



# 2021 Annual Report

OFFICE OF THE  
BRONX COUNTY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
DARCEL D. CLARK



“ Pursuing Justice With Integrity ”



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# A Message from Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

I am pleased to bring you the Annual Report for 2021, a year in which our Office made strides in fulfilling our work for the people of the Bronx while still navigating the lingering COVID-19 pandemic.

We returned to our offices and to the courtrooms, presented cases to grand juries, tried defendants for violent crimes and got back to holding our community events, such as the Child Safety Fair, the Domestic Violence Awareness 5K Walk/Run/Roll, our Re-Entry Resource Fair, a Rally Against Hate, and others.

We began some new initiatives for crime victims, and retooled our Alternatives to Incarceration Bureau to the Community Justice Bureau, and joined with Osborne Association on a gun accountability and prevention program.

In July, the Saturday Night Lights Program expanded across the City, with the Bronx getting 23 of the 100 new locations, supplementing the two original centers we opened in 2019. Programs like SNL instill teamwork, leadership, and strengthens the relationship between law enforcement and residents through sports and social activity. They are what we need to prevent crime and give kids opportunities.

Sadly, the Bronx continued to experience a rise in crime. We suffered 148 homicides in 2021, up from 111 the previous year.

Guns drove the violence. There were 602 people shot in 508 incidents. In June 2021, we enacted a gun violence strategy aimed at solving and prosecuting non-fatal shootings, and prevention and outreach to the community, as well as enhanced services for victims. It is called P.E.A.C.E. (Precision Enforcement And



Community Engagement). We marched through communities that have been marred by gunfire.

In November, I called for changes to plug the gaps in the Raise the Age law to address youth gun violence in the Bronx. We have seen 16 and 17-year-olds with guns who are not being held accountable. Youths with multiple gun cases are released and graduate to a fatal shooting, or they are killed by another youth with a gun. Unfortunately, the law was not adjusted. I will continue working to address this because we are losing a generation of boys and young men of color in the Bronx.

Property crimes went up significantly—there were 3,097 auto thefts, a thousand more than in 2020, a crime that greatly affects residents who rely on their cars to get to work. My Detective Investigators worked with precincts and recovered 142 stolen vehicles, with an estimated worth of more than \$3 million.

While we are in challenging times, I see reason to hope—in the faces of our kids, in the community organizations that have never wavered, in the work of our dedicated police, and in the resilience of the people of this great county. It is my honor to serve you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darcel D. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Bronx District Attorney  
Darcel D. Clark

# Laser Focus on Gun Violence

## P.E.A.C.E.

Shootings escalated in 2021, so in the summer, the Office implemented a violence reduction plan called P.E.A.C.E. (Precision Enforcement And Community Engagement). With P.E.A.C.E., the Crime Strategies Bureau, along with the Homicide, Violent Criminal Enterprise and Trial Bureaus use data to identify the drivers of crime and enhance cases, conduct proactive investigations, and prosecute.

Assistant District Attorneys respond to non-fatal shootings in hotspots and investigate them from inception, just as they would in homicide cases. This allows for evidence-based prosecutions in cases where the victim is uncooperative. This initiative is crucial, since many of these shootings are retaliatory.

Additionally, Advocates from the Crime Victims Assistance Bureau reach out to victims soon after their violent encounters at the hospital or at the victim's home to assess if they need services, regardless of whether a case moves forward.

### Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark vows to win battle against gun violence

By Dan Kourth via Eyewitness News  
Friday, June 4, 2021



EMBED <> MORE VIDEOS >

In an exclusive sit down interview with Eyewitness News, Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark gave a stern warning to those responsible for an increase in violence and discussed new ways to combat crime in the area.



There were over 1,200 gun arrests last year, and we moved forward to prosecute more than 90 percent of them.

P.E.A.C.E includes crime prevention strategies and programs for youths, and community outreach and re-entry and alternatives to incarceration.

# 21st Century Justice: Redressing Disparate Enforcement

## Court Grants Motion by Bronx DA Darcel Clark to Dismiss over 6,000 Misdemeanor Marijuana Cases

On June 10, 2021, the Supervising Judge of Bronx Criminal Court, George A. Grasso, granted the Office's motion to dismiss more than 6,000 cases that involved the charge of misdemeanor marijuana possession or sale.

District Attorney Clark said, "The Legislature has decriminalized the possession and sale of small amounts of marijuana to right the wrong of disproportionate enforcement and arrests in communities of color like the Bronx. We had long stopped prosecuting these offenses because they were not a threat to public safety, and they gave people a criminal record that had negative collateral consequences on employment, housing, education, and immigration. There is no purpose in spending prosecutorial and judicial resources on conduct that the Legislature has decriminalized. Since Article 221 has been repealed, there is no longer any basis to continue the prosecution of open cases that contain a sole charge of misdemeanor marijuana possession and/or sale, or keep active warrants related to these matters, so we have moved to dismiss 6,089 cases."

## Dismissal of over 800 Loitering for Prostitution Cases

On March 8, 2021, the Supervising Judge of Bronx Criminal Court, George A. Grasso, granted the Office's motion to dismiss more than 800 cases that involved the charge of Loitering for Prostitution, including pending cases and disposed cases in which a bench warrant was ordered. Some cases dated back to 1970s and 1980s.

District Attorney Clark said, "For some time, my Office has declined to prosecute the charge Loitering for the Intent of Prostitution, which disproportionately targets women, LGBTQ people and at-risk youth. There hadn't been an arrest for this offense in the Bronx since 2018. I supported the repeal of the penal law 240.37, and it was officially repealed by the state legislature last month. The dismissal of warrants and cases related to this charge is the right thing to do. Warrants create obstacles when people apply for housing, jobs or other resources. With today's action, hundreds will be able to move forward without collateral consequence. My overall effort is to focus resources on prosecuting sex traffickers and provide assistance for those victimized by the sex trade."



# Overview: Crime in the Bronx

Bronx County	2021	2020	1- Year % Change	5-Year % Change
Murder	148	111	33%	62%
UCR Rape*	617	519	19%	***
Robbery	4040	3507	15%	11%
Felony Assault	6288	5888	7%	7%
Burglary	2251	2692	-16%	-5%
Grand Larceny	7024	6126	15%	9%
Grand Larceny Auto	3097	2,094	48%	110%
Total	23217	20747	12%	15%



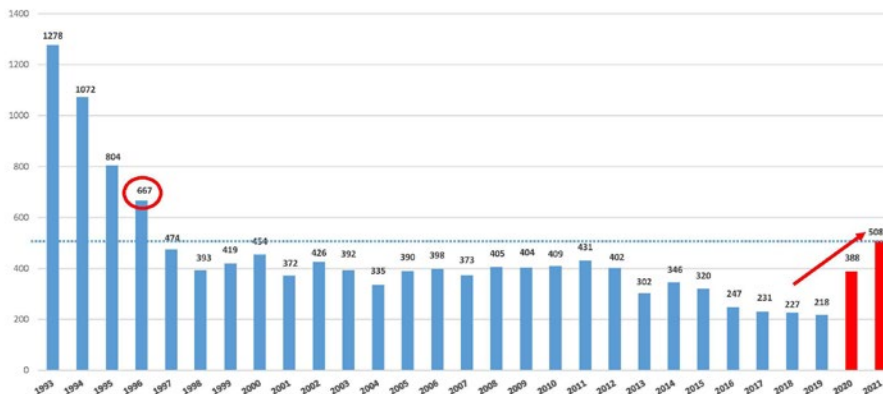
## City-Wide Violence Overview

	2021	2020	% 1 Year Change ('20-'21)	% 5 Years Change ('16-'20)
<b>Homicides</b>				
<b>Bronx</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>62%</b>
Manhattan	92	84	10%	81%
Brooklyn	150	175	-14%	46%
Queens	83	78	6%	65%
Staten Island	15	20	-25%	-4%
Citywide	488	468	4%	43%
<b>Shooting Victims</b>				
<b>Bronx</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>94%</b>
Manhattan	312	256	22%	99%
Brooklyn	624	808	-23%	31%
Queens	298	293	2%	65%
Staten Island	40	45	-11%	14%
Citywide	1876	1869	0%	62%
<b>Shooting Incidents</b>				
<b>Bronx</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>94%</b>
Manhattan	262	212	24%	98%
Brooklyn	519	652	-20%	32%
Queens	236	238	-1%	57%
Staten Island	36	41	-12%	11%
Citywide	1561	1532	2%	61%

Data from NYPD CompStat and CSB



## Shooting Incidents from 1993 - present



133 percent increase in shooting incidents since 1996, when there were 667 shooting incidents.

