit.
DA McMahon Leads First Ever “A Mile in Their Shoes” Domestic Violence Awareness Event in Willowbrook Park

While our Domestic Violence Division and Victim Advocates fight every single day for domestic violence survivors in the courtroom, we know that too often, domestic violence is not reported to law enforcement, and too many Staten Islanders suffer in silence. That is why our commitment to these vulnerable men and women extends to the community, particularly during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

This year, District Attorney McMahon, along with event co-sponsors the William L. Murphy Family Justice Center and the NYPD, hosted their first annual “A Mile in Their Shoes” Domestic Violence Awareness Walk and Family Day in Willowbrook Park. The event featured a host of activities, resources for survivors and their families, games, food, and most importantly, a safe and welcoming space for survivors and loved ones to gather to bring domestic violence out of the shadows.

The event culminated in a walk around Willowbrook Pond, where the path was adorned with signs and statistics highlighting the prevalence of domestic violence and the help available to anyone who needs it, including the families who deal with the fallout of domestic violence incidents.

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, the William L. Murphy Family Justice Center is located at 126 Stuyvesant Place. The 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

Staten Island Man Sentenced to Nine Years in Prison for Defying Orders of Protection, Tormenting Victim

A difficult case, our Domestic Violence Division secured the conviction of defendant Rahmel Howard, who pleaded guilty to Burglary in the 1st degree and aggravated criminal contempt. On the run from law enforcement after a separate incident, Howard forced his way into his victim’s apartment, pushing her to the ground and threatening her with a taser. Remaining in the apartment for nearly two hours, Howard only left the victim’s residence once an unidentified individual supplied the future convict with a set of clothes to evade police. Thankfully, NYPD detectives and U.S. marshals were able to track down Howard a week later in the Bronx. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Toniann Tuccio.

Defendant Hit with Jail Time for Domestic Violence

Breaking an order of protection, defendant Alton Cannon was convicted of Criminal Contempt in the 2nd degree and sentenced to two years in prison for unlawfully entering his victim’s apartment and physically assaulting her after engaging in a verbal dispute with another male within the residence. Despite challenges over the course of the case, thankfully, Assistant District Attorney Taylor Goodspeed was able to secure prison time for the defendant and justice for the victim in the case.
Special Victims Bureau

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

Cases handled by SVB include investigating and prosecuting sex crimes, child abuse and neglect, child pornography, human trafficking, and crimes that target other vulnerable populations, including the elderly.

Additionally, our prosecutors work with the Child Advocacy Center, the NYPD, ACS, and doctors in investigating and prosecuting child sexual and physical abuse, doing so with the utmost care, grace, and compassion for these innocent victims and with dogged determination to secure justice against their offenders.

Notable SVB Cases

**Practicing Psychotherapist Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison for Sexually Abusing Child Patient**

Originally sentenced to six years in prison, the tireless efforts of Assistant District Attorney Amir Fadl and the entire Special Victims Bureau ensured that defendant Gilberto Suero will serve a decade behind bars. A practicing psychotherapist, Suero sexually abused and preyed upon a child patient who was placed under his treatment for nearly two years. This type of predatory behavior is every parent’s worst nightmare, and thanks to SVB’s incredible work, it did not go without severe consequences.

**Convicted of Rape, Staten Island Man to Face Nearly 20 Years in Prison**

A Stapleton resident, Joseph Tronilo was sentenced to 17 years in prison in addition to 15 years post-release supervision after being convicted and found guilty of Rape in the 1st degree. Through the presentation of DNA evidence, in addition to the great work of the NYPD and ADAs Rhiannon LaTour and Jamie Capodieci, our office was able to tie Tronilo to a violent sexual attack committed in August of 2020, where he trapped his victim in a private home and forced himself on her. The survivor in this case showed true bravery and fearlessness in the face of impossibly difficult circumstances, and we hope this conviction gives some level of comfort and relief to her family.
Ensuring a Comfortable, Welcoming, and Warm Environment for Special Victim Services at RCDA

Thanks to a grant from former Assemblyman Matthew Titone, RCDA completed renovations to the Special Victims wing to create a waiting area filled with children's toys, books, a television, and other comforts meant to make the process of participating in a criminal prosecution as easy as possible under unimaginably difficult circumstances. These upgraded facilities also include two new interview rooms designed to be more welcoming and staffed by sensitive, competent, and dedicated professionals.

In addition, the Adult Advocacy Center, housed on the 5th Floor of 130 Stuyvesant Place, continues to serve victims of sex crimes on a daily basis. This space includes:

- Safe Horizon Child Advocacy Center and ACS representatives 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 2022, RCDA renewed its partnership with the College of Staten Island, Wagner College, and St. Johns University to make all survivor and investigative services available to the students at each school should a student survivor of sexual violence 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. Meeting with an RCDA Victim Advocate for assistance and counseling will be available even if a survivor makes the difficult decision not to file a report. In addition, ADAs from RCDA’s Special Victims Bureau attend each college’s new student orientation in the fall to ensure all students are aware of these resources meant to keep them and their fellow students safe in the terrible event that they need our help.
Staten Island SAFE Program

The Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Program is located at Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) and consists of 24 nurses specially trained to recognize trauma. Working with our office, the SAFE program provides special care to survivors of sexual assault and connects them with the District Attorney’s office and other groups that 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 (SVU) of the New York City Police Department: Investigates cases, if individuals choose to report their assault
- Staten Island Child Advocacy Center (CAC): All cases involving children age 17 and under are reported to the CAC for additional services and investigation.

Elder Abuse Unit

The Elder Abuse Unit, created by DA McMahon to ensure the strongest possible focus on securing justice for our elders who become victims of crime, investigates and prosecutes crimes committed against senior citizens, including financial, physical, and property crimes.

A recent study from the Department for the Aging (DFTA) found that 76 in 1,000 older New York state residents were victims of elder abuse during a one-year period, highlighting the critical need for a unit of this type.

