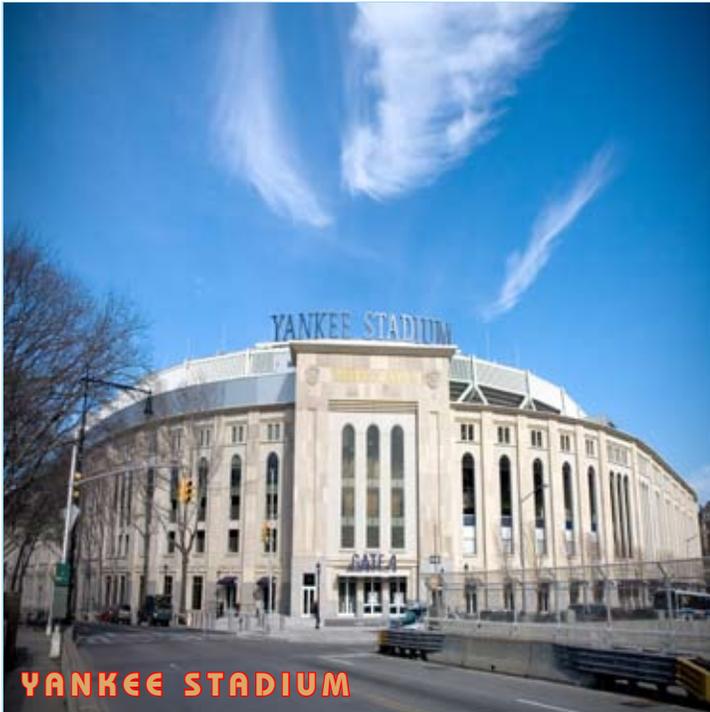


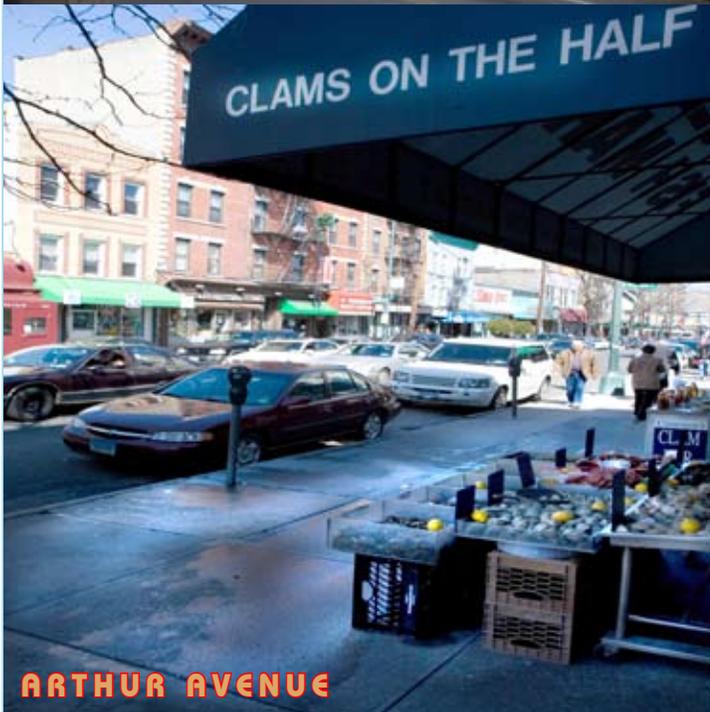
OFFICE OF THE BRONX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNUAL REPORT 2008



YANKEE STADIUM



ORCHARD BEACH



ARTHUR AVENUE



NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Robert T. Johnson
District Attorney

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Robert T. Johnson,
Bronx County District Attorney

District Attorney's Message

“As always, public safety is our top priority, and despite the current hard times we will continue to ... fight crime through vigorous prosecution combined with innovative rehabilitative programs ... and community outreach.”

It is no secret that in 2008 our city and country experienced the greatest economic crisis in decades. Coupled with the effect of years of previous budgetary reductions, the effects of this crisis have strained the core functions of our office and hampered our ability to launch new initiatives as staffing pressures increase. Furthermore, arrest rates for all crimes remained at record levels. This suggests that there will be very challenging times ahead.

Thankfully, however, despite the economic crisis, violent crime complaints continue to decrease. In 2008, index crimes decreased by some 3% from 2007. Burglary complaints declined by 9%, assault by 7%, and grand larceny auto crime declined by 2%. Homicides were at about the same level, with 132 in 2008 as opposed to 130 in 2007. As in previous years, however, violent crime remains a problem in the Bronx, which continues to experience a disproportionate share of such crime in relation to its 16.6% share of the City's population. For example, in 2008 Bronx shooting incidents rep-

resented 27% of the citywide total, and the Bronx's more than 56,000 Domestic Incident Reports represented 29% of the citywide total.

In 2008, we prosecuted 5,761 felony cases, about the same number as in 2007. As usual, there were some which stood out. Among these was the case against Steven Armento and Lillo Brancato, who were tried separately for the 2005 murder of off-duty Police Officer Daniel Enchautegui. The officer was shot to death when he confronted the pair, who were attempting to break into the home of his neighbor. Armento, the actual shooter, was convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole, while Brancato was convicted of attempted burglary and sentenced to ten years in prison.

Another noteworthy case was the prosecution of Robert and Maria Coakley for the extremely brutal murder of Marilyn Ginel. Ms. Ginel had been Robert Coakley's girlfriend, and in 2006 was pregnant with his child when she refused to give him the money he demanded. In her own home, she was dragged away from

her young children and stabbed, strangled, and bludgeoned, after which the Coakleys ransacked the apartment, leaving the children to discover their mother's body. Robert Coakley was found guilty of murder in the second degree and sentenced to 25 year to life imprisonment. Maria Coakley pleaded guilty to robbery in the second degree and was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

In the area of financial crime, one noteworthy 2008 case involved a now defunct auto dealership, Courtesy Lincoln Mercury, Incorporated, which used a variety of schemes to defraud its customers. These included selling used cars which had unsatisfied liens against them, making it impossible for the purchaser to register the vehicle; obtaining loans from multiple banks to finance the purchase of the same vehicle; and charging customers for extended warranties which were never arranged. Robert Federico, the owner of the car dealership, pled guilty to grand larceny and scheme to defraud, and according to the plea agreement, must pay \$500,000 in restitution to

50 customers and serve weekend jail time.

As always, public safety is our top priority, and despite the current hard times we will continue to seek new tools and programs to enhance our multifaceted efforts to

fight crime through vigorous prosecution combined with innovative rehabilitative programs, participation in specialized courts, anti-crime education, victim services, and community outreach.

I remain confident that we will faithfully and ably discharge our responsibilities to the people of the Bronx.