# Trial Division

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**In 2021, the Trial Division indicted 1,617 cases. In 2021, the Trial Division charged 10,719 cases, including 5,719 misdemeanors, and 1,643 unindicted felonies.**

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## Homicide Bureau

### COLD CASE SOLVED

**On November 30, 2022, District Attorney Clark and the New York City Police Department announced that Joseph Martinez, AKA Jupiter Joe, 49, of Westchester, was indicted on Murder charges in the 1999 killing of 13-year-old Minerliz Soriano after investigators used familial DNA—the first time the technology is used in New York City to solve a case.**

### Westchester County man charged in 1999 murder of 13-year-old girl

By Joe Marino, Tina Moore and Jorge Fitz-Gibbon

November 29, 2021 | 5:18pm | Updated



District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant allegedly killed 13-year-old Minerliz Soriano and then took her bound body in a garbage bag and left it in a dumpster in Co-op City near where a mall now stands. This beautiful little girl was treated as less than human. It has been 22 years since her life was cruelly taken, but detectives never gave up on finding justice for her and her family, and neither did my ADAs.

“The DNA science and technology advanced over the years, and was instrumental in linking

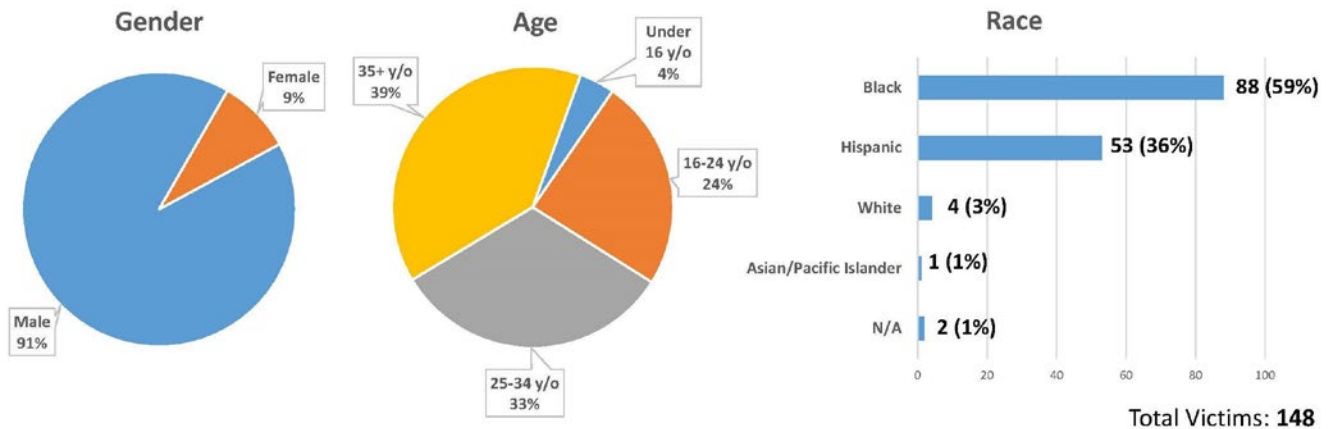
the defendant to the murder. But it really was the humanity, dedication and compassion of the investigators and their relentless drive to get justice in this case. That is why we do this work. I hope today’s indictment brings some consolation to the victim’s family.”

**On October 7, 2021, District Attorney Clark and the New York City Police Department announced that 13 people—including five 16-year-old boys—were indicted on charges related to the murders of Jaryan Elliott, 13, and Ramon Gil-Medrano, 16. The defendants were also charged in the non-fatal shooting of two men, as well as car jackings and robberies in the Bronx that occurred from May 2021 through July 2021. The shootings involved members of two rival neighborhood crews, the 800 YGs based in Belmont and Thirdside, who are based in the Norwood/Mosholu area of the Bronx.**

District Attorney Clark said, “These defendants are charged in a string of violent crimes, culminating in the murders of two boys, that contributed to a brutal summer. These indictments are an assurance to the people of the Bronx that we will hold accountable anyone who brings gunfire to our streets. But these indictments are also a tragic chronicle of a lost generation: boys and young men who turned to guns, and two lives were taken and 14 lives have been squandered. We must do something to change the course of our young people who gravitate to gangs so that they do not wind up committing serious crimes. We are experiencing an utter catastrophe in the Bronx.”



## Homicide Victim Demographics (2021)





**Jose Reyes, 66, was indicted on second-degree Murder, first-degree Manslaughter, and two counts of second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon** for shooting a woman who was working at a construction site on City Island on April 14, 2021. Reyes, who was acquainted with the victim, Lizbeth Mass, 52, allegedly became enraged when he saw her boyfriend at the site and realized she was in a relationship. The defendant allegedly shot Mass three times in the torso with a revolver.

**BRONX**

### Man charged with murder in fatal City Island construction site shooting

by: [Corey Crockett](#)  
 Posted: Apr 23, 2021 / 05:34 PM EDT  
 Updated: Apr 23, 2021 / 05:34 PM EDT

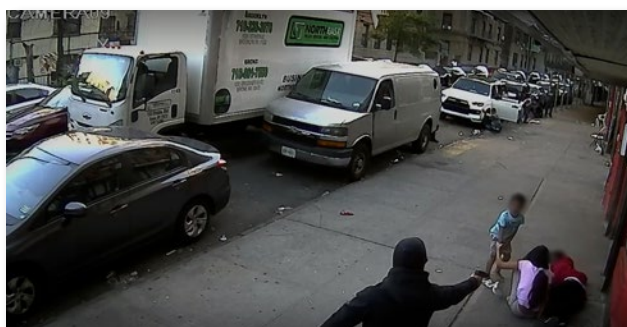
*Lizbeth Mass was fatally shot while she worked as a construction-site flagger in City Island neighborhood on April 14, 2021, police said. (Photo, left, courtesy...)*  
[Read More](#)

**Akeem Samuel, 32, was sentenced to 22 years to life in prison for second-degree Murder and eight years in prison and five years of post-release supervision for second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon, to run concurrently, on December 8, 2021 after a jury found him guilty of the charges.** Samuel shot and killed Frederick Hayes on July 31, 2018. The victim was shot at close range, three times in the back, three times behind the ear, and once in the arm.



## TRIAL BUREAUS CASES OF NOTE:

**Michael Lopez, 27, a gang member, was indicted on** Attempted Murder in the second degree and additional charges for shooting a Bronx man on June 17, 2021 in Mount Eden. His target ran into a 13-year-old girl and her five-year-old brother, knocking them to the ground. The girl shielded her brother as the defendant continued to fire shots at his target at close range. The victim was struck once in the back and once in each leg. He sustained nerve damage and is still unable to walk. The children and other innocent bystanders were not injured. Lopez pleaded guilty to Attempted Murder in the second degree on January 28, 2022 and was sentenced to 15 years in prison and five years of post-release supervision.