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 and internet scams, and various types of financial fraud. The Unit also works closely with the Economic Crimes Bureau and Domestic Violence Division, as many criminals who target the elderly do so in an effort to gain access to their financial information.

Notable Cases

Brooklyn Handyman Who Victorized 84-Year-Old Staten Islander Hit with Prison Sentence

A Brooklyn handyman and former neighbor to an 84-year-old resident of Midland Beach, Alton
Smith broke into his victim’s home, making off with her purse, social security card, and multiple credits cards. Thanks to the NYPD, we were able to identify and apprehend Smith utilizing surveillance video and a positive finger print match left on the victim’s door. As a result of Smith’s criminal acts, Assistant District Attorney Lindsay Netterville was able to secure a guilty plea of Attempted Burglary in the 2nd degree and Smith was sentenced to two years in prison.

**Economic Crimes Bureau**

The Economic Crimes Bureau (ECB), also created by 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 securing forfeiture of funds which were gained via illegal activity. Often, a portion of these assets are added to our office’s budget and earmarked to further our efforts to prevent crime and hold lawbreakers accountable.

Given the unfortunate ubiquity of scams and financial fraudsters, ECB works closely with our office’s Community Partnership Unit to investigate community tips regarding scams or other types of financial crime while also working to educate the public about the best ways to protect against scams. The Bureau also includes the office’s Public Corruption Unit, assigned when a public servant allegedly betrays the public trust and is under investigation for having broken the law.

**Notable Cases**

**Staten Island Man Hit with Felony and Prison Time for 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 zeroed in on and began to investigate 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. While this defendant only succeeded in gaining $229,000 in fraudulent benefits, it still represents nearly a quarter million dollars in stolen taxpayer funds meant to aid those in need. Thanks to our office’s Economic Crimes Bureau and NYPD DA Squad, we were able to not only detect his alleged scheme but put an early end to it and secure full restitution to the agencies impacted. Adetimirin was sentenced in July 2022 to 1–3 years in prison, in addition to the aforementioned restitution. The case was prosecuted by ADA Jeff Curiale with substantial assistance from RCDA’s Forensic Accountant Katie Tierney.
Participant in Wide-Ranging Identity Theft, Unemployment Scheme Sentenced to 1 1/2–3 Years Prison after Investigation Reveals over $200,000 of Stolen Taxpayer Dollars

In August, defendant Damione Tart pleaded guilty to attempted Grand Larceny in the 3rd degree, a class E Felony, and was sentenced to 1 1/2–3 years State prison.

Tart is also responsible for restitution in the amount of $220,000 to the New York State Department of Labor. Tart was part of an identity theft scheme where he applied for unemployment benefits in the names of identity theft victims. Debit cards were sent to his address on Staten Island, and as a result he was able to obtain over $220,000 worth of benefit claims. The case was prosecuted by ADAs Gregg Brown and Volha Salavei.

Thirty-Six-Year-Old Arden Heights Man Found With Over 700,000 Untaxed Cigarettes, Sentenced to Felony Offense and Ordered to Pay $300,000 in Restitution

In March, Tony Tang pled guilty to a felony charge of violating the New York State Tax Law, and was sentenced to a conditional discharge upon payment of $300,000 in restitution to New York State after he was found with 3,560 illicit cartons of cigarettes, totaling over 700,000 cigarettes intended for sale in New York without proper tax stamps. While a non-violent offense, Tang’s crime cost the people of New York hundreds of thousands of dollars, but thanks to the dedicated work of our Economic Crimes Bureau in conjunction with the NYS Department of Tax and Finance, he paid fully for his crimes. The case was prosecuted by ADAs Gregg Brown, Jeff Curiale, and Jon Chananie.

In November, DA McMahon released a Grand Jury Report containing the findings and recommendations of a Special Grand Jury convened to consider evidence relating to forgery and other offenses committed during a 2021 Staten Island primary election. The report sharply criticized the tactics and efforts of “Candidate 2” in their attempts to submit absentee ballot applications and actual ballots in violation of existing law. The report calls out the insufficiency of signature verification to ensure voter identity, as well as gaps in New York election law that do not ensure all legally cast ballots are counted, that voters are not disenfranchised by fraud committed without their knowledge or consent, and that permit far too much participation by candidates’ campaigns in the absentee ballot process.

“This report should alarm all involved in the electoral process on Staten Island and across New York City and State, including the general voting public,” said District Attorney McMahon. “While I fully support making voting as convenient as possible and applaud the efforts of candidates and their campaigns to inspire voters to express their constitutional right to vote, the accuracy, security, and public confidence in our elections must never be sacrificed in pursuit of these goals. I personally do not believe the outcome of this particular primary was affected by the misconduct found by the Grand Jury. However, the report does provide an aperture to view many possible scenarios where the results could be tainted if action is not taken.”

The report cites numerous examples of voters who by subsequent sworn affidavit affirmed they did not ask for an absentee ballot, yet such applications were received by the Board of Elections in advance of the contest. Further, a forensic examination of absentee ballot envelopes by a signature expert revealed that no fewer than one hundred of these envelopes had been signed by an individual who also signed one or more other absentee ballot envelopes in a different voter’s name,
indicating forgery had taken place. For these same voters, cure affirmations, essentially lawful mechanisms to fix errors with voters’ absentee ballot envelopes, were submitted by Candidate 2’s campaign. These fraudulent attempts were ultimately properly rejected by the Board of Elections in the final vote count.

The report issued a series of recommendations to Elections officials at the city and state level, including:

- Strengthen the process by which applications to change voter information (name change, party registration change, address change, etc.) and applications for an absentee ballot are submitted by requiring proof of identity beyond publicly available information.

- Require absentee ballot applications be submitted on paper with ink signatures, and require those signatures match the signature on the corresponding voter’s registration form before an absentee ballot is issued.

- Prohibit absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots themselves from being sent to an address associated with a candidate’s campaign. Currently, this practice allows “vote harvesting.”