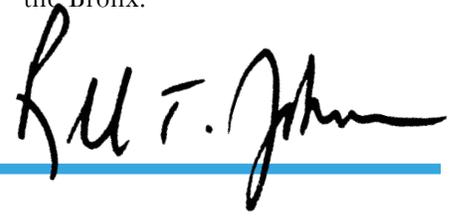


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Crime Overview

REDUCTION IN CRIME

Crime has fallen sharply in the Bronx since 1990, and this trend continued in 2008. Among index crimes, which decreased by 3% from 2007, burglary complaints fell by 9%, assault complaints by 7%, and grand larceny auto complaints by 2%. Violent crime has also decreased 73% since 1990, with declines each year from 1994 through 2008.

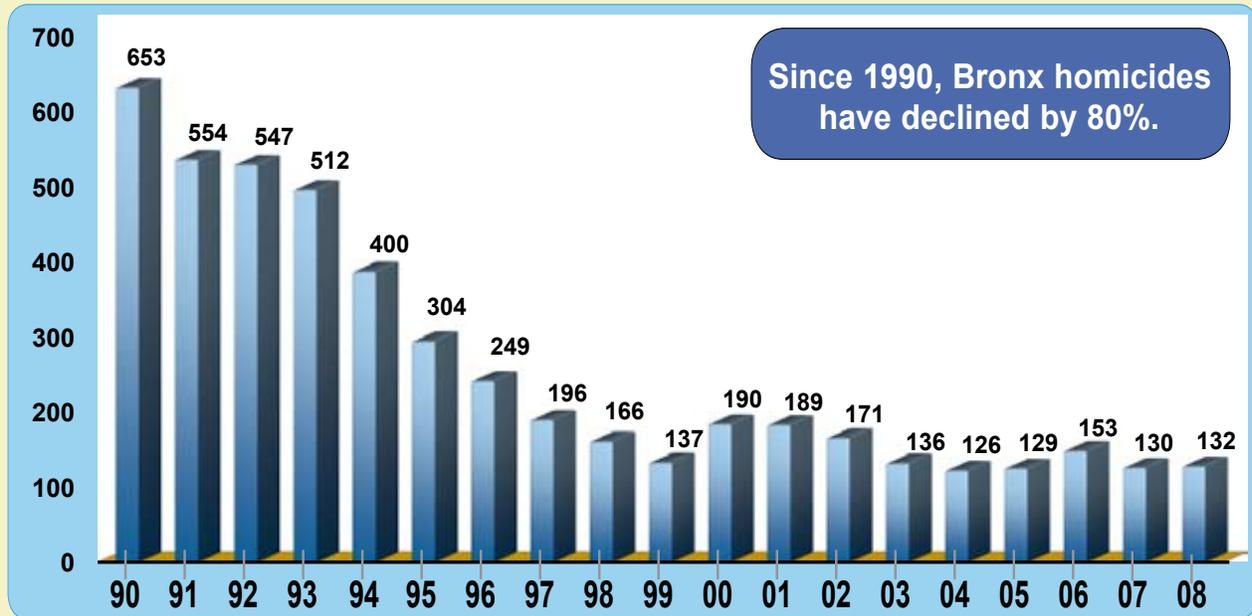
Violent Crime 1990 – 2008



Source: New York City Police Department

Decline In Homicides

1990 - 2008

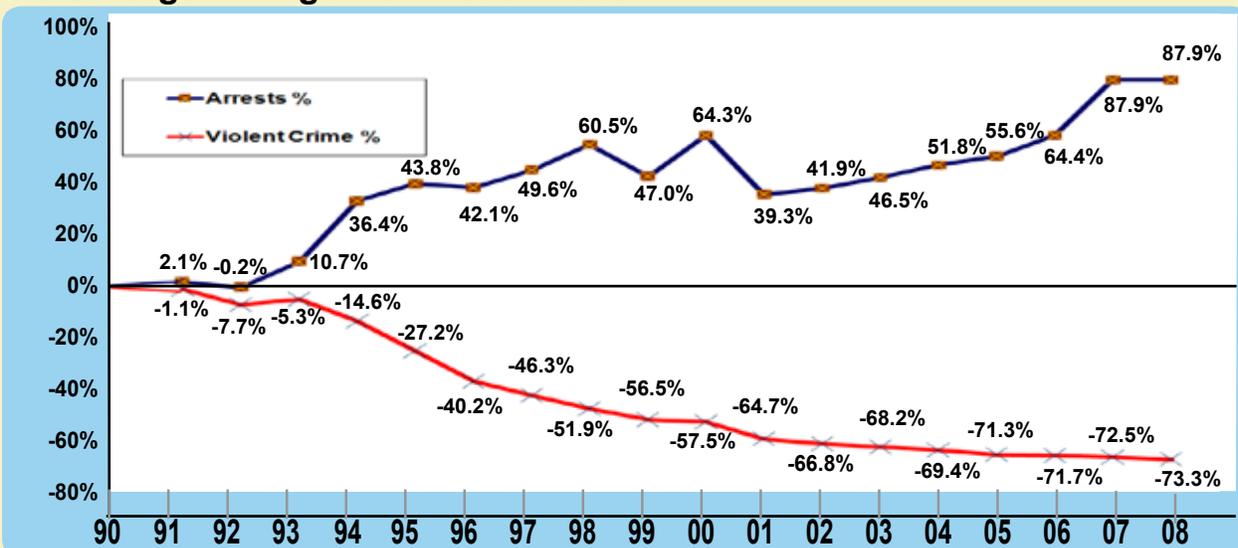


Source: New York City Police Department

Since 1990 the number of homicides in the Bronx has been reduced by 80%, from 653 to 132 in 2008. For each of the past 12 years, there have been fewer than 200 homicides in the Bronx, a level not seen since the 1960s.