**David Fennell, 49, was sentenced to prison on** September 22, 2021 for a 2018 car crash on the Grand Concourse that killed an elderly woman and left another woman injured. He was sentenced to three to nine years in prison for second-degree Manslaughter and one year for third-degree Assault after he was found guilty of the charges following a bench trial. The defendant was driving at least 62 miles an hour in a 25 mile-per-hour zone and struck multiple cars. He rear-ended one of the vehicles and propelled it into a



74-year-old woman who was crossing the street. The driver was injured, and the pedestrian died of her injuries two years later.

## Vehicular Crimes Unit

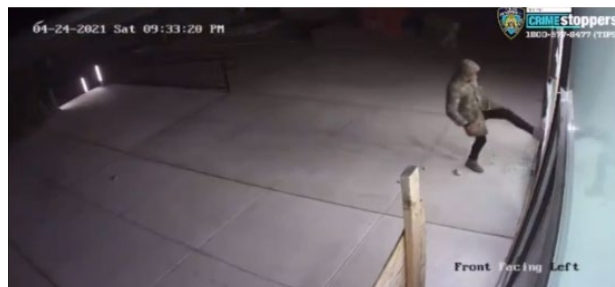
**Robert Johnson, 42, was indicted on second-degree** Manslaughter, second-degree Vehicular Manslaughter and additional charges in the September 2021 death of Carina Lopez. The defendant was allegedly speeding and under the influence when he drove into a bike lane, crashed into parked cars, and struck Lopez, who had just parked her car. He allegedly continued to travel across double yellow lines into the opposite side of traffic crashing into even more parked cars.

## Hate Crimes

**Jordan Burnette, 30, was indicted on a 76-count** indictment charging Criminal Trespass in the Third Degree as a Hate Crime, Trespass, Criminal Mischief, and additional charges for allegedly defacing multiple synagogues in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. The defendant allegedly shattered glass windows, glass doors, stole a bicycle and damaged religious books.

### Suspect arrested in Bronx synagogue vandalism incidents

By Eyewitness News via   
Monday, May 3, 2021



ABC 7 Eyewitness News

# Special Victims Division

## Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau

**The Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau (CASC) prosecutes all misdemeanor and felony sexual assault** cases involving both child and adult victims, as well as most misdemeanor and felony physical child abuse cases, and all child abuse fatalities. At the Child Advocacy Center, ADAs work with advocates, the NYPD, Administration for Children's Services, and doctors in handling child sexual and physical abuse allegations. In 2021, the Bureau opened 3,984 cases. Of those cases, 23 were fatalities and nine were sleep-related deaths. CASC received 1,921 referrals from ACS, and jointly investigated 1,912 child abuse allegations with the NYPD and ACS, which derived from the Bronx DA child abuse hotline.

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**CASC had a total of 1,119 arrests. Of those arrests, 176 were child sexual abuse cases; 215 were child physical abuse cases, and 129 were adult sex crimes cases.**

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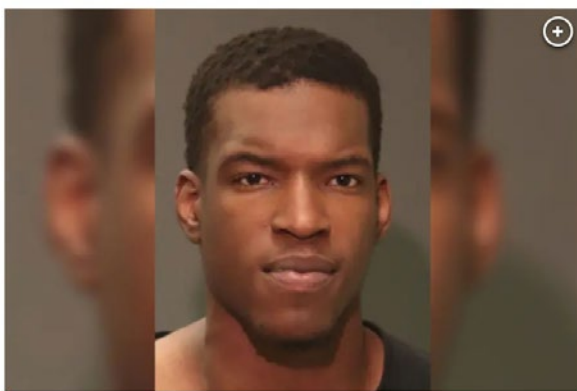
### NOTABLE CASES:

**Keishawn Gordon, 24, was indicted on two counts** of second-degree Murder, first and second-degree Manslaughter, and first-degree Aggravated Sexual Abuse in the death of his girlfriend's one-year-old son, Legacy Beauford. The defendant allegedly violently squeezed the baby and threw him up in the air and hit him in the face because the child would not stop crying. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined the child sustained multiple blunt force trauma injuries to the torso, which led to a lacerated liver and internal bleeding. The defendant also allegedly sexually abused the child with a toothbrush.

### Accused NYC baby-killer told cops that victim was 'irking me': court docs

By Larry Celona and Patrick Reilly

September 12, 2021 | 6:48pm | Updated



Keishawn Gordon allegedly murdered his girlfriend's 1-year-old son Legacy Beauford in the Bronx.

**Reginald Bellot, 28, was indicted on three counts** of Predatory Sexual Assault, two counts of first-degree Rape, first-degree Criminal Sexual Act, and additional charges for raping a 70-year-old woman. On July 27, 2021, the defendant allegedly followed the victim and threatened her with a gun to gain entrance into her Bronx apartment building. The defendant allegedly raped her inside a stairwell, then went into her apartment where he raped her again and forced her to perform sexual acts on him.

**Kenneth Lynch, 39, was sentenced to 16 years in** prison and five years of post-release supervision after pleading guilty to first-degree manslaughter. Lynch, who was living with his then girlfriend and her two-year-old son, Messiah, inflicted multiple blunt force injuries to the child's body. Blows to the boy's torso led to a transected liver, which caused his death.

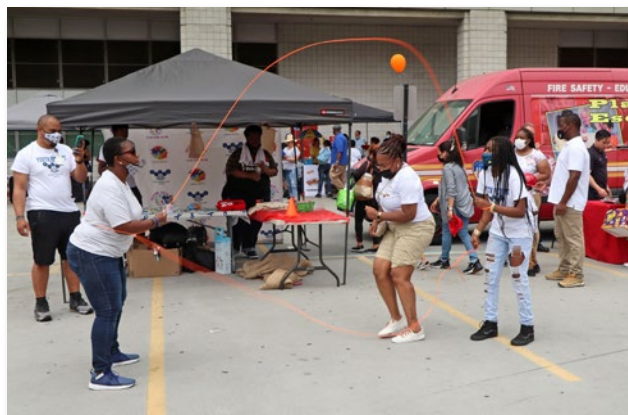
**Malcolm Lugo, 24, was sentenced on May 4, 2021** to 12 years in prison and 20 years of post-release supervision after pleading guilty to first-degree Criminal Sexual Act. Lugo followed a 12-year-old girl, who was returning from the store near her home, and dragged her into an alley. The defendant threatened the girl with what she believed was a gun and sexually assaulted her. Lugo fled to Massachusetts and was apprehended after a six-week manhunt.

**Tyree Scott, 29, was indicted on Attempted Murder** in the second degree, first-degree Assault, three counts of second-degree Assault, fourth-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon, second-degree Unlawful Imprisonment, third-degree Assault, and two-counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child. On February 1, 2021, the defendant allegedly stabbed his six-year-old son, who is quadriplegic, multiple times with a screwdriver, piercing his heart. During the time of the incident, a 16-year-old girl was inside his home. Scott allegedly refused to let her leave the apartment and punched her several times in the head.

#### **4TH ANNUAL BRONX CHILD SAFETY FAIR**

**The Bronx District Attorney's Office held the fair in the 161st Street Concourse Plaza Parking Lot on May 22, 2021.**

The fair provided safety tips and life-saving information to children ages 3 to 13 and their parents/caregivers. Participants were also able to obtain a free New York State Safe Child Identification Card, which is used by the New York State AMBER Alert and Missing Child Alert programs. The fair included food, music and other fun activities.



## Domestic Violence Bureau

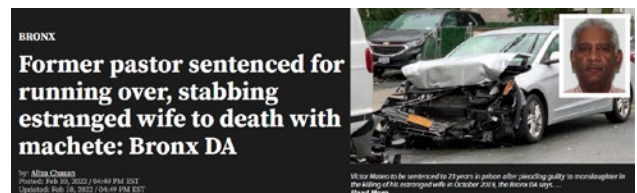
**T**his Bureau handles cases involving intimate partner violence. Specially trained Assistant District Attorneys work with victims on prosecuting the abusers, and Crime Victims advocates offer trauma counseling and referrals to housing and other services.