- Prohibit individuals associated with a candidate’s campaign from delivering voters’ absentee ballots to the local Board of Elections office, or at a minimum, require such individuals who do so to produce photographic identification.

- Require voters voting by absentee ballot to enclose proof of identification, or at a minimum, require their absentee ballot envelope be witnessed by another.

- Require voters to present some form of government-issued identification before voting, either physically at a poll site or by absentee ballot.

“While the report of this Grand Jury concerns only the actions of those involved in a particular primary election on Staten Island in 2021, this is surely not the only contest where efforts to illegally impact the outcome through ballot malfeasance have taken place,” said District Attorney McMahon. “It is our sincere hope that through the release of this report and advocacy to policymakers and lawmakers, New York’s election system will be strengthened and secured to the level necessary to inspire total confidence in election outcomes. Staten Islanders deserve nothing less, and we look forward to the work ahead in urging these changes be adopted without delay.”

District Attorney McMahon also issued his sincere gratitude to Assistant District Attorney Jon Chananie, Chief of the Public Corruption Unit, for his diligent and dedicated work in this investigation and in presenting the evidence to the Grand Jury, as well as Detective Investigators Thomas Donohue and Armand Tasca for their work in support of the investigation.

Further thanks are due to Marc Lindemann, former chief of the Public Integrity Bureau at the Suffolk County District Attorney’s office and chairperson of the Public Integrity Subcommittee for the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York (DAASNY) for his invaluable assistance as well as to the New York City Board of Elections for their cooperation and work to safeguard the integrity of our elections.
Conviction Integrity Review Unit

Under DA McMahon’s leadership, RCDA created its first Conviction Integrity Review Unit to review select past convictions to ensure justice was properly handed down for all defendants. Since creating this unit three years ago, we have put in place an experienced team that has already undertaken and expended a tremendous amount of time and resources to reviewing the cases in question. In 2021, our office agreed to vacate a 1997 murder conviction of a defendant who was wrongfully convicted, marking the first wrongful conviction case successfully brought on Staten Island. That work continued in 2022, and several investigations remain ongoing.

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 past mistakes but working diligently to avoid the same errors from happening again.

Alternatives to Incarceration Unit

Recognizing not just the benefits, but the need, to protect public safety by using the leverage of the criminal justice system to engage defendants and encourage them to meaningfully address the underlying causes of their criminal behavior, DA McMahon established the Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Unit. The Unit, staffed with multiple assistant district attorneys, social workers, peer mentors, and support staff, works to address community issues like addiction, mental illness, and poverty by offering numerous diversion programs to eligible defendants.

These programs are by no means a “get out of jail free card” for defendants, but are offered as a more productive means of serving justice intended to improve the lives of the accused while ensuring they are held accountable and no longer pose a threat to the safety of our community.

Some of RCDA’s Alternative to Incarceration Programming

HOPE Programs

The Heroin Overdose Prevention & Education (HOPE) Program, and its expansions to HOPE 2.0 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 HOPE Program was a first-of-its kind diversion program in New York City that redirects low-level drug offenders on Staten Island, pre-arraignment, to community-based health and treatment services, instead of jail and prosecution. Thousands of defendants have been offered the opportunity to participate in these programs, and the overwhelming majority successfully completed the program in 2022, with a re-arrest rate far below the typical percentage for defendants who commit HOPE-eligible offenses.

Recognized by the White House and the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the HOPE program was lauded as a model for the nation in
combatting the opioid, heroin, and fentanyl drug crisis at the local level and has diverted well over 1,000 Staten Islanders struggling with substance misuse out of the criminal justice system and into meaningful treatment and recovery programs.

RCDA’s HOPE Team is here to help anyone impacted by substance use illness. Our dedicated staff works daily with families and individuals who need to be connected with treatment, and boasts multiple Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselors (CASACs), including a peer recovery coach, who work to connect overdose victims and families of those battling addiction who do not know where else to turn to for support and treatment services.

The ATI Unit also works with and within the community on overdose outreach and prevention, launching multiple programs to address this serious need by holding Narcan trainings, and speaking with schoolchildren and parent groups about this incredibly important topic.

Ripples of Hope Program

This program focuses on children of those battling addiction as victims of the drug 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 917-202-8812 or by emailing David.Claros@rcda.nyc.gov. Remember: Don’t give up — help is only a phone call away.

Veterans Court

RCDA continues to operate the borough’s first Veterans Court designed to serve as an alternative to jail for veterans while offering supportive services to those who served our nation and have since been charged with low-level crimes. Veterans Courts operate like other special diversion courts and are designed to address the unique personal challenges many vets face after returning home from military service. Often, substance abuse and mental health disorders negatively impact the lives of veterans and their families—leading to the commission of felonies and misdemeanors that might put veterans into the criminal justice system without addressing their core problems. Veterans Court volunteer mentors are instrumental in making these courts work by talking to and counseling fellow veterans in ways that civilian counselors cannot.
Mental Health Court

Staten Island’s Mental Health Courts handle both felonies and misdemeanors involving defendants struggling with their mental health. Mental Health Courts are dedicated to improving public safety, court operations and the well-being of eligible defendants by providing individuals with mental illness the support and structure they need in order to avoid further criminal behavior. Staten Island’s felony mental health court requires a minimum of one year of compliance while misdemeanor mental health court, recently launched after years of aggressive advocacy and pleas for equity with the other four boroughs, requires either 90 days or six months of compliance.
RCDA offers a wide variety of ATI programs, including:

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

Additionally, IAU 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 our newest Americans are protected.

In 2022, 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.

The Immigrant Affairs Unit also hosts in-house Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion events and programs to showcase the various cultures and backgrounds of not only RCDA employees, but of Staten Islanders from different parts of the borough that might be unfamiliar to some.

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:

- Under the leadership of our Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, we have expanded by 200% the number of EEO Counselors in our office. We also sent several leaders to EEO & Diversity and Inclusion trainings and virtual conferences to ensure they are best able to do this very important work to ensure RCDA stays a safe and welcoming place to work for all our 200+ employees.