Bronx Reduction in Violent Crime v. Increase in Arrests

Percentage Change from 1990 - 2008



Source: New York City Police Department

BRONX COUNTY'S HIGHER PROPORTION OF CITYWIDE VIOLENT CRIME

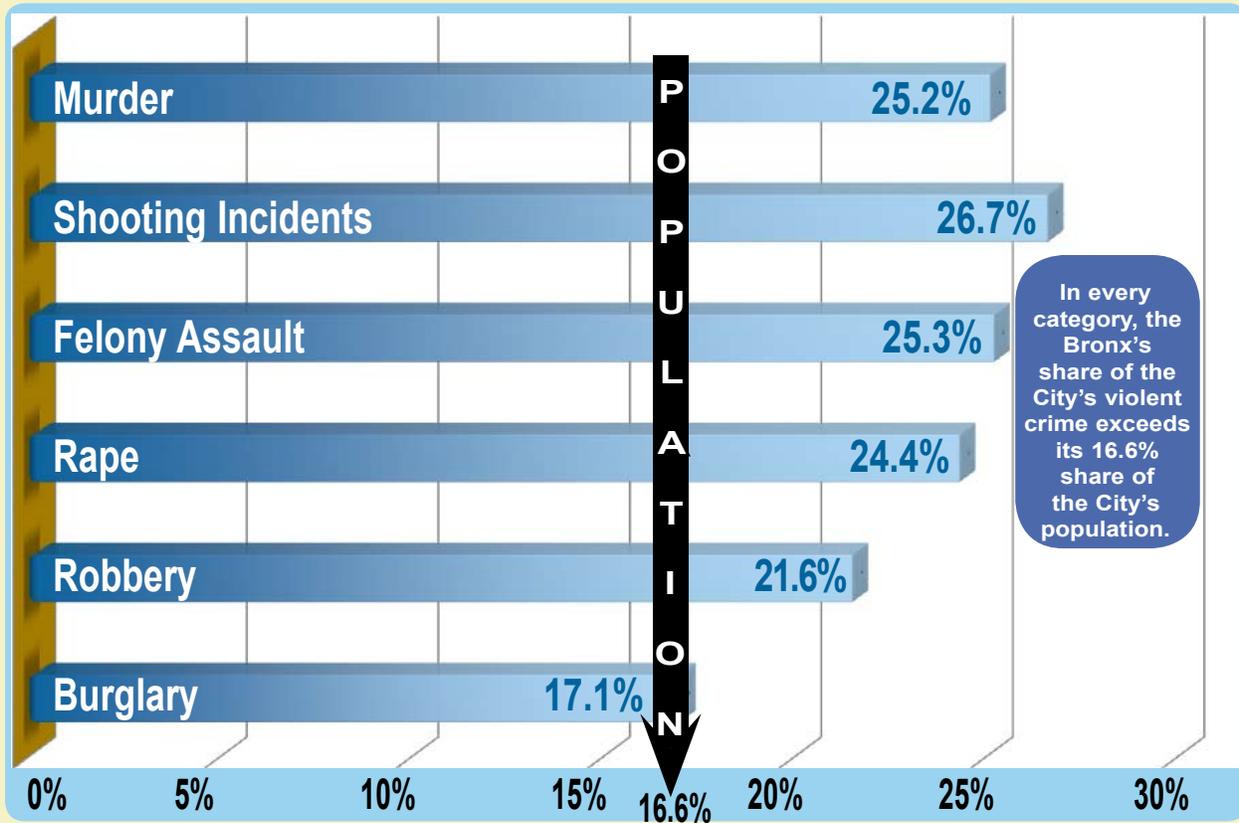
Despite remarkable strides in recent years, the Bronx continues to experience a disproportionately high crime rate. With only 16.6% of the City's population, the 132 murders in the Bronx in 2008 constituted 25% of the citywide total.

Bronx shooting incidents represented 27% of incidents citywide. More than one in four of the City's felony assaults, nearly one in four of its rapes, and one of five robberies occurred in the Bronx, giving the county the highest incidence in New York City per 100,000 residents of murder, rape, robbery, and felonious assault. Last year the Bronx also continued to experience the highest

rate of domestic violence reports among the five boroughs. The Bronx's more than 56,000 Domestic Incident Reports represented 29% of the citywide total.

Bronx Violent Crime 2008

Percentage of Citywide Violent Crime v. Population

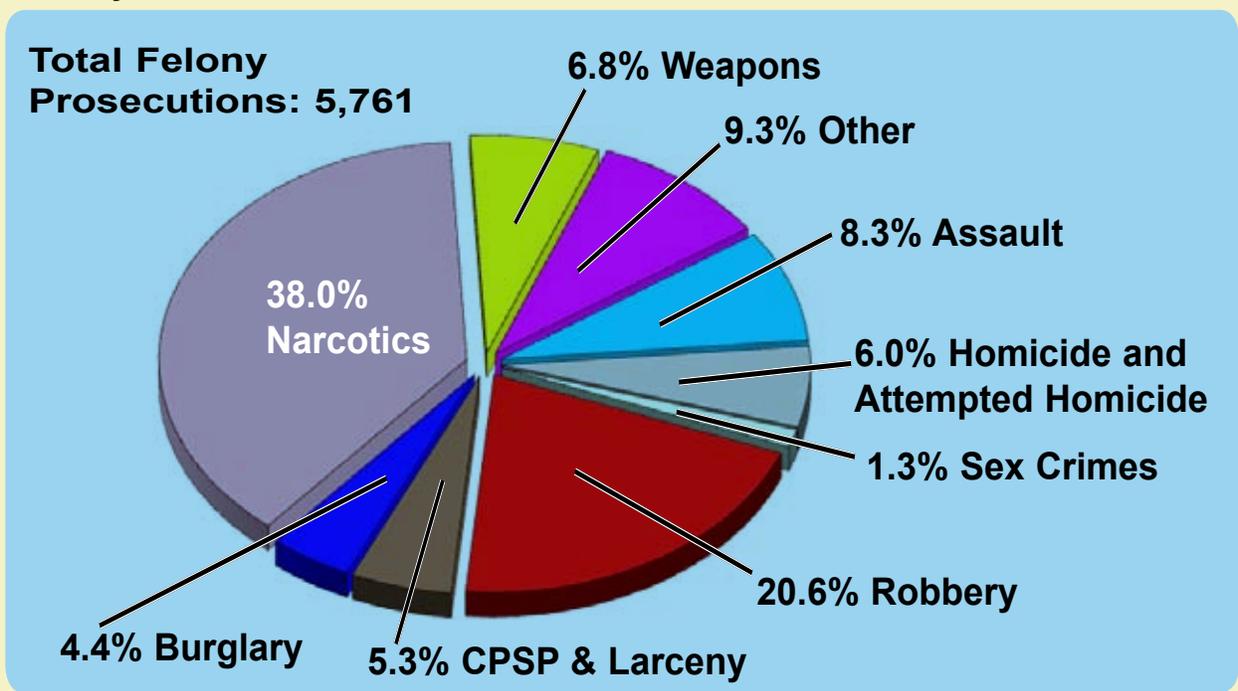


Source: New York City Police Department

Prosecuting Crime

As crime complaints have fallen, Bronx arrests have risen by a staggering 88% since 1990. The Bronx District Attorney's Office prosecuted 5,761 felony-level defendants in 2008, about the same number prosecuted in 2007. Narcotics cases accounted for 38% of the felony prosecutions in Bronx County.