The Bureau oversees the Strangulation Initiative, which provides services and counseling to victims who have been strangled—an indicator for homicide. In 2021, the program handled 123 cases and 2,224 follow-ups.

In 2021, the Bureau began the Cyber Crime Initiative, which prosecutes Domestic Violence cyber-crime cases, including the Unlawful Dissemination of Intimate Images. The initiative aims to seek justice for DV victims, to prevent and deter individuals from cyber-stalking, and sending and posting intimate photos or videos of victims. The Bureau works with the NYPD in pre-arrest investigations and evidence gathering. Victims can report Unlawful Dissemination complaints directly to the Bronx DA's Office, through a designated email address/hotline. The Bureau handled 10 pre-arrest investigations in 2021.

### NOTABLE CASES:

**Victor Mateo, 65, was sentenced to 23 years in prison and five years of post-release supervision in the death of his estranged wife.** He pleaded guilty to first-degree Manslaughter on November 18, 2021. Mateo, a former pastor, struck his estranged wife, Noelia Mateo, with his vehicle in front of her home. As the victim hid, the defendant got into the victim's vehicle and ran her over again, then hacked her with a machete, causing her death. The victim's two grandchildren witnessed the entire attack. The defendant fled to Pennsylvania and was arrested after a one-week manhunt.



P1X11

**Angel DeJesus, 44, was indicted for second-degree Murder and related charges.** DeJesus allegedly strangled the mother of his children Belkis Lopez with a ligature, causing her death. He fled the home leaving three children in the apartment with their mother's body. The victim's 14-year-old daughter found her mother's body when she was getting ready for school and reported the incident.

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**There were 8 Domestic Violence homicides in the Bronx in 2021.**

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## 5K RUN/WALK/ROLL

### The Bronx DA's Office, in partnership with the New

York Yankees and State University of New York (SUNY), held the 4th annual 5K Run/Walk/Roll To End Domestic Violence on October 16, 2021. More than 300 participants attended, wearing purple, the color of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The event was held to honor the resilience of domestic violence survivors and raise awareness to prevent these incidents.



## Crime Victims Assistance Bureau

### The Crime Victims Assistance Bureau

supports victims through therapy sessions and connects them to resources and services, including housing and jobs, even if they don't have a criminal case. CVAB handles the Early Victim Engagement (EVE) Program, in which advocates reach out to domestic violence victims to let them know if their abusive partner is in jail or has been released. The Bureau also oversees the Complex Homicide Program, which responds to homicide victims' loved ones within 24 to 72 hours after the incident, as well as a support group for mothers of homicide victims.

An Elder Abuse Advocate helps seniors with crime prevention, and with referrals to agencies for help with financial scams and other needs.

The Bureau also handles the Enough is Enough initiative, which aims to prevent, educate, and bring awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking on college campuses. In 2021, EIE partnered with three more Bronx colleges, bringing the total to nine.

### CVAB: Caring for Victims:

Between January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

- CVAB took in 3,949 new clients
- Offered 2,974 therapy sessions
- Conducted 25,167 follow-ups

## TREE OF ANGELS

**CVAB coordinated BXDA's annual "Tree of Angels"** event, held on December 4, 2021. Families and friends affected by homicides commemorated their loved one by placing angel ornaments bearing the victim's name on the tree. Approximately 100 people attended, along with 22 virtual attendees.



## OPERATION GIFT GIVING

**BXDA held its annual Operation Gift Giving event** in December 2021. BXDA Staff donated approximately \$7,000 to 17 Bronx families who were victims of crime and had a closed case with the Office. They were given gift cards of \$300-\$500 to purchase gifts for their loved ones, pay bills or for food shopping for their holiday meal.

## Human Trafficking Unit

**The Human Trafficking Unit, created in 2019,** continued to investigate and prosecute incidents involving the exploitation of people by sexual slavery and forced labor. On average, the Unit investigated three tips of sex trafficking per week in 2021. Tips came from Staff within the

Office, the Child Advocacy Center, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, the Human Trafficking Team of the NYPD and the NYPD Special Victims Unit.

## HTU Numbers 2021:

- **13 arrests** for promoting-prostitution-related charges, including **Sex Trafficking** and **Sex Trafficking of a Child**.
- **11 arrests** for patronizing-prostitution in 2021, compared to 216 arrests in 2020. This was due to the prioritization on addressing violent crimes.
- **15 arrests** for prostitution in 2021, a decrease from 24 arrests in 2020, and 216 arrests in 2019.
- **0 arrests** for loitering for the purposes of prostitution.
- BXDA provided social services to nearly 50 adult and children human trafficking victims.

## NOTABLE CASES:

**Reginald Cooke, AKA Reggie, 31, was indicted on** three counts of Sex Trafficking, second-degree Promoting Prostitution and additional charges for the sex-trafficking of a 28-year-old New Jersey woman and 15-year-old Brooklyn girl. The defendant beat and choked the victims. The defendant was recently sentenced to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to one count of Attempted Sex Trafficking on each of the two indictments.

**Three Bronx men and a woman were indicted on** Sex Trafficking of a Child, Promoting Prostitution, and additional charges for the exploitation of two 15-year-old girls and an 18-year-old woman. Marvin Flint AKA Merk, 30, Zyair Harris AKA Zay, 24, Curtis Laboy AKA Shawn, 24, and Melina Laboy AKA Chica Peek, 41, allegedly profited from the exploitation of the victims and manipulated them by taking their money, beating and strangling them, and through drugs.

# Investigations Division

## Investigations Opened in 2021 by Bureau:

Economic Crimes Bureau	72
Organized Criminal Activity Bureau	122
Public Integrity Bureau	62
Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau	206
Special Investigations Bureau	18
Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau	18

## Special Investigations Bureau & Narcotics Investigation Unit

**Ariel Jimenez, 37, was found guilty of three counts** of first-degree Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, second-degree Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, and three counts of third-degree Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance with intent to sell a narcotic, by a jury on November 16, 2021. NYPD and DEA Officers stopped the vehicle Jimenez was driving in after he was seen outside his home in an apparent drug transaction with a known major trafficker. Authorities seized a kilo of fentanyl under the car seat. The investigation found Jimenez was running a heroin and fentanyl mill out of his Riverdale home.



## Public Integrity Bureau

### **Rafael Rosado, 44, was indicted on Attempted**

**Murder in the first degree and second degree, Attempted Assault in the first degree, first-degree Criminal Use of a Firearm, and additional charges for shooting at an off-duty NYPD Officer.** An altercation involving Rosado, his son, and others took place in the vicinity of 180th Street and Valentine Avenue and shots were fired. Two off-duty police officers were nearby and responded to the location. During the incident, it is alleged that the defendant fired multiple times at one of the police officers.

### **Messiah Nantwi, 18, was indicted on three counts**

**of Attempted Murder in the first degree, three counts of Attempted Murder in the second degree, first-degree Criminal Use of a Firearm, second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon, and additional charges for shooting at a uniformed NYPD Sergeant and two NYPD Police Officers during a graffiti stop.** The defendant, while resisting arrest, fired multiple shots, leading cops to return fire.

### **James Garner, 49, was indicted on Grand Larceny,**

**Insurance Fraud, and additional charges for falsely claiming he was fully disabled and unable to work at his state job so he could collect more than \$35,000 in worker's compensation.** Garner was a full-time employee at the Office of Mental Health at the New York City Children's Center working as a mental health therapy aide. He was injured on the job in 2019. For about a year he claimed he was fully disabled and swore under oath he was not working. The investigation found he was able to work and was working increased hours at his part-time job.

## Organized Criminal Activity Bureau

### **Johvan Aybar, 31, was indicted on multiple charges**

of second and fourth-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon, Manufacture of Weapons, Criminal Possession of a Firearm, and Possession of Ammunition. The defendant allegedly had in his possession two loaded ghost guns and a third nearly completed ghost gun, as well as ammunition and purchase records of other gun parts in his home.

## Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau



*District Attorney Clark with Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau Staff and former NYC Department of Correction Commissioner Vincent Schiraldi on Rikers Island on July 26, 2021.*

### **On August 26, 2021, District Attorney Clark**

announced her Office indicted 37 cases charging brutal attacks in the jail spanning six months. The attacks were committed by inmates against Department of Correction Officers and other inmates. The cases were brought after the Grand Jury reconvened in late February/March of 2021 after the COVID-19 pandemic halted the courts.

### **In one case, seven inmates allegedly overwhelmed**

an Officer, then stomped and punched another detainee. Another defendant then allegedly poured boiling water on the victim, causing skin on his face, head and arms to burn away.

**In another case, an inmate, Zaki Smith, allegedly** deployed a female Correction Officer's OC spray as she ran towards the exit. Smith allegedly chased her and when she fell to the ground, he struck her about the face multiple times. The Officer suffered several lacerations to the forehead, which required 13 stitches, as well as a swollen nose and swollen eye sockets.

### **In another incident, an inmate, Felix Aponte,**

allegedly approached a Correction Officer and punched him in the head, knocking him to the floor. The Officer tried to stand up but fell to the floor due to dizziness and pain. He suffered a contusion and sustained swelling and pain to his head and body.

### **Marvens Thomas, 28, a Rikers Island inmate, was**

indicted on Attempted Murder in the second degree, Attempted Aggravated Murder and additional charges for carrying out an unprovoked, vicious attack against a Department of Correction Officer in the jail. The defendant allegedly went up to the Officer and punched him multiple times in the head and face, causing the victim to fall to the ground. As the Officer lay immobile, the defendant kicked him in the face and head multiple times. Thomas then jumped and stomped on the victim's head and back twice. He proceeded to take the officer's pepper spray and left the scene.

### **Michael Cleaver, 56, a Rikers Island inmate, was**

indicted on Attempted Rape in the first degree, first-degree Sexual Abuse, first and second-degree Unlawful Imprisonment, two counts of Forcible Touching and two counts of third-degree Sexual Abuse for attacking women who worked in the jail. The defendant allegedly lunged at a female Correction Officer and groped her. A few hours later, the defendant allegedly forced a 51-year-old nurse into a room and locked the



door. Cleaver placed the victim in a bearhug and pushed her to the ground. He then placed his hand into her pants and pulled her clothes down, exposing part of her backside. The victim yelled for help and another inmate broke the lock on the door and punched the defendant several times in an effort to get him off the victim.

## **Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau ALLEGED GANG MEMBERS INDICTED FOR SHOOTINGS, FINANCIAL CRIMES**

**On August 3, 2021, District Attorney Clark, former Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance Jr., and former NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea announced that alleged members of the “20-30” crew, AKA “30 Block,” were indicted in Manhattan and the Bronx for financial crimes and gun violence in which two innocent bystanders were shot. Eight defendants were indicted in the Bronx on 155 counts, including Conspiracy to Commit Murder. In Manhattan, five of the defendants were charged in a complaint with sophisticated thievery that targeted Uber and Lyft drivers as well as state unemployment funds, netting them hundreds of thousands of dollars. The investigation was also conducted in partnership with Homeland Security Investigations, New York, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.**

District Attorney Clark said, “These alleged gang members are charged with the two gang activities that plague our communities—financial crimes and wanton gun violence. Manhattan DA Vance’s Office and the NYPD began investigating them for

stealing from rideshare drivers and other thefts and executed search warrants in their Bronx homes that recovered seven firearms. My Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau then conducted an investigation and tied the gang to the shootout in a car dealership where a father was wounded while protecting his kids, and to a shooting on the street targeting rival gang members that instead wounded a 52-year-old woman for life. Our investigation also recovered five guns and two large capacity magazines. With our law enforcement partners, I will not let people destroy the Bronx bullet by bullet.”



## **Candido Lizarro, 28, was sentenced to eight years**

in prison and five years of post-release supervision after pleading guilty to first-degree Assault; and one to three years in prison, to run concurrently, for second-degree Conspiracy. Lizarro fired multiple shots at a victim, striking him five times in the neck, arm, and torso. Lizarro also hired an undercover NYPD Officer—posing as a hitman—to kill the victim in an effort to stop him from testifying in court.

## **SEVEN ALLEGED BETANCES GANG MEMBERS/ ASSOCIATES INDICTED FOR SERIES OF SHOOTINGS IN THE SOUTH BRONX**

**On June 15, 2021, District Attorney Clark and The New York City Police Department announced that seven alleged members or associates of the Betances Gang, who operated in and around the Betances Houses in the South Bronx, were variously charged in four indictments on charges**

including conspiring to murder and assault rival gang members and possessing firearms for incidents that occurred between 2019 and 2021.

According to the joint investigation by the Bronx District Attorney's Office and the NYPD's Gun Violence Suppression Division, members and associates of Betances conspired to acquire firearms to protect the areas in and around the Betances Houses, their turf. Some defendants allegedly carried out retaliatory shootings against members of the Patterson YGz gang. In another incident, defendants allegedly robbed and assaulted a young woman on a Bronx subway platform. While in custody in Horizon Juvenile Facility, one defendant allegedly assaulted another detainee, causing the victim to suffer a concussion and a fracture to the face, and allegedly assaulted a Correction Officer.

## Economic Crimes Bureau

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**This Bureau includes the Immigrant Affairs Unit, which investigates and prosecutes financial frauds targeting our Bronx County immigrant community, and the Civilian Complaint Unit, which takes complaints from the public for possible investigations. In 2021, CCU received approximately 600 complaints.**

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### NOTABLE CASES:

**Tarun Mirchandani, 46, of North Bergen, New Jersey**, a former sales manager at a Bronx Honda dealership, pleaded guilty to defrauding a customer by charging her \$1,600 in fraudulent fees when purchasing a used car. It was part of a scheme at the dealership that targeted Black and Hispanic customers for higher financing markups and fees, resulting in them paying more for financing than non-Hispanic white consumers. The defendant was sentenced to a Conditional Discharge, the condition being he complete a workshop on racial equity through the New York City Commission on Human Rights. After an

investigation by the Bronx DA's Investigations Division, the Federal Trade Commission and the city's Division of Human Rights, the F.T.C. obtained a settlement whereby Bronx Honda and its general manager, Carlo Fittanto, would pay \$1.5 million to settle F.T.C.'s charges they discriminated against African-American and Hispanic car buyers and engaged in numerous other illegal business practices. The Bronx DA's Office also worked in partnership with the New York City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection, and on August 16, 2021, DCWP formalized a settlement agreement whereby Bronx Honda was ordered to pay the city a further fine of \$100,000 for the fraudulent conduct uncovered during the investigation.

### **Jennifer Ricardo, 39, was indicted on Grand**

Larceny, Petit Larceny, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, Scheme to Defraud, Criminal Impersonation, and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument charges for stealing almost \$20,000 from eight people in a scheme promising affordable apartments in city-owned buildings. Ricardo allegedly pretended to be either a real estate broker, or an employee of the city's Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) or the city's Housing Development Corporation (HDC), and allegedly met with her victims at various apartment buildings in the Bronx, accepting rent payments and security deposits for apartments in the buildings. The would-be renters never received keys or got the apartments and could not get in contact with Ricardo after they paid her.



# Strategic Enforcement & Intergovernmental Relations Division

## Crime Strategies Bureau

**The Crime Strategies Bureau (CSB) harnesses** innovative technologies, data science, and other information sharing techniques to reduce violent crime in the Bronx. CSB works with law enforcement partners and community members to analyze violent crime trends and hold violent crime briefings.