- Our Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer established internal affinity groups, hosted many events highlighting and celebrating our staff’s diversity, expanded recruitment and outreach efforts nationwide to ensure an office that looks like the people of Staten Island, and created a spotlight page in our weekly intra-office newsletter to promote these ideals.
Appeals Bureau

The assistant district attorneys of our Appeals Bureau appear on behalf of RCDA in New York’s different appellate courts and 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 trial-level proceedings unduly affects either the public or the accused. The ADAs of this bureau regularly work 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.

The Appeals Bureau also houses our legislative coordinator, who spends considerable time discussing pending legislative issues with our fellow district attorneys’ offices, drafts legislative suggestions and responses to proposals from the Governor’s office and from both houses of the legislature, and helps shape DA McMahon’s public positions on bills that fundamentally impact the daily practice of our assistant district attorneys and support staff.

Five-Year Prison Hate Crime Sentence for Woman Who Preyed on Blind Staten Islander Upheld on Appeal

This year, a five-year prison sentence for Natalya Fedyk, who in 2018 followed her victim, a blind Staten Islander, into his home where she subsequently burglarized his residence, was upheld after the defendant appealed her sentence. Sentenced as a hate crime because Fedyk intentionally preyed on her victim due to his visual disability, RCDA sought an 8-year sentence but the court eventually settled on five years to satisfy the felony charges against her. The appeal was successfully argued by ADA George Adames.

Maximum Sentence of 8 1/3 to 25 Years Upheld for Off-Duty Linden, NJ Police Officer Who Drove Drunk, Wrong Way on West Shore Expressway Killing Two of His Passengers and Seriously Injuring Another

In 2017, Pedro Abad was found guilty at trial of charges including Aggravated Vehicular Homicide, the top-count against him, as well as two counts of Aggravated Vehicular Assault, and one count each of Manslaughter in the 2nd degree, Assault in the 2nd degree, and Reckless Endangerment, for causing the deaths of two passengers and injuring a third occupant of the car he drove the wrong way on the West Shore Expressway at 4 AM. Abad, an off-duty Linden police officer, was intoxicated after spending the night at an adult establishment, and made the terrible choice to get behind the wheel, with grave consequences as a result. The case was successfully prosecuted by ADAs Mark Palladino and Frank Prospero. Abad’s appeal was argued on behalf of RCDA by ADAs Alex Fumelli and Tom Litsky, and was upheld by the Appellate Division in August of 2022.
Criminal Court Bureau

The Criminal Court Bureau, which operates 365 days a year, is the point of entry for almost all cases prosecuted by the Richmond County District Attorney’s office. In 2022, Criminal Court handled more than 6,000 cases.

The Bureau’s dozens of assistant district attorneys and legal support staff ensure that our constitutional duties of arrest are always met. This fast-paced, intense process includes the need to interview witnesses and NYPD officers, and to analyze already gathered evidence before conducting the arraignment of the suspect in the courtroom.

Felonies 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 the drivers of crime 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 provides invaluable assistance to our ADAs and community education and crime prevention efforts. The Unit consists of analysts and support staff that provide material support to prosecutors in augmenting cases with technological resources such as mapping, forensic multimedia enhancement, and social media investigations.

Administration Bureau

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.

Under the Administration Bureau, Human Capital serves as a strategic HR business component of the Richmond County District Attorney’s office.

Detective Investigators Bureau

The RCDA Detective Investigators Bureau is responsible for responding to the immediate, short term, and long term needs of our ADAs and RCDA staff. The team is composed of one chief investigator, one deputy chief investigator and 13 senior detective investigators, all of whom are sworn police officers and retired members of the NYPD.

Our detective investigators respond to various requests from assistant district attorneys, including: locating missing victims and witnesses; working with DSNY to hold illegal dumpers accountable; providing transportation for victims and witnesses; securing court documents including supporting depositions and orders of protection; serving subpoenas for required court appearances, and much more. Our Investigators’ years of experience are an invaluable asset in achieving our office’s core mission of keeping Staten Islanders safe by any means possible.
Community Partnership Unit

The Community Partnership Unit was created by District Attorney McMahon to serve as a bridge between law enforcement and the communities we serve and protect. This includes attending community meetings and events, hosting our own gatherings to inform the public and protect them from crime, and developing initiatives to attack a variety of safety and social challenges that our Island faces, notably neighborhood and street crime, drug abuse, domestic violence, quality of life issues, and much more.

Working with Staten Island Communities to Combat Gun Violence

DA’s Office and Partners Host Gun Buyback Events for Staten Island

Working with the NYPD and our community partners, RCDA proudly co-hosted two more Cash for Guns events on Staten Island in 2022, where 116 firearms were taken off the streets of Staten Island. This brings the number of weapons removed from our borough since DA McMahon took office to a whopping total of 480 guns. This year, iPads were added to the reward for anyone who turned in an eligible firearm.

With more events scheduled for the future, we encourage anyone with an unwanted or unused firearm to take advantage of this free, no-questions-asked initiative. While we are not so naïve to think that these events alone will end gun violence, we know that every gun turned in is one less opportunity for someone to get hurt.
Neighborhood Action Plans
For the past nearly two years, RCDA has worked with our partners in the NYPD and the community to address neighborhood by neighborhood conditions that contribute to violence and crime.

This on-the-ground approach includes putting “neighborhood action plans” into practice, working with community leaders, local organizations, and violence interrupter groups to bring about tangible improvements to communities that traditionally face higher rates of gang and street violence.

Through 2022, RCDA’s Neighborhood Action Plans have resulted in:

- Five “Cash for Guns” events in North Shore neighborhoods to prevent firearms from falling into the wrong hands.
- Several dozen graffiti removal and litter cleanups at sites across different target neighborhoods.
- Targeted outreach to domestic violence victims and survivors.
- Development of new youth-oriented athletic and educational programming, including:
  - Launching RCDA’s Youth Advisory Council
  - Expansion of Saturday Night Lights youth sports programming into nearly a dozen sites across the North Shore.
  - Regular attendance at community meetings and events 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.