Bronx District Attorney's Office Felony Prosecutions: 2008



Source: Bronx District Attorney's Office

VIOLENT CRIME

While the number of violent crime complaints fell in 2008, encouraging statistics cannot soften the brutality of each crime. The cases profiled this year include two murders, a very brutal attempted murder, and one rape. The first murder case received a great deal of media attention because of the involvement of a then celebrity, Lillo Brancato of Sopranos fame, and because the victim was an off-duty NYPD officer. Although less public, the murder of a pregnant woman by her former boyfriend is no less important. The third case involved the brutal beating of a man who was left in his own closet to die, but defied his assailants by living and identifying them. The rape case illustrates how a young woman was victimized first by being sexually assaulted and again by having to testify at two trials for the same crime.

Heroic Officer Killed During Botched Burglary

In the early morning hours of December 10, 2005, three-year veteran police officer Daniel Enchautegui had just returned home from what would be his last shift as one of New York's finest. At approximately 5 a.m., Officer Enchautegui was awakened by the sound of breaking glass coming from his neighbor's apartment. Officer Enchautegui went to investigate. Officer Enchautegui did not know when he left the safety of his bedroom to investigate that he was about to meet two drug addicts, Steven Armento and Lillo Brancato, who were armed and prepared not to let anyone get in the way of getting their drug fix.

Armento and Brancato's night had started much earlier, where together they indulged in a night of partying which included drugs, alcohol and going to a local strip club. During the early morning hours of December 10, 2005, when their drugs ran out, they became desperate, and devised a plan to break into their previous supplier's house in the Bronx. When they arrived at the house, Armento was armed with a .357 caliber revolver. Brancato, wearing latex gloves, broke the side window, removed the screen and pushed away

the shade of the basement apartment, while Armento was at his side guarding him. That is when the two drug addicts were confronted by Officer Enchautegui who was investigating the noises he heard. As Armento and Brancato ran from Officer Enchautegui, Armento fired two rounds, one striking Officer Enchautegui in his chest. Officer Enchautegui returned fire in an attempt to stop Armento and Brancato, but they were able to run to Westchester Avenue where they were finally cornered by police. Other officers' noble efforts to save Officer Enchautegui's life ended when he was pronounced dead at Jacobi Hospital from the bullet wound inflicted by Armento.

Steven Armento and Lillo Brancato were tried back-to-back in separate trials, and on October 30, 2008, Steven Armento was found guilty of murder in the first degree, and was sentenced on November 13, 2008, to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Lillo Brancato was convicted after trial on December 22, 2008, of attempted burglary in the second degree and was sentenced on January 9, 2009, to ten years in prison.

Pair held in slay of pregnant mother

Headline from NY Daily News, 4/4/2006, Continued

Forty-six-year-old Robert Coakley left his girlfriend, 37-year-old Marilyn Ginel, and returned to his wife, 46 year-old Maria Coakley. On March 30, 2006, Robert Coakley entered Ginel's apartment. His wife met him there later. Ginel lived with her three young children (two girls and a boy, ages 12, 11, and 9) and was about 34 weeks pregnant with Coakley's daughter.

Ginel refused to give Coakley the money he demanded, and an argument ensued. The two had previously shared a joint bank account. Robert Coakley threatened the victim's 11-year-old son with a knife. The Coakleys dragged Ginel into her bedroom. While the three children were in their bedrooms, Ginel was strangled, stabbed in the head and bludgeoned in the head, splattering blood throughout her bedroom.

Robert Coakley left Ginel with a pillow over her head. He told the children

that the victim was sleeping and to leave her alone. The Coakleys left with Ginel's debit card, keys, and cell phone. The children discovered their mother's body after the Coakleys left. The day after the murder, the Coakleys used Ginel's debit card to withdraw \$400 from her account. The children described the crime to some teenagers who were in the building distributing religious literature. The Coakleys turned themselves in and were arrested several days after the murder.

Robert Coakley had a criminal history dating back to 1981 that included convictions for robbery and drug crimes. On December 11, 2008, Robert Coakley was found guilty of murder in the second degree. He was sentenced to 25-years-to-life imprisonment. For her role in the crime, Maria Coakley pleaded guilty on January 7, 2008, to robbery in the second degree and was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Almost a Murder

On September 4, 2005, Jack (pseudonym), 42, met Malisha Blyden, 22, and Latisha Johnson, 18, on 8th Avenue in northern Manhattan. Blyden and Johnson got into Jack's green Ford Explorer and went back to his apartment in the Bronx. Jack invited the defendants to his apartment to "party" and "get to know" him better.

Blyden and Johnson spent the night at the apartment. Jack and Blyden had sex. Jack had four or five large bags of Kassava flour in his kitchen cabinet.

Blyden and Johnson mistook the flour for cocaine.

The next day, Jack drove the young women back to Manhattan. There they met up with their pimp Phil (pseudonym). Blyden and Johnson told Phil and his friends (all of whom were members of the Bloods gang) that they met a "John" in the Bronx who had a large amount of money and cocaine.

Blyden, Johnson, Phil, and three friends planned to break into Jack's apartment, rob him of his cocaine and money, then shoot him and leave him for dead

Almost a Murder, *Continued*

to “leave no witnesses behind.” They also planned to wear latex gloves to leave no fingerprints behind.

The following day, September 6, Blyden and Johnson knocked on Jack’s apartment and told him they left something inside the apartment. When Jack opened the door, the four men rushed into Jack’s apartment. They punched and kicked Jack repeatedly and bound him with duct tape. Blyden and Johnson ransacked Jack’s apartment and stole his televisions, computers, cell phones, clothing, jewelry and bags of what they believed to be cocaine.

During the robbery, one of the men held a gun to Jack’s face and stated that “this is going to be your last day.” Blyden encouraged him, yelling “kill him, kill him.” The man shot Jack twice with a 9 mm handgun, once in the chest and once in the abdomen. They then stuffed Jack into his closet and left him there to die.

But Jack did not die. Instead, he waited for the intruders to leave the apartment. He crawled out of his apartment and knocked on a neighbor’s door, asking her to call 911. An ambulance took Jack to Lincoln Hospital. He was in a coma for about four weeks. He had his entire intestinal tract removed. He developed an infection in his abdomen and under-

went 15 surgeries to repair damage to his abdominal wall. To this day, Jack’s abdominal wall is held together by mesh as a result of the trauma he sustained during the shooting. He walks with a cane and cannot lift anything over ten pounds. He has not been able to resume his previous work as a street vendor.

After Jack came out of the coma, he identified Blyden and Johnson. They were found and arrested shortly thereafter. The male co-defendants were also arrested based on information developed during an investigation. They are awaiting trial.

On June 11, 2007, Blyden and Johnson were both convicted of attempted murder in the second degree, burglary in the first degree, robbery in the first degree, assault in the first degree, and criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree. On November 21, 2008, they were each sentenced to 25 years for murder in the second degree and 15 years for robbery in the first degree, to be served consecutively, with five years post-release supervision. Hence, each received a sentence totaling 40 years incarceration. The sentencing followed more than a year of legal maneuvering over two unsuccessful defense motions to set aside the guilty verdict.