## GUN VIOLENCE STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP

### On August 2, 2021, the Bronx District Attorney's

Office became an official partner in the Gun Violence Strategies Partnership at High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). The Partnership includes daily meetings with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners to discuss high-priority offenders and crime trends throughout the city. The Gun Violence Strategies Partnership facilitates collaboration between over two dozen law enforcement agencies and encourages sharing information on crime drivers so that the Partnership can effectively address gun violence throughout the city.

## Community Justice Bureau

**This Bureau provides treatment and resource** opportunities to defendants in appropriate cases, and coordinates with prosecutors to facilitate dispositions. This includes the Project Reset: Bronx Community Justice program, which diverts individuals charged with low-level crimes from the criminal justice system, and the Heroin Overdose Prevention Education (HOPE) Program, a pre-arraignment program for individuals arrested for misdemeanor drug possession desk appearance ticket (DAT).

In 2021, the Community Justice Bureau worked with OCA to create an Alternatives to Incarceration part in the Supreme Court.

Last fall, the Office partnered with the Osborne Association to launch a pilot program called the Bronx Osborne Gun Accountability and Prevention (BOGAP), the first dedicated diversion program for Bronx defendants charged with loaded and unlicensed guns. It focuses on individuals ages 16-25 who have been arrested for illegal gun possession but fit the criteria for a second chance: possession of a gun, but no discharge or use, and no prior felony conviction. BOGAP includes counseling, job-readiness, and educational programs. The goal of the 9–12 months-long program is to prevent participants from ever picking up a gun again. If participants successfully complete the program their felony case is reduced, and they will ultimately plead to a misdemeanor. There are currently 42 defendants enrolled.

### In 2021:

- Project Reset received 583 referred cases
- 130 people completed the Project Reset program
- HOPE received 333 referred cases
- 100 people completed the HOPE program

## BRONX RE-ENTRY RESOURCE FAIR

**CSB's prevention and re-entry team, along with** other BXDA Staff, hosted a Bronx Re-entry Resource Fair on November 6, 2021 in Bronx Community Board 12 on White Plains Road. The resource fair was held for formerly incarcerated individuals re-entering the Bronx community and included information on jobs, housing, healthcare, and other services. The event, held in partnership with other community organizations, also included food, music and COVID-19 testing and vaccination.



## Technical Investigations Bureau

### DIGITAL FORENSIC LAB

**The Digital Forensic Lab handles forensic** examinations of electronic devices and provides legal and technical support to Assistant District Attorneys. In 2021, the number of devices received increased by 50 percent from 2020, and 80 percent compared to 2019.

### VIDEO UNIT

**The Video Unit takes photographs and video of** statements, crime scenes, evidence, injuries, and more. Additionally, the Unit creates compilations of video footage for use in the Grand Jury and trials.

### BODY-WORN CAMERA UNIT

**The Body-Worn Camera Unit handled 175,728** videos shared by the NYPD, an increase from 90,052 handled in 2020. The NYPD has shared more than 400,000 videos with BXDA since the body-worn camera program was created in 2018.



## Forensic Science Unit

**This Unit handles the forensic investigation** and litigation in criminal prosecutions, conviction integrity reviews and cold cases.

### In 2021, the Forensic Science Unit:

- Processed 558 DNA hits, and Discovery for 528 DNA cases.
- Processed 1,960 requests for testing at the NYPD Lab, of which they broke down into approximately 53% for controlled substance testing, 42% for firearms operability, 4% for microscopic comparison.
- Evaluated 20 “new” cold cases for potential DNA leads. These are all unsolved murders or sexual assaults in the Bronx ranging from 1986 to 2010. The Unit submitted 3 new cases for Familial Search, and 1 case of Genetic Genealogy.

### NOTABLE CASE:

**FSU submitted the familial search request on the** 1999 cold case homicide of Minerliz Soriano, making it the first case in New York City to utilize familial DNA. Joseph Martinez, AKA Jupiter Joe, was arrested on November 29, 2021. The NYPD and the Bronx District Attorney’s Office in April 2019 submitted a joint application to the state to perform a familial DNA search. A DNA sample, which was obtained from a semen stain on the victim’s sweatshirt, was submitted to the New York State convicted offender DNA database for potential relatives that could match the specimen. That search and further investigation led to the defendant.

## Strategic Planning and Analytics

**This Unit is responsible for data research** and analysis of prosecution in the Bronx.

The Unit also handles all federal, state and local grant applications. In 2021, the Unit successfully obtained extensions on several grants totaling nearly \$2.5 million in 2021 and won awards in the amount totaling over \$1 million. In 2021, SPA managed over \$3 million in federal, state, and local grants to support crime victims’ services, community-based alternative to incarceration treatments for substance use disorder and mental health services, upgraded technology systems, and enhanced crime prevention strategies. Additionally, the Unit successfully secured over \$200,000 in new grants for services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, and youth crime prevention and combatting gun violence.

## Information Technology Bureau

**T maintains and oversees the computer and** telecommunication systems across all Bronx DA Offices. The Department provides both on-site and remote support of all technical issues ensuring the Office’s ability to process cases in a timely manner, including programs to extract NYPD discovery and video footage.

# General Counsel Division

## Appeals Bureau

**T**he Appeals Bureau handles all post-conviction litigation for the Office: responding to direct appeals from criminal convictions, appealing adverse trial court decisions, motion practice, answering petitions for writs of habeas corpus and addressing retention orders for those found not guilty due to mental disease or defect. The Bureau provides guidance and support in the areas of criminal justice and discovery reform. The Bureau handles over 500 motions, and various other applications annually. The Bureau collaborated with the defense bar in applying for the vacatur and sealing of prior marijuana possession and sale convictions.

### APPEALS BUREAU 2021 NUMBERS:

The Bureau had an overall success rate of 93 percent in state and federal courts in 2021, prevailing in 242 out of 261 cases it litigated.

- The Bureau successfully defended 19 out of 20 federal writs of habeas corpus litigated in the federal courts.
- The Bureau negotiated consent resolutions in 22 mental hygiene matters.



## Civil Litigation Bureau

### ASSET FORFEITURE UNIT

**The Asset Forfeiture Unit ensures that defendants** do not profit from criminal activities, further deterring criminal activity. The proceeds obtained by the Unit are directed to fund treatment and educational programs sponsored by the New York State Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), to supplement law enforcement revenue for all District Attorney's Offices and Police Departments and provides restitution to victims of criminal activity.

The Unit participates in a federal forfeiture program. Through that program the Office received \$57,813.84 in 2021, representing the equitable share of seizures made by federal law enforcement agencies in which our Office assisted. The Unit submitted equitable sharing requests to the Drug Enforcement Administration on 243 seizures for assets totaling \$25,376,044.65; and 23 equitable sharing requests last year to Homeland Security Investigations for assets totaling \$8,385,756.26. The Office received \$7,467.29 as a result of the Office's participation in HSI's El Dorado Task Force.

### 2021 HIGHLIGHTS:

- **The Unit reviewed over 1,635 drug-related** arrests for possible forfeiture and opened 174 new forfeiture cases, bringing its number of open cases to 365 by December 2021.
- **Recovered \$164,642.70 in forfeited assets** pursuant to actions commenced under CPLR Article 13-A.
- **The Unit assisted in the civil settlement of** cigarette sales tax evasion claims against International Shoppes, a retailer that operates duty-free airport retail facilities. This settlement resulted in the forfeiture of \$1,095,000 and restitution of \$1,245,000 to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance and the New York City Department of Finance.

## EXTRADITION AND RENDITION UNIT

### In 2021, the Unit:

- Received 144 extradition notifications from 24 jurisdictions.
- Handled 122 renditions that originated from 15 jurisdictions
- 46 fugitives were physically returned to their wanting jurisdictions.