This supplements the work being done in the courtroom every single day in an effort to bring down shootings and remind our young people that a life of gun violence only ends with them behind bars or a life cut far too short.

Community Anti-Drug Initiatives
SIHOPE.org & “Staten Islanders Against Drug Abuse” Public Awareness Campaign

Launched in 2018, “Staten Islanders Against Drug Abuse” is a grassroots public awareness campaign aimed at combatting 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 for anyone touched by addiction illness, SIHOPE.org. This online resource was designed for those struggling with addiction, those with a loved one struggling with substance abuse, and those who simply want to get involved to help stop the heroin and opioid epidemic on Staten Island.

During the summer of 2022, RCDA deployed a dedicated team of high school interns to pound the pavement, put stakes in the ground, and help spread the word to our neighbors, family, and friends about this life-saving work.

After this summer’s incredible work, more than 5,100 “SIHOPE” lawn signs have now been placed or distributed in public locations throughout Staten Island to help raise awareness of this serious, life-threatening issue.
Sowing Seeds of Hope: Hundreds Join DA McMahon to Remember Those Lost to Addiction

In 2022, DA McMahon joined the Kunz Family, the students and parents of IS 34, and hundreds of Staten Islanders for “Sowing Seeds of Hope.” A follow-up to 2019’s “Walk for Hope” in Brookfield Park, this year’s event once again shined a light on addiction and the risk of overdose while providing attendees with resources and information available from treatment providers and others on the front lines of helping those suffering from addiction illness.

“MedSafe” Drug Disposal Program Expands

In 2022, DA McMahon expanded his efforts to provide a safe and environmentally friendly method to dispose of unwanted or expired prescription drugs by sponsoring the installation of new “MedSafe” Drug Disposal receptacles in all three of Staten Island’s hospitals. This brings the total number of locations for Staten Islanders to dispose of their medication to over a dozen.

These bins provide any Staten Islander with a safe and secure 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.

If you’d like to get involved and show your support by placing a SIHOPE sign in your front lawn, please let us know by emailing us at sihopecampaign@gmail.com.

Faces of HOPE

In an effort to bring more awareness to Staten Island’s drug epidemic, RCDA maintains 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. These brave Staten Islanders agreed to share their story to add a human touch to a crisis that for many feels like a subject that has to remain in the shadows. The “Faces of HOPE” series is featured on the SIHOPE.org website.
Protecting Our Fellow Staten Islanders from Property Crime

Joined by Borough President Fossella and the NYPD, in 2022, District Attorney McMahon announced a new partnership between the NYPD and “Neighbors by Ring,” an app that allows Staten Islanders to securely and if they desire, anonymously, upload video, photos, and crime tips and information directly to the NYPD. The app is free to download and is accessible to any Staten Islander who wishes to share their video or images with the NYPD, regardless of whether or not they have a Ring system.

Video camera footage is an invaluable part of successful prosecutions but the fact is that police cannot monitor every group, page, and site out there. This is exactly why we need the public’s help and why this partnership with Neighbors by Ring is so exciting. When a Staten Islander uploads photos or video either from their Ring or using the free app if they are not Ring subscribers, NYPD personnel will have immediate access to that footage, be able to communicate confidentially with the person who posted it, and strategically deploy police manpower to where it is needed most.

To get the app, Staten Islanders should visit the App Store on their cell phone, download “Neighbors by Ring,” create an account if they do not already have one, and then they will be ready to share video, photos, and information. Staten Islanders can also visit ring.com/neighbors and follow the same steps. To share video, photos, or information, the App should be opened, and “Neighbors” selected, followed by the blue “Plus” button. They are then asked to answer what category the incident is and should select “Crime,” and then follow the remaining prompts. Once shared, NYPD executives in the area will automatically be able to see what has been uploaded and if necessary, can request to communicate directly to gain further information.
Combatting Catalytic Converter Thefts

A crime we hoped was a thing of the past, over 500 Staten Islanders had their catalytic converters stolen in 2022. In response to this terrible criminal trend, District Attorney McMahon launched a new crime prevention initiative to combat the car-part thefts, hosting a Free Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention event at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in South Beach.

Working in partnership with the NYPD Patrol Borough Staten Island and the dedicated men and women of the NYPD’s Autocrime Unit, our office helped provide hundreds of Staten Islanders with a service designed to protect their vehicles from being targeted by catalytic converter crooks. Provided free of charge, attendees were enrolled in the NYPD’s “CatGuard” database and their vehicle’s catalytic converter was physically etched with a unique and traceable serial number that will hopefully both deter criminals and assist law enforcement in catching these craven crooks when they attempt to sell the stolen converter at a body shop.
While we cannot guarantee that your vehicle will not be targeted, events like these are part of the necessary precautions all Staten Islanders should take to protect themselves and their hard-earned property.

Our office and the NYPD will continue to identify, arrest, and prosecute the lawless larcenists preying on our vehicles and we look forward to bringing this incredibly successful event to even more Staten Islanders in the years to come!

**Supporting Survivors and Protecting the Rights of Crime Victims**

In recent years, victims of crime have been seemingly forgotten by too many in our society. As these innocent men and women continue to face serious challenges, they need our help and support. At RCDA, our commitment to justice on behalf of all victims of crime never wavers, even after their case has been prosecuted and justice served.

While we continue to push back against policies pushed by our city and state legislators that leave 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**

From the instant a case enters our office, victims of crime are automatically paired with an RCDA Victim Advocate to provide supportive services as their case progresses. The Advocates in this unit are dedicated to empowering and guiding victims and witnesses through the criminal justice process, and are an invaluable part 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**

Recognized across the country, each year, RCDA proudly partners with entities like Safe Horizon and the William L. Murphy NYC Family Justice Center to participate in and host a series of events focused on supporting crime victims in recognition of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

The week of crime victim focused events culminates with our Annual Crime Victims’ Rights Week Candlelight Vigil. Joined by the families of those who lost a loved one to a senseless act of
violence, our Annual Victim’s Vigil allows families the space to share their stories, remember their loved ones, and to ensure they are never forgotten.