Found Guilty of Rape

On October 13, 2002, seventeen-year-old Jill (pseudonym) was walking to her part-time job at McDonald’s when she was attacked by a stranger, 22-year-old Jose Vaello. He placed Jill in a chokehold

and sprayed a chemical agent in her eyes. Vaello orally and anally sodomized Jill and brutally raped her against cars parked in the street. Immediately after the attack, Jill went to her boyfriend’s house a block away and reported the incident to his

Found Guilty of Rape

Continued

family, her family and the police. Vaello was linked to the rape by DNA recovered from Jill's underwear. Vaello was arrested on February 21, 2003.

Vaello was convicted of rape and sodomy in 2004, but the judge overturned the conviction after a post-conviction motion for ineffective assistance of counsel. As a result, Jill had to retell the story about the brutal sexual assault during a new trial. At the retrial, Vaello chose to testify on his own behalf and concocted

an elaborate, detailed account of having had a clandestine sexual relationship with Jill for several weeks prior to the incident. During extensive cross examination the prosecutor challenged the veracity of his account.

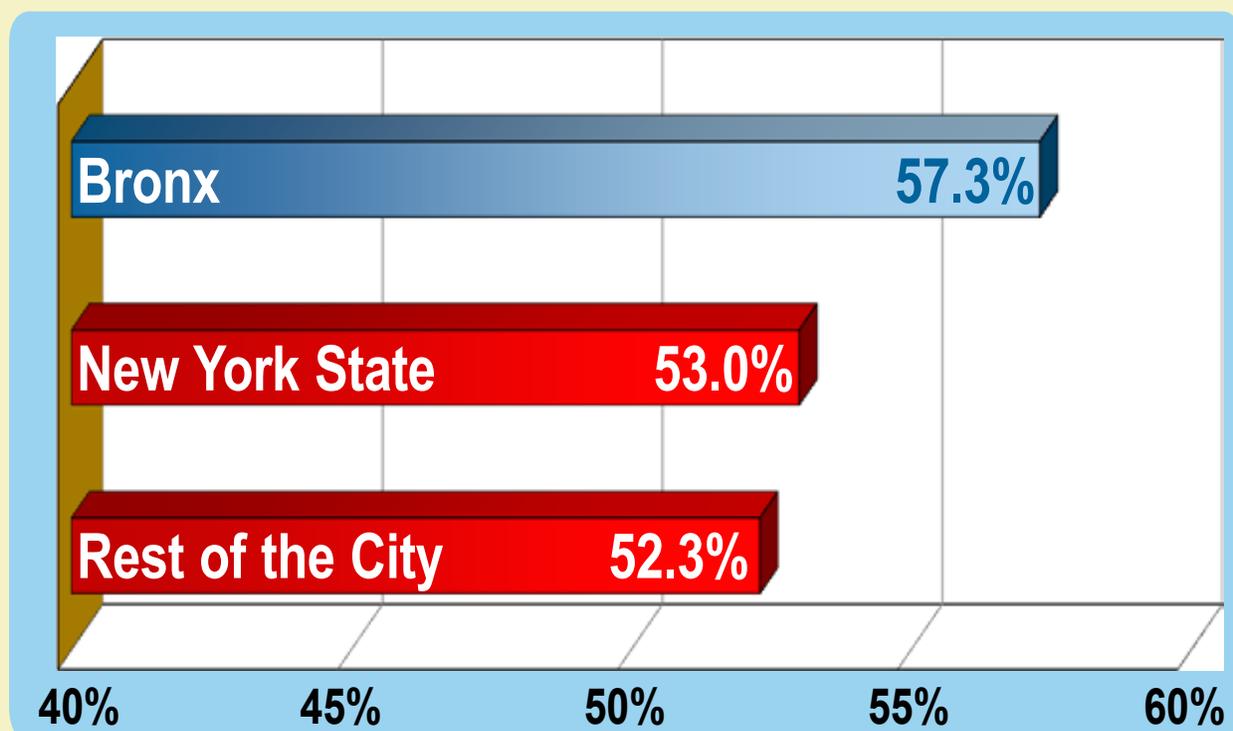
On December 5, 2008, Vaello was again found guilty of rape in the first degree and two counts of sodomy in the first degree. He was sentenced to two consecutive terms of 25 years in prison, for a total of 50 years imprisonment.

DRUG CRIME

Drug arrests have decreased in recent years, resulting in a reduction in both the number of felony drug prosecutions and the percentage of our caseload that these cases comprise. In 1996 drug cases accounted for more than 65% of the Office's felony-level defendants. In 2008, just 38% of Bronx felony defendants were prosecuted on drug charges. Nevertheless, drug crime is still a very serious problem in the Bronx.

State Prison Sentences

Percentage of Narcotics Convictions from 1990-2008



Source: NYS Department of Criminal Justice

TECHNOLOGY

Technological advances give law enforcement new tools to investigate and prosecute crime. However, technology has also spawned new crimes that did not exist before the “computer age,” such as internet crimes against children. DNA technology, which represents one of the most important advances, is producing valuable forensic evidence that is useful in an increasing number of property and sex crime cases.

Between 2003 and 2006, the Mayor’s John Doe Indictment Project enabled this Office to indict individuals fitting the DNA profile recovered in sex crimes where the offender was neither apprehended nor even initially identified. It was important to

obtain the indictment before the ten-year statute of limitations on the crime expired. Filing “John Doe” indictments before the expiration enabled prosecutors to proceed with cases whenever offenders were identified, regardless of how much time passed.

The statute of limitations on the most serious sex crimes was eliminated in 2006, making it unnecessary to indict the DNA profile as a “John Doe.” However, as is illustrated in the case below, DNA technology remains a critical tool in sexual assault prosecutions.

DNA Match Leads to Conviction

On January 3, 2007, a nineteen year old woman was working at a hair salon in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. Twenty-two year old Daniel Wayne entered the storefront location and asked for assistance. Wayne left and returned a short time later and displayed what appeared to be a firearm from his waistband. He locked the front door to the store, forced the female into the back of the store where he sexually assaulted and orally sodomized her. The victim made an immediate outcry and was transported to a local Bronx hospital for treatment where a sexual assault evidence kit was collected. The pair of underwear collected from the victim at the hospital was tested and a male DNA profile was developed.