## FOIL UNIT

**In 2021, the Office received over 630 FOIL requests** from attorneys, reporters, and members of the public.

## SUBPOENA COMPLIANCE UNIT (SCU)

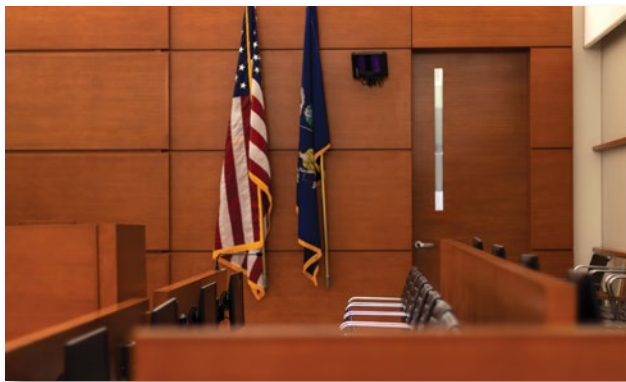
**The Subpoena Compliance Unit handles document requests** from the Law Department and private attorneys, as well as requests for testimony from other agencies in matters with civil implications. SCU received over 230 requests for documents in 2021 and completed approximately 220 requests.

## PROPERTY RELEASE UNIT (PRU)

**This Unit oversaw more than 1,532 requests for the return of seized property.**

## EVICITION UNIT

**The Eviction Unit reviews an average of 60 arrests** each week for potential eviction matters. In 2021, the Unit effectively removed unsafe conditions in 20 different locations which resulted in six orders to vacate premises, six permanent exclusionary stipulations, four probationary stipulations, and four evictions after inquest proceedings.



## Discovery Compliance Bureau

**The Discovery Compliance Bureau, launched** in 2020, maintains the Office's databases of law enforcement accountability materials, and is responsible for broader discovery compliance issues, to ensure the Office meets criminal justice reform obligations. In 2021, the Bureau received approximately 30,000 requests for information on officers. The Bureau requested thousands of additional "underlying documents" from the NYPD and CCRB related to disciplinary findings for testifying officers. The Bureau also provides litigation support to Assistant District Attorneys and educates legal and professional staff.

## Litigation Training Bureau

**The Litigation Training Bureau provides** Assistant District Attorneys with trainings on basic and advanced concepts in prosecution, criminal justice legal updates, and general topics in the law and professionalism. In 2021, the Bureau conducted 40 programs for Assistant District Attorneys, including 29 standalone lectures and 11 in-house extended trainings. In 2021, the Bureau provided 42 hours of standalone Continuing Legal Education training courses on topics including animal cruelty, discovery, Motions in Limine, Giglio, and more.

In 2021, the Bureau trained 34 new Assistant District Attorneys. The intensive, three-month instruction included lectures, hours of observations, and practical workshops. The Bureau is involved in the Misdemeanor Trial Training Program, Grand Jury Training and Felony Trial Training.



## Conviction Integrity Bureau

### In 2021, the Conviction Integrity Bureau

audited more than 600 cases in which former NYPD Detective Joseph Franco played a role. Franco was indicted in New York County on April 24, 2019, on multiple charges of perjury, offering false instruments for filing and official misconduct in connection with his work as a narcotics detective in Manhattan in 2017 and 2018. He had been an undercover narcotics detective in the Bronx from 2011 through 2015 and was terminated from the NYPD in April 2020. Although Franco's misconduct and the alleged crimes he committed could not have been known or discovered by the People or the defendants at the time that they were prosecuted, and because Franco's credibility was compromised, the Bureau requested that the court vacate the Bronx narcotics-related convictions in the cases where the prosecution materially relied on sworn testimony or evidence supplied by Franco.

On July 14, 2021, Criminal Court Administrative Judge George Grasso vacated 39 convictions in Criminal Court; on September 24, 2021, Bronx Supreme Court Justice Efrain Alvarado vacated 86; and on December 1, 2021, Bronx Supreme Court Justice David Lewis signed orders vacating an additional 117 convictions. The audit remains ongoing in 2022.

Additionally, the Bureau received 40 requests for other investigations in 2021, encompassing claims of wrongful conviction, four clemency requests, requests to join in parole applications, and Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act (DVSJA) sentence reduction applications.



## Communications/Public Information

### Communications/Public Information handles

all external and internal communications, coordinates media interviews, and plans and executes press conferences for the Office. The team responds to thousands of requests each year from the media, government agencies, and the general public. This includes the release of court documents, press releases, statements, and other materials. Communications also manages the Bronx DA's social media accounts and official website.



## Professional Staff Training And Development Bureau

This Bureau keeps Professional Staff up to date through workshops for Trial Preparation Assistants and Case Discovery Analysts on various topics, including discovery and Giglio. Additionally, in 2021, the Bureau held five orientations for 61 new hires. In 2021, the Bureau reviewed 66 CPL 160.59 sealing motions.

### PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY UNIT

#### The Professional Responsibility Unit ensures that

staff follow all applicable professional and ethical standards, including the Rules of Professional Conduct and the requirements set out by the NYC Conflicts of Interest Board. The Unit addresses complaints against Assistant District Attorneys by a member of the public, a defendant, a police officer, a defense attorney, or a judge. The Unit also works with outside organizations to study and implement best practices for criminal prosecutors.



# In the Community

## The Community Affairs Unit

**This Unit reaches out to Bronx residents through programs and events.** In 2021, the Unit facilitated workshops and meetings in the community on various topics and issues, including crime stats, elder abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking, and crime victims assistance.

### GUN BUYBACKS

**The Bronx DA's Office and the NYPD held a Bronx Gun Buyback event at Christ Church in Woodstock on June 26, 2021.** Participants turned in multiple firearms and received an iPad and a \$200 cash card. On December 18, 2021, the Bronx DA's Office partnered with Bronx Rising, the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs and the NYPD. They sponsored a Bronx Gun Buyback at Butler United Memorial Methodist Church, where 70 guns—including a "ghost gun" 9-mm pistol and an assault-style rifle – were turned in.



*December Gun Buyback*

## ANTI-GUN VIOLENCE RALLY

### The Bronx DA's Office held a March to

End Gun Violence and resource fair on June 4, 2021. The march, which was held in partnership with clergy, community leaders, cure violence groups, elected officials and the NYPD, was held on National Gun Violence Awareness Day in a Bronx area that saw multiple shootings in 2021.



## BRONX RALLY AGAINST HATE

### In response to multiple hate crimes

against Asian American and Pacific Islander and Jewish communities across the city, the Bronx DA's Office held a Bronx Rally Against Hate on May 21, 2021, to show support for the communities. A resource fair was held after the rally, which included information for victims of hate crimes and how people can support them.



## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

**CAU coordinated with community stakeholders to hold multiple** events across the Bronx for National Night Out on August 5, 2021. The Unit and BXDA volunteers staffed the resource tables and spread the word about what Office does for the people of the Bronx, further strengthening our relationship with the community.



## SATURDAY NIGHT LIGHTS EXPANSION

**District Attorney Clark, along with the NYPD and NYC** District Attorneys, announced on July 9, 2021 the expansion of the Saturday Night Lights program. SNL expanded to 100 gyms across the city, with a total of 23 new sites in the Bronx. The program gives children a safe, free indoor space to play basketball and soccer, instilling teamwork, leadership, and a sense of community.



## KEEPING THE PEACE AFTER TRIAL VERDICT

**On April 20, 2021, District Attorney Clark joined** community stakeholders to call for keeping the Bronx peaceful after the verdict in the trial of Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. DA Clark and Bronx stakeholders reiterated their support of everyone's constitutional right to protest racial injustice in a civil manner, without vandalism and violence. Thankfully, the Bronx remained peaceful after Chauvin's guilty verdict was announced.



# Administrative Division

## Detective Investigators/Witness Notification Unit

**This Unit includes 33 detectives, five** Lieutenants, a Chief and Deputy Chief. In 2021, BXDA Detective Investigators conducted and enhanced hundreds of investigations, located hundreds of witnesses, effected arrests, executed warrants, and extradited defendants from other states.