While our office is always proud to highlight the incredible strength, courage, and resiliency of victims and survivors during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, our office prides itself on securing justice for the victims of crime each and every day and we will continue to do so now and always.

Standing Up Against Hate Crimes

While RCDA prides itself on its vigorous prosecution of hate crimes, we also consistently advocate for the rights of targeted and vulnerable groups, denouncing acts of hate and bigotry when they occur to present a united front of Staten Islanders of all races, religions, and backgrounds to promote peace and understanding.

Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force

Led by District Attorney Michael E. McMahon & Scott Maurer, CEO of COJO of Staten Island, the Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force (SIHCTF) was created in direct response to the unspeakable tragedy that occurred at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh in October 2018, where 11 Jewish men and women were murdered in a hate-filled attack during religious services.

Working in partnership with all communities who call Staten Island home, the Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force meets regularly to develop solutions and strategies to inform our neighbors that our differences make us stronger, and hate has no place in our borough.

Serving as ambassadors within their own communities, task force members work to promote greater understanding of those with diverse identities and experiences and work with fellow members and community leaders to educate Staten Islanders of all ages about tolerance and understanding. A full list of Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force members can be found on the following page:
Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force

District Attorney Michael E. McMahon, Co-Chair
Scott Maurer, Co-Chair
Michelle Sabatino, Staten Island Center for Independent Living
Rich Salinardi, Lifestyles for the Disabled
John McBeth, St. Philip’s Baptist Church
Carol Bullock, Pride Center of Staten Island
Lisa Sloan, Pride Center of Staten Island
Pastor Isaac Sorial, Virgin Mary & St. George Orthodox Church
Emad Bekhit, Coptic Orthodox Church of Archangel Michael and Saint Mena
Nirmal Singh Kang, Sikh Association of Staten Island
Dr. Nithiananda Chatterjie, Staten Island Gurdwara Sahib
Claudette Duff, Integrity Senior Services
Michele Molina, El Centro Del Immigrante
Imam Tahir Kukaj, Albanian Islamic Cultural Center
Karim Azzit, Islamic Center of Staten Island
Suhail Muzaffar, Masjid Al Noor Islam Society
Lorna Wilson, Dr. Sonia Byfield-Layne, Jamaica and Caribbean Organization of Staten Island
Tanisha Smith-Franks, United Federation of Teachers

Rev. Dr. Victor Brown, Mt. Sinai United Christian Church
Rev. Dr. Demetrios Carolina, Rev. Dale S. Smith, Rev. Antionette R. Donegan, Central Family Life Center
Rev. Karen Jackson, Rev. Dr. Terry Troia, Zulma Cruz, Project Hospitality
Jeanne Zieff, Community Agency for Senior Citizens
Mendy Mirocznik, Council of Jewish Organizations of Staten Island
Bernice Fischer & Carol Brown, American Association of Retired People New Dorp Chapter
Louise & Eugenia Tsui, Chinese American Community Service
Rev. Eric Kim, New York Korean Evangelical Church
Lori Weintrob, Wagner College Holocaust Center
Giomelly Barton, Juan Fernandez, Alexander Korkhov, Alemayehu Ayele, New York City Commission on Human Rights
Deputy Inspector Andrew Arias, NYPD Hate Crimes Unit
Afzal Ali Ansari, Asian American Labor & Community Organization
Radhakrishna Mohan & Raj Saverimutti, Staten Island Hindu Temple
Lina Chen, Health Essential Association
Yesenia Mata, La Colmena
Orit Lender & Allison Cohen, Jewish Community Center of Staten Island

More information about HCTF can be found at StatenIslandDA.org/silove/
“Hate Has No Home on Staten Island” as DA McMahon and Hate Crimes Task Force Denounce Acts of Bigotry

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 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.

- On May 18, 2022, the Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force forcefully condemned two hate-based mass shootings that occurred in Buffalo, New York, and Laguna Beach, California, which claimed the lives of over 10 Americans.

- On August 24, 2022, District Attorney McMahon and the SIHCTF strongly denounced an egregious display of hatred and bigotry committed against a young Jewish boy on an MTA bus on Staten Island.

- On September 22, 2022, after former Congressman Max Rose’s campaign signs were vandalized with antisemitic bigotry, District Attorney McMahon and the SIHCTF stood by the former congressman to state that hateful symbolism has no place in our democratic process.

- On December 6, 2022, District Attorney McMahon held a press conference alongside NYC Mayor Eric Adams, community and faith-based leaders, and his fellow elected officials within the NYPD’s 121st Precinct to unequivocally denounce an alleged hate crime perpetrated against a young Jewish boy and father on Staten Island.
RCDA Joins the LGBTQIA+ Community to Show Off Pride and Stand Up to Hate

As part of RCDA’s continued efforts to promote tolerance, understanding, and support for the LGBTQIA+ community, in 2022, District Attorney McMahon and the office took part in multiple events to both celebrate and stand in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community here on Staten Island.

In June, RCDA celebrated and concluded Pride Month by trekking to the Alice Austen House in Shore Acres. Alice Austen was not only one of the first American female photographers, but a lesbian during a time when the local and national attitude towards non-heterosexual relationships was anything but understanding. Today, the Alice Austen Museum is a nationally designated site for LGBTQIA+ history and our office was treated to a tour of the historic grounds and Victorian-style home to learn more about Alice’s incredible work and the trailblazing nature of her life.