Wayne was not identified as a sus-

pect until he was arrested and subsequently pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and weapon possession charges in May 2007 stemming from a botched robbery of a flower store in the Bronx. Upon his conviction on those charges, Wayne received a determinate sentence of three years, and a sample of his DNA was taken and entered into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), a national data bank which links federal, state and local DNA data banks containing both forensic evidence collected from crime scenes and DNA profiles of convicted offenders. In February 2008, the Bronx District Attorney’s Office was notified of a match between the male DNA profile extracted from the sexual assault evidence kit and a known offender. Wayne was indicted and subsequently pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

DNA — PROPERTY CRIMES

Beginning in Queens in 2005, with a grant from the National

Institute of Justice, the NYPD collected possible biological evidence left behind at the scenes of commercial and residential burglar-

ies and robberies. The New York City Police Department’s Evidence Collection Teams were trained to recognize and collect possible bio-

logical evidence left on items, such as clothing, soda bottles, and cigarette butts.

The success of the NYPD pilot program led to its citywide expansion in January 2006. In April 2007, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Department of Forensic Biology began accepting and testing evidence on property crimes committed within the City of New York. This significant expansion coincided with the opening of a new \$290 million state-of-the-art

DNA laboratory, the largest public forensic laboratory in the nation.

Between January and December 2008, there were 136 burglaries, robberies and larcenies in which Bronx County received a DNA hit identifying a specific perpetrator or suspect. The vast majority of those DNA hits, 105 cases, were categorized as either commercial or residential burglaries. After reviewing the individual cases, 84 cases were presented to a grand jury and 82 were indicted. Five of the

property crime cases were categorized as larcenies. Three of those cases were presented to the grand jury and indicted.

In addition to those suspects who have been identified through DNA testing, we have approximately 24 cases in which DNA was recovered and analyzed from a crime scene of a burglary or robbery, but has not yet been linked to an individual in the local, state or national DNA data banks. These cases remain open "John Doe" investigations.

DNA Matches Solve Property Crimes

DNA is increasingly used to solve property crimes. The cases below are examples of crimes in 2008 that may not have been solved were it not for alleged DNA matches.

- The perpetrator of a commercial burglary of a McDonald's cut himself while attempting to steal several donation boxes containing U.S. Currency. He left blood on the counter and on the sidewalk in front of the restaurant. It is alleged that the DNA profile developed from the blood evidence matched a profile of a convicted offender from the Wisconsin DNA databank. This case is still pending.
- A defendant involved in a residential burglary left a pair of latex gloves at the crime scene. The male DNA profile extracted from the gloves was uploaded to the New York State DNA databank and matched a convicted offender on file for a previous burglary. The defendant pleaded guilty and received a sentence of three years in prison.
- Two separate residential burglaries were linked through items left at both scenes. At the first burglary a cigarette butt left behind yielded a male profile which subsequently matched DNA found on clothing left at the second crime scene. The profile was uploaded to the local, state and national DNA databanks and allegedly matched a convicted offender. The case is still pending.
- A man followed a female victim into her apartment building. They both got into the elevator where he displayed a large kitchen knife and robbed her of jewelry and money. While making his escape down the stairwell, the perpetrator discarded the knife which was discovered by the Evidence Collection Team and submitted for forensic testing. A swab from the knife yielded a male DNA profile which allegedly matched a convicted offender already in the State DNA databank. The defendant was indicted and the case is still pending.
- A pattern of burglaries involving five commercial establishments took place over a one-week period in different areas of the Bronx. Various property and cash was taken at each crime scene. A DNA profile was developed from items left at each of the crime scenes including blood, clothes, a flashlight, and a spoon which had been used to eat food at one of the locations. All the items yielded the same male profile which, when uploaded to the local and state DNA databanks, is alleged to match a convicted offender. This case is still pending.

INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Ever-increasing access to computers and the internet opens doors for both children and adults to acquire a wealth of information without ever having to leave their homes. Unfortunately, however, the availability of this technology may also give sexual predators access to our children. According to the U.S. Census 2000, there are close to 400,000 Bronx residents who are under the age of 18. Many of them use computers daily.

In 2001 this Office received a federal grant to establish an Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Investigative Satellite initiative. Through this program, detectives and assistant district attorneys have developed excellent contacts in the law enforcement community with whom they share ideas and expertise. The agencies include New York State's ICAC Task Force and Attorney General, numerous District Attorneys' Offices, the

New York State District Attorneys Association, U.S. Customs, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Secret Service. In addition, members of the Satellite Task Force are members of numerous other task forces and committees dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of internet crimes against children.

The explosive growth of the internet over the last decade has been accompanied by an increase in associated crimes, including crimes committed against children. The majority of the crimes against children involve dissemination of pornographic images. These crimes are committed by people from all walks of life, including doctors, lawyers, clergy, teachers and even law enforcement professionals. The perpetrators often seem to believe that they are insulated from prosecution due to the relative anonymity of the internet. The harmful effects on children can be enormous and enduring. In recognition of this problem, the

Office of the Mayor's Criminal Justice Coordinator formed a Sexual Predator and Electronic Crimes Task Force to coordinate law enforcement efforts.

Perpetrators of these crimes are identified through the use of undercover officers who enter cyber "chat rooms" and engage in explicit sexual chats, posing as someone the predator believes to be a minor. This is often a time-consuming process because the predator's trust must be gained. An undercover officer can typically only "chat" with one predator at a time. It frequently takes many hours "chatting" before discussions of meetings take place. In addition, the perpetrator must be identified through an ISP address because the perpetrator rarely provides a real name or address. Although these investigations are labor intensive, the payoff is enormous when a potential child abuser is arrested and punished.

ICE arrests Las Cruces man on child pornography charges

Headline from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

News Release, 11/25/2008

On October 6, 2008, a Detective from the Bronx District Attorney's Office Squad, working undercover, formed an online relationship in an internet chat room with Donald (pseudonym), a 55-year-old resident of New Mexico. During the course of numerous online conversations or "chats," Donald allegedly bragged about having sexual contact with two local

children. Donald allegedly e-mailed photos depicting evidence of the crime to the detective who used an undercover screen identity to pose as the parent of minor children.

Donald allegedly mentioned in an online conversation that one of the children just had a birthday, and that she had a brother who was two years younger. New Mexico authorities were able to use

ICE arrests Las Cruces man on child pornography charges

Headline from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

News Release, 11/25/2008, Continued

this information to identify and locate a minor girl with a younger brother who lived in Donald's neighborhood. The girl's family had known Donald for over a decade.

Pictures of men having sex with young girls were allegedly found on computers seized from Donald's home.

On October 26, 2008, Donald was

charged by local authorities with three counts of criminal sexual contact of minors (under the age of 12). Donald also faces federal charges for multiple pornography offenses.

On December 18, 2008, the Detective was awarded a Certificate Of Commendation by the Office of the United States Attorney of New Mexico.

