



[www.bronxda.nyc.gov](http://www.bronxda.nyc.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/BronxDistrictAttorney](https://www.facebook.com/BronxDistrictAttorney)  
[www.twitter.com/BronxDAClark](https://www.twitter.com/BronxDAClark)

**DARCEL D. CLARK**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BRONX COUNTY

198 EAST 161ST STREET  
BRONX, N.Y. 10451  
(718) 590-2234

**13-2019**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**February 4, 2019**

**BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY DARCEL D. CLARK ANNOUNCES 1-YEAR  
ANNIVERSARY OF ‘PROJECT RESET: BRONX COMMUNITY JUSTICE’  
Volunteers Engage in Administration of Justice for Low-Level Offenders;  
54 People Completed Program Since It Began in 3 Bronx Precincts;  
Will Expand to All Bronx Precincts in March**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that, in the year since “Project Reset: Bronx Community Justice” began training community volunteers to take part in a diversion program for low-level offenders, 54 defendants have completed the restorative justice program in three Bronx police precincts. Her Office, along with the New York City Police Department and the Center for Court Innovation, will expand the program to all Bronx precincts in March.

District Attorney Clark said, “Bronx Community Justice has already kept dozens of people from having a stain on their record over a low-level crime and allowed them to move on with their lives without fear of repercussions when seeking employment, applying for loans, housing and education opportunities. I’m thankful to the New York City Police Department and the Center for Court Innovation for partnering with my Office to create this much-needed program and now expand its success to the entire Bronx. It is a positive step toward improving our criminal justice system, and we hope Bronx Community Justice serves as a role model of grass-roots criminal justice reform.”

Adam Mansky, Director, Criminal Justice, Center for Court Innovation, said, “The Center for Court Innovation is committed to finding more humane and effective ways to deliver justice. Project Reset: Bronx Community Justice offers a unique opportunity to do just that by diverting people out of the criminal justice system and into a restorative intervention in which they will be held to account for their actions, but not subject to the potential harms associated with the traditional criminal justice process, such as warrants and criminal records.

“The Center for Court Innovation and Bronx Community Solutions are grateful to the City Council for supporting this initiative and are thrilled to partner with District Attorney Darcel Clark and the New York Police Department to expand early diversion opportunities in the Bronx.”



[www.bronxda.nyc.gov](http://www.bronxda.nyc.gov)  
[www.facebook.com/BronxDistrictAttorney](https://www.facebook.com/BronxDistrictAttorney)  
[www.twitter.com/BronxDAClark](https://www.twitter.com/BronxDAClark)

**DARCEL D. CLARK**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BRONX COUNTY

198 EAST 161ST STREET  
BRONX, N.Y. 10451  
(718) 590-2234

Bronx Community Justice is funded through a City Council grant and serves those arrested for crimes such as Criminal Mischief, seventh-degree Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, fourth and fifth-degree Criminal Possession of Marijuana, Unauthorized Sales of Transportation Services (MetroCard swiping), Theft of Services (farebeating), Making Graffiti, Petit Larceny and others. Previously, the program was offered only to first-time offenders. Now, the expansion will deem eligible anyone who has been arrested and was issued a Desk Appearance Ticket (DAT) regarding a low-level offense.

Defendants and volunteers who live or work in the community take part in restorative “circles”--discussions held in community centers and public libraries that aim to resolve the immediate concern and restore balance to the community. During the circle, both the defendant and community members speak about how the crime affected them personally and its effect on the community. Typical outcomes include apologies for harm done and proactive steps to address any underlying issues that led to the defendant committing the crime.

Beginning last February nearly 80 people from all walks of life - including a barber, a pastor, a truck driver and stay-at-home parents - have been trained by the Center for Court Innovation to conduct the circles. The Center also worked with the NYPD to train police officers in how to properly identify and screen cases.

Since May, 2018, 54 people who were arrested in the 40<sup>th</sup>, 43<sup>rd</sup>, and 49<sup>th</sup> Precincts (including Police Service Areas 7 and 8) have successfully completed the program. Thirty-seven of the people were between the ages of 16 and 26 years old.

District Attorney Clark thanked Susan Herman, NYPD Deputy Commissioner of Collaborative Policing, Assistant Chief Larry Nikunen, Patrol Borough Bronx, and Maria Almonte of Bronx Community Solutions for their partnership.

The initiative was developed by the Bronx DA’s Strategic Enforcement and Intergovernmental Relations Division, and is being led by Executive Assistant District Attorney Kerry Chicon, Chief of the Division, Carmen Facciolo III, Deputy Chief, Assistant District Attorney Aisha Greene, Chief of the Alternatives to Incarceration Bureau, and Assistant District Attorney Michelle Carmon.