While our society has made great strides in its acceptance of all people, sadly, tragedy once again struck our LGBTQIA+ community when a 22-year-old shrouded in body armor wielding an AR-15-style assault rifle opened fire on the Club Q nightclub in Colorado Springs. Taking the lives of five Americans and injuring dozens more, the shooting served as a painful reminder that we must do more to combat the anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric that has entered our public discourse and renew our efforts to enact common sense gun violence prevention legislation.

In the wake of the hate-based mass shooting, District Attorney McMahon stood in solidarity with the Staten Island Pride Center, faith and community leaders, and allies to unequivocally denounce all acts of hate, vow to continue efforts to promote education and tolerance within our community, and finally put an end to the scourge of gun violence which has devastated our country.

Prosecuting Hate Crimes:

At RCDA, we are committed to working tirelessly to ensure that hate has no home on Staten Island. This past year, our office continued its leading role in combatting intolerance and the troubling rise of hate crimes through its work with the Staten Island Hate Crimes Task Force in addition to our collaborative efforts with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) Hate Crimes Task Force and the NYPD Racially and Ethnically Motivated Extremism Unit (“REME”) to thoroughly investigate these disturbing cases and prosecute all hate crimes to the full extent of the law.

Due to the seriousness of these crimes, RCDA employs an internal policy of never agreeing to a plea agreement that dismisses a hate crime charge once that charge has been indicted.

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

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

A cleaner Staten Island is a safer Staten Island and thanks to our office’s partnership with DSNY, in 2022, our office was able to assist DSNY with issuing nearly 40 enforcement actions against those who illegally dumped their trash and other large debris in our public spaces.

These enforcement actions resulted in summonses totaling approximately $86,600 and nearly $270,000 since our office started our joint illegal dumping initiative in 2019.

Cleaning Up Litter

Working in collaboration with DSNY and neighborhood organizations and civic associations from across Staten Island, our office took part in dozens of community cleanups in 2022. Working to identify and beautify public areas under siege by litter and graffiti, our office took part in multiple large-scale cleanup actions within the borough. Check out the photos above of our office’s efforts to clean up the Graniteville Quarry and Stapleton commercial corridor!

Removing Graffiti and Beautifying Our Neighborhoods with DSNY

Graffiti isn’t just an eyesore, it lowers the quality of life of a neighborhood and often defaces business storefronts and public spaces meant to beautify and better our communities. In 2022, RCDA worked alongside DSNY to identify areas tarnished by graffiti and give them the proper attention they deserve!
An Office-Wide Community Cleanup in West Brighton

In summer 2022, RCDA worked with NYC Parks, DOT, DEP, DSNY, the NYPD, Where to Turn, and Borough President Fossella to hold a major cleanup in West Brighton.

Focusing on Castleton Avenue from Bement Avenue to Clove Road, DA McMahon and scores of RCDA staff went block by block removing litter, graffiti, illegal signs, abandoned cars, and everything in between. The day was a shining example of what local government can do at its best: civic leaders, residents, and city agencies coming together to make sure our public spaces and neighborhoods are safe, clean, and well-maintained.

A neighborhood devoid of graffiti and garbage is a safer neighborhood and our office will continue to sponsor community cleanups like these across Staten Island. Check out District Attorney McMahon getting in on the action below!

Continuing Our Crusade to Clean Up Staten Island with Where to Turn

Resolving quality of life issues and beautifying our borough will always remain top priorities yet sadly, it’s clear to anyone who drives around our borough that trash, graffiti, and overgrowth continue to present a challenge. While we will continue to shame those who treat our borough like their personal wastebasket, our green spaces as their personal dumping ground, and our business storefronts as blank canvasses, we will never stop cleaning up after them because law-abiding Staten Islanders deserve it.

Thanks to our partnership with Where to Turn, we are cleaning up graffiti and litter and improving quality of life for Staten Island residents wherever we can. Below, you’ll find just a few examples of our office’s work to clean up St. George and Stapleton with the help of Where to Turn!

If you have sites that are in need of paint or cleanup, let us know by reaching out at info@rcda.nyc.gov 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**

While violent crime remains low on Staten Island, in recent years, our office has seen a dramatic increase in the number of cases of identity theft, fraud, and scams targeting Staten Islanders. Unfortunately, these lowly larcenists and con artists have been able to swindle innocent Staten Islanders out of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

While our office, led by the dedicated men and women within our Economic Crimes Bureau, continues to work to investigate and prosecute those who commit these unscrupulous crimes, prevention is still the best course of action!

Furthering our efforts to keep Staten Islanders safe from identity theft, fraud, and scams, our office was proud to partner with New York City Councilwoman Kamillah Hanks to hold a free document shredding event where Staten Islanders disposed of their personal and sensitive documentation in a safe, secure, and environmentally friendly manner.

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

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

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**Protecting Our Pets**

Animal cruelty cases stand among the most disturbing and gut-wrenching crimes prosecutors, police officers, and the public can encounter. RCDA has taken on several initiatives in recent years to keep our pets and animals safe. From co-sponsoring free adoption events to utilizing trained therapy dogs to comfort the victims of crime to vigorously prosecuting cases involving animal cruelty, our office remains committed to ensuring the health and safety of some of our most vulnerable victims.

Founded by District Attorney McMahon, our Animal Cruelty Prosecution Unit works to investigate and prosecute cases of animal cruelty and to ensure justice is served for some of our most innocent and vulnerable victims. The Unit also works to increase awareness of animal abuse, educate the community about available resources and programs available to pet owners, and develop and facilitate relationships with Staten Island rescue organizations and local veterinarians to encourage the reporting of animal abuse by speaking for those who have no voice.
“Protecting Our Pets”
Annual Calendar

Back by popular demand, in 2022 our office released its 5th Annual “Protecting Our Pets” Calendar! Highlighting Staten Islanders furry friends, the “Protecting Our Pets” calendar not only showcases some of Staten Island’s cutest animal companions but also provides readers with an exhaustive list of information and resources available to all pet owners including access to low-cost medical services, best practices on how to care for your pets, and even where to foster or adopt a pet! Additionally, readers were presented with information regarding our office’s latest efforts to prosecute animal cruelty, strengthen outdated animal cruelty laws, and hold animal abusers accountable. We even included a selection of RCDA staff proudly showcasing the bond they have with their pets.