FINANCIAL CRIME

Newspapers report almost daily on financial crimes fueled by technology, such as internet scams that promise millions of dollars in exchange for personal information and identity thefts that allow predators to sell victims' homes without their knowledge. However, some thieves steal the old fashioned way, without assistance from computers or other sophisticated technology. Some of these crimes deprive victims, both individuals and businesses, of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Although their methods differed, the offenders in the two cases presented below were both charged with grand larceny. Robert Federico stole over \$500,000 from 50 victims.

Robert Martinez used other people's identities in his (sometimes successful) attempts to steal over \$190,000 worth of merchandise from stores. One investigation lasted just one

month, the other two years. But in both cases investigators were able to uncover financial crimes and convict the defendants.

Schemes to Defraud

Customers who purchased automobiles at a now defunct car dealership, Courtesy Lincoln Mercury Incorporated, discovered that they could not register the vehicles. Consequently, the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles contacted the Bronx District Attorney's Office, which launched an investigation that would last for two years.

From January 2005 through May 2006, the owner of the car dealership, 45-year-old Robert Federico, engaged in a scheme to defraud his victims which involved several scenarios. Some people purchased used cars and were unable to register the vehicles because Federico failed to pay the liens held by the previous owners' banks. Other victims discovered that the liens on cars that they traded in were not paid, leaving them liable for loans on both their new and old vehicles. In some cases customers paid Federico as much as \$1,900 to purchase an extended manufacturer's warranty on

their vehicle. Federico pocketed the money instead, and the victims were unaware until after they attempted to have their car serviced under the warranty that they were not covered. Federico also went to two different banks on behalf of customers seeking financing, obtained loans on the same car from both financial institutions, and then pocketed the proceeds from one of the loans.

Federico was arrested on June 22, 2008. On September 25, 2008, he pleaded guilty to one count of grand larceny in the third degree and one count of scheme to defraud in the first degree. Under the terms of a plea agreement Federico will be sentenced to serve four months on weekends in jail and will receive five years probation. In addition, he must pay \$500,000 in restitution to 50 victims. Failure to make complete restitution will result in a two-to-six year state prison sentence.

Identity Theft

Between June and September 2007, Robert Martinez “purchased” property valued at \$80,000 from Staples. But Martinez did not use his own money for these purchases. Rather he used the identities of others. Furthermore, between June 2005 and October 2007, he attempted to purchase more than \$180,000 worth of merchandise from Staples. Martinez placed orders to Staples using accounts from the NYC Department of Education, St. Luke’s Hospital, North Central Bronx Hospital, Regents of the University of California and others. He had other victims as well: using “Mary’s” identity, he

stole property valued at \$10,000 from a number of merchants.

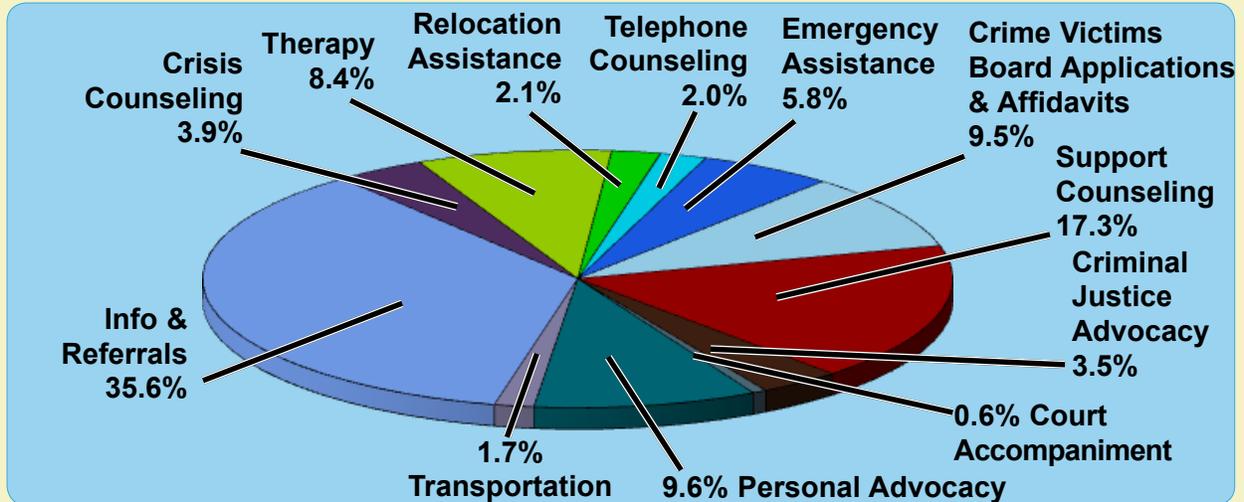
Martinez’s buying power was lost when Staples brought the matter to the attention of the Bronx District Attorney’s Office. A one-month investigation involving the Office’s detective investigators and a Senior Investigative Assistant District Attorney revealed numerous attempts, some of which were successful, to commit identity theft. On April 29, 2008, Martinez pleaded guilty to grand larceny in the second degree. On October 1, 2008, he was sentenced to one-to-three years in prison.

Crime Victims Assistance

The District Attorney's Crime Victims Assistance Unit (CVAU) saw a total of 2,287 new clients in 2008, an increase of 9.5% over 2007. CVAU staff made more than 22,000 service contacts with victims and witnesses during 2008. These services were provided from both the main office on 161st Street and the CVAU satellite office in the northeast Bronx.