DIs assigned to the Office’s Witness Security Program coordinated the protection, security, and relocation of many witnesses vital to the success of prosecutions. Assessment of threats and networking with the Crimes Victims Unit continued throughout 2021.

Witness Security Program for 2021	
Total Cases. . . . .	32
NYPTI. . . . .	6
Relocated Witnesses . . . . .	10

### HIGHLIGHTS

- BXDA Detective Investigators partnered with the New York State Police and other law enforcement agencies to intercept, investigate and arrest purchasers of ghost guns who are entering from other states. In 2021, 45 weapons and an assortment of other prohibited gun paraphernalia were recovered.
- The Unit partnered with local precincts to combat auto thefts in the Bronx. In 2021, 142 vehicles were recovered, estimated by the National Automobile Dealer Association to exceed 3.3 million dollars in value.
- Partnered with HSI El Dorado Task Force on investigation of major drug trafficking and money laundering.

## Human Resources

**H**R administers all personnel line activities including, but not limited to, employment recruitment and processing; personnel record management; and worker’s compensation. In 2021, the Unit processed 146 applicants and initiated Wellness programs for staff.

## Recruitment

**This Bureau oversees the hiring of Assistant District Attorneys, Professional Staff, and interns.** Among those hired in 2021, was a new class of 35 Assistant District Attorneys.



## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/Equal Employment Opportunity Office

**The Bronx County District Attorney’s Office** is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion. The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office help sustain a workplace culture that respects individual identities and differences. Promoting fairness, equity, and community well-being without bias or discriminatory preference is a priority for our office.

# Operations and Budget Division

The Operations and Budget Division includes the Finance Department, Logistics and Fleet, Operations, and Inventory. This division also includes the Stenographers, Interpreters and Grand Jury Units, which play a vital role in the criminal justice process.

## DAT/Complaint Room/Arraignments

**The Complaint Room/DAT Unit operates 24 hours, seven days a week. In 2021, the Office screened 31,478 NYPD arrests and prosecuted 19,929. Arrests that were not prosecuted were declined for the following reasons: declined by prosecutor, consolidated with another arrest, or deferred awaiting additional evidence or information. More than 17,000 arraignment hearings were successfully completed last year. Defendants who were given a Desk Appearance Ticket (DAT) came to court at a later date.**

Of 19,929 arrests, 72 percent were for misdemeanor level offenses; 27 percent were felonies, and less than one percent were violations.



**Number of Prosecuted Arrests By Charge Category of Offense**

Charge Class	Offense Category	Cases (N)
<b>Felony Total</b>		<b>5,500</b>
	Violent Felony <sup>1</sup>	2,051
	Drug	1,155
	Weapons	1,061
	Property	755
	Vehicle/Traffic	103
	Other	375
<b>Misdemeanor Total</b>		<b>14,327</b>
	Simple assault and related	6,224
	Property	2,850
	Vehicle/Traffic	1,102
	Drug	1,078
	Weapons	321
	Other	2,752
<b>Violation</b>		<b>93</b>
<b>Other</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>19,929</b>

<sup>1</sup>Violent Felony includes all violent felony and “like violent” charges per New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services definition.

<sup>2</sup>“Other” offenses combine offenses that are not part of the specified categories and contain small numbers of cases.

## Operations

**Operations includes 39 Staff Members and is responsible for the maintenance in the BXDA**

building, offices in the Hall of Justice and Criminal Court, and another building on 161st Street.

Operations is in charge of the switchboard, mail delivery, moving of furniture, and keeps the Office in compliance with COVID-19 protocols.

# Executive Staff

<b>Odalys Alonso</b>	Chief of Staff
<b>Derek Lynton</b>	Chief Assistant District Attorney
<b>Julian Bond O'Connor</b>	General Counsel
<b>Ben Rivera</b>	Executive Assistant District Attorney for Operations & Budget
<b>Dahianna Castillo</b>	Chief Financial Officer
<b>Patrice O'Shaughnessy</b>	Director of Communications
<b>Theresa Gottlieb</b>	Chief of Trial Division
<b>Wanda Perez Maldonado</b>	Chief of Investigations Division
<b>Joseph Muroff</b>	Chief of Special Victims Division
<b>Kerry Chicon</b>	Chief of Strategic Enforcement and Intergovernmental Relations Division
<b>Beverly Ma</b>	Deputy Chief of Staff
<b>Gina Mignola</b>	Deputy General Counsel
<b>Maria Cortese</b>	Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Operations & Budget
<b>James Brennan</b>	Deputy Chief of Trial Division
<b>Denise Kodjo</b>	Deputy Chief of Investigations Division
<b>Adrienne Giunta</b>	Deputy Chief of Special Victims Division
<b>Valerie Kennedy</b>	Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer

# Legal Managers

Appeals	<b>Yael Levy</b>	Recruitment	<b>Sherry Cohen</b>
Arraignments/Complaint Room	<b>Rene Aponte</b>	Litigation Training	<b>Justin Braun</b>
Asset Forfeiture Unit	<b>Lisa Waller</b>	Public Integrity	<b>Omer Wiczysk</b>
Child Abuse/Sex Crimes	<b>Mimi Mairs</b>	Professional Responsibility	<b>Polly Puner</b>
Civil Litigation	<b>Beverly Ma</b>	Rikers Island Prosecution	<b>Francis Alberts</b>
Community Justice	<b>John Vallely</b>	Special Investigations Bureau	
Conviction Integrity	<b>Risa Gerson</b>	and Narcotics Investigation	<b>Craig Cecchini</b>
Crime Strategies	<b>Vladimir Kocheulov</b>	Technical Investigations	<b>Peter Kennedy</b>
Domestic Violence	<b>Agata DiGiovanni</b>	Trial Bureau 30	<b>Julie DeLeon</b>
Economic Crimes	<b>Herman Wun</b>	Trial Bureau 40	<b>Catherine Davis</b>
General Crimes Bureau	<b>Jennifer Cruz</b>	Trial Bureau 50	<b>Lawrence Piergrossi</b>
Homicide	<b>Christine Scaccia</b>	Trial Bureau 60	<b>Susanna Imbo</b>
Human Trafficking Unit	<b>Stephen Knoepfler</b>	Violent Criminal Enterprise	<b>Newton Mendys</b>

# Administrative Managers

<b>Frank Chiara</b> Chief of Detective Investigators	<b>Sony Varughese</b> Chief of Information Technology	<b>Meiling Viera-Delgado</b> Director of Community Affairs
<b>Niesa Roberts</b> Chief Human Resources Officer	<b>Marques Johnson</b> Director of Operations	<b>Cindy Redcross-Aguam</b> Director of Strategic Planning & Analytics
<b>Barbara Robles-Gonzalez</b> Director of Litigation Training	<b>Jeannette Rucker</b> Chief of Professional Staff Training and Development	<b>Jessica Rosado</b> Chief of Crime Victims Assistance
<b>Kim Hernandez</b> Equal Employment Opportunity Officer		

# BXDA Family



Evelyn Serrano of the Video Unit celebrated with colleagues 40 years of service to BXDA.



BXDA Hispanic Heritage Month celebration in October 2021



BXDA Operations Staff working at the Bronx Re-entry Resource Fair on November 6, 2021



BXDA Staff at a New York Yankees game in August 2021



Trial Division Chief Theresa Gottlieb and Senior Homicide Counsel Paul Rosenfeld celebrated 40 years of service at BXDA in November 2021.

## In Memoriam



Assistant District Attorney Junie Chang of Trial Bureau 50, who joined the Office in 2014, passed away on August 8, 2021, after courageously fighting cancer for almost two years. She never wavered from her duty, even in the darkest moments of her illness. She was committed to serving the people of the Bronx, even to the very end, emailing case files from her hospital bed. Rest In Peace, Junie.



Bronx District Attorney's Office  
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