Luv on a Leash Program

A partnership forged by the Pride Center of Staten Island and the Richmond County District Attorney’s office, Luv on a Leash utilizes trained, registered therapy dogs to comfort crime victims and witnesses in an effort to help them to better cope with the emotional and physical challenges that can arise during the criminal justice process. In addition, these tremendous therapy dogs also join our staff at community and school events throughout the year to help teach children and adults about animal cruelty prevention and reporting.

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

Programs like Saturday Night Lights are essential to providing our young people at risk of falling into a life of crime with a safe, fun, and productive alternative way to spend their time. Co-sponsored by District Attorney McMahon and the NYPD, Saturday Night Lights offers young Staten Islanders between the ages of nine and eighteen a free, fun, and safe environment for recreation and organized exercise programming each and every Saturday night.

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

Although Staten Island already had six Saturday Night Lights locations in our borough already, the program was expanded in recent years reaching 10 sites in total across Staten Island’s North Shore. Check out the full list of SNL sites on Staten Island below!

United Activities Unlimited (UAU) at PS 18
221 Broadway

Jewish Community Center at the Gerard Carter Center
230 Broad Street

Jewish Community Center at Richmond Terrace Community Center
71 Jersey Street

YMCA at Broadway YMCA
651 Broadway

City in the Community at PS 57
140 Palma Drive

Shootin’ School at PS 44
80 Maple Parkway

NYC Parks at Faber Park
2175 Richmond Terrace

United Activities Unlimited (UAU) at PS 48
1050 Targee Street

NYC Parks at Lyons Recreation Center
6 Victory Boulevard

United Activities Unlimited (UAU) Mariners Harbor at IS 51
80 Willowbrook Road
In early 2022, District Attorney McMahon’s Youth Advisory Council was relaunched after a COVID-caused hiatus. Composed of nearly a dozen high school-aged Staten Islanders, the Council is designed for students interested in a future career in law and law enforcement to share their ideas on how to improve public safety for them and their classmates, and allows them to develop initiatives designed to address those needs. This year’s students were focused on developing a “Safe Corridors” proposal for students of several North Shore schools, protected by law enforcement to allow kids a safe walk to and from school, free from the threat of violence.

Anti-Bullying Initiative
Started in 2016, RCDA’s annual “Stand Up. Stop Bullying.” Campaign seeks to bring awareness to the issue of bullying by promoting kindness and empathy through artwork and essay writing. Open to elementary and middle school students across Staten Island, the “Stand Up. Stop Bullying.” Campaign gives students the opportunity to showcase their feelings, talent, and shared experiences allowing them to turn their pain into power and hopefully, create a kinder, more empathetic and understanding Staten Island in the process. The campaign was once again held in 2022 and our office received hundreds of exemplary, emotional, and impactful submissions. Check out some of the amazing artwork on the following page!
2022 "Stand Up. Stop Bullying." Art Submissions
## RCDA Overview

### RCDA Leadership

<table>
<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 J. Koller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive ADA for Investigations</td>
<td>Thomas Ridges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive ADA for Trials &amp; Court Operations</td>
<td>Mark Palladino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive ADA for Litigation</td>
<td>Wanda DeOliveira</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive ADA for Special Victims &amp; Pathways to Justice</td>
<td>Tuesday Muller-Mondi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Advisor</td>
<td>Yolanda Rudich</td>
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### Bureau and Unit Leaders

#### RCDA Bureaus & Units

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bureau</th>
<th>Leader</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narcotics-Investigations Bureau</td>
<td>Michele Molfetta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence Division</td>
<td>Victoria Levin</td>
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<td>Investigations Division</td>
<td>Jeffrey Curiale</td>
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<td>Economic Crimes Bureau</td>
<td>Gregg Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Victims Bureau</td>
<td>Rhiannon La Tour</td>
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<td>Trials Division</td>
<td>Adam Silberlight</td>
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<td>Criminal Court Bureau</td>
<td>Darren Albanese</td>
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<td>Appeals Bureau</td>
<td>Morrie Kleinbart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elder Abuse Unit</td>
<td>Lindsay Netterville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Firearms and Gangs Unit</td>
<td>Kate Malloy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Corruption Unit</td>
<td>Jonathan Chananie</td>
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<td>Immigrant Affairs Unit</td>
<td>Euna Park</td>
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#### Non-Legal Bureaus & Units

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victim Services Unit</td>
<td>Nicole Rice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alternatives to Incarceration Unit</td>
<td>Amanda Wexler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Partnership Unit &amp; Intergovernmental Affairs</td>
<td>Andrew Crawford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Projects and Initiatives</td>
<td>Tiana Stowers Pearson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Bureau</td>
<td>Monique Jones-Hardwick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Fiscal Officer</td>
<td>Matthew Morea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procurement Unit</td>
<td>Endrhis Santana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desk Appearance Ticket (DAT) Supervisor</td>
<td>Roberta Fitzpatrick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants Director</td>
<td>Ellen Brennan Hearn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Capital Unit</td>
<td>Darling Guido</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Support Unit</td>
<td>Maria Scarna</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Leader</th>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Cruelty Prosecution Unit</td>
<td>Travis Atkinson</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Juvenile Justice Unit</td>
<td>Antonia Assenso</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vehicular Crimes Unit</td>
<td>Nicholas Agostino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cybercrimes Unit</td>
<td>Matthew Signorile</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detective Investigators</td>
<td>Dave Nilsen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Technology (IT)</td>
<td>Rob Lenza</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities Supervisor</td>
<td>Colin Thorne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Worn Camera Unit</td>
<td>Edward Perez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Andrew Crawford &amp; James Clinton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case &amp; Data Management</td>
<td>Lisa Deforte</td>
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