Crime Victims Assistance Unit Contacts By Type of Service Provided

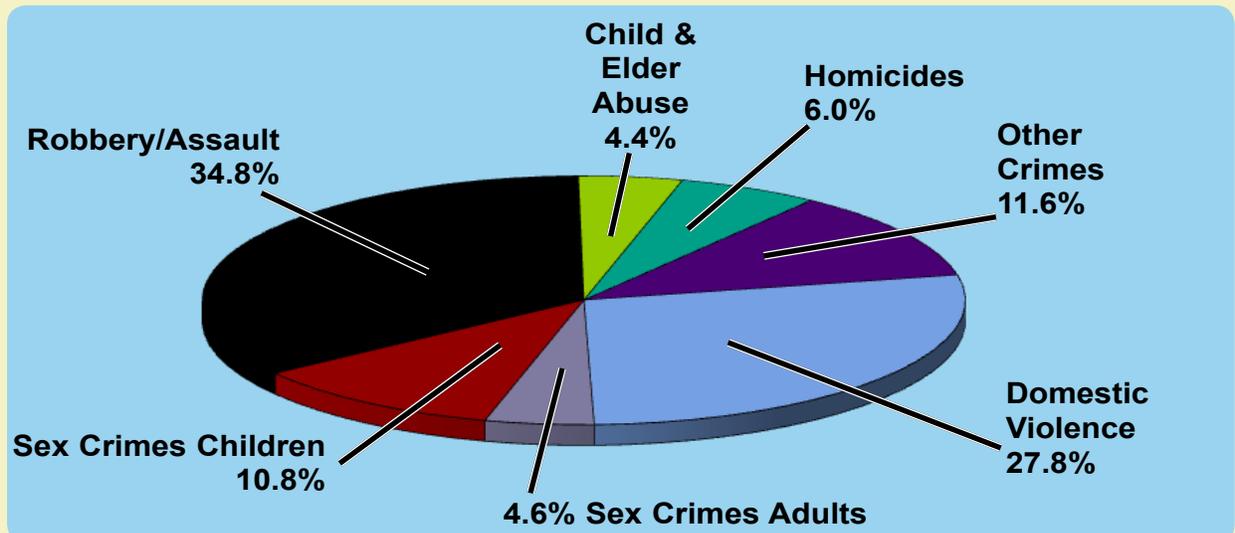
Total 2008 Service
Contacts: 22,411



Source: Office of Bronx District Attorney

Crime Victims Assistance Unit Contacts By Type of Crime

Total 2008 Client
Contacts: 2,287



Source: Office of Bronx District Attorney

Recovering from Domestic Violence

Ms. A and Mr. B had a history of domestic violence dating back to when they lived in Honduras and continuing through their recent arrival in the United States. Although Mr. B is the father of Ms. A's three children (two of whom live in Honduras), the couple broke up. Ms. A went home to retrieve her belongings on July 15, 2007. On that date, Mr. B bit off Ms. A's left earlobe, choked her and hit her head, face and body repeatedly with a hammer. Ms. A then left the apartment to seek help. Meanwhile, Mr. B dangled their 14-month old baby outside their sixth floor window, left the baby alone and ran to the roof and threw himself off.

Ms. A sustained substantial physical injuries and was rushed to the hospital, where surgical staples were required for her head wounds. Ms. A testified before a grand jury immediately upon her release from the hospital. She was also referred by an assistant district attorney to the Crime Victims Assistance Unit for supportive services, therapy referral and crisis intervention.

Ms. A had numerous needs and received numerous services, including emergency financial assistance. She experienced distress, fear, trauma resulting from disfigurement, and loss of employment and income. A crime victims advocate assisted Ms. A in obtaining placement in a shelter and in applying for public housing. CVAU helped Ms. A apply for

public assistance for herself and her child because of the loss of her waitressing job following the brutal attack.

Ms. A was referred to another agency for assistance obtaining a U-Visa, which gives victims of crime temporary legal status and work eligibility.

Her crime victims advocate and therapist from the Crime Victims Assistance Unit worked together to help Ms. A cope with her distress and anxiety over her self-image. The clinical therapist located a plastic surgeon who was willing to provide reconstructive surgery on a pro-bono basis. The advocate accompanied Ms. A on many pre-operation medical appointments to serve as both translator and a source of emotional support. The advocate helped obtain funds from the Crime Victims Board and another domestic violence-based program for medication and transportation after her three reconstructive surgeries.

Ms. A is prevailing over the obstacles which resulted from her crime victimization. She no longer lives in a shelter, but lives with her son in subsidized housing. She continues to receive assistance from her advocate and therapist, but she is awaiting her working permit and continues to work on rebuilding her life.

Mr. B pleaded guilty on June 24, 2008, to assault in the first degree. He was sentenced on July 29, 2008, to six years imprisonment.

CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE UNIT SATELLITE OFFICE

The Bronx District Attorney's Crime Victims Assistance Unit (CVAU) provides comprehensive services to crime victims, ranging

from information and referrals to individual and group therapy. The location of the unit, in the District Attorney's Office on 161st Street in the South Bronx, is generally convenient because of its proximity to the court. But for some crime victims

who reside in the northern end of the county, transportation is a problem.

In September 2002, we received a one-year planning grant from the federal government for an innovative project to bring services closer to crime victims in the Northeast Bronx.

We received three additional grants in 2003, 2004 and 2005 which supported the program's implementation.

A need for additional space resulted from the program's expansion. Consequently, in 2005 renovation began on unoccupied third floor space donated by the City, rent-free, in the building which houses Community Board 12. These renovations are complete and the entire third floor is furnished and occupied by the Satellite Office.

Although federal funding ended in late 2006, this Office continues to work with an Advisory Committee composed of representatives from law enforcement, schools, hospitals, faith-based organizations, local media, local government, youth services, child welfare and community-based organizations to tailor the type of services and their delivery to the needs of the community. From this satellite office CVAU staff provide services similar to those offered at the District Attorney's main

office. During 2008 staff provided 1,223 services to clients at the satellite office, and 121 new crime victims received services at the Satellite Office. These clients were victims of crimes such as domestic violence, assault, and elder abuse.

BRONX CLOTHES-LINE PROJECT

In April 2008, the Bronx District Attorney's Crime Victims Assistance Unit collaborated with the Bronx Committee for National Crime Victims' Rights Week to host the annual display of the Bronx Clothes-Line Project. The theme for 2008 — "Justice for victims. Justice for all." — states that without justice for victims of crime, we cannot achieve justice for all. As it has each year since 1996, the Crime Victims Assistance Unit collaborated with a partnership of allied professionals and community volunteers to create and organize the Bronx Clothes-Line

Project. The Clothes-Line Project is a striking visual presentation of t-shirts designed by survivors of crime to break the silence surrounding victimization and to make their voices heard by others who support them in their struggles to heal. Each shirt symbolizes pain, survival, healing and empowerment, and provides a window into the life of a victim who survived violence. The messages on the shirts are individualized — some poetic, some plaintive — allowing the artists to express their feelings in their own way. This visual presentation tells the stories of hundreds of survivors of abuse, violence and neglect. The dramatic illustration of t-shirts hanging side-by-side provided viewers with a glimpse of the devastating effects of crime on victims. Survivors of domestic violence, rape, child abuse, elder abuse, assault and other crimes of violence decorated the t-shirts with messages, poems, photographs and drawings.

2008 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Justice for ALL
VICTIMS

The 2008 Annual Display
of the
Bronx Clothesline Project
Tuesday, April 15, 2008 10:00am - 4:00pm

Survivor's Tribute
Tuesday, April 15, 2008 5:30pm - 7:30pm

At
Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College
of the City University of New York
Bridgeway and Atrium
475 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10451

Sponsored by:
**The Bronx Committee for
National Crime Victims' Rights Week**

Wheelchair accessible

For information call:
The Bronx District Attorney's Office
Crime Victims Assistance Unit
(718) 590-2115, (718) 798-5892

I Love You

Partnerships and Collaboration

COURT MERGER: BRONX SUPREME COURT, CRIMINAL DIVISION

In November 2004 the New York State Office of Court Administration (OCA) implemented a court merger program to address the backlog of misdemeanor cases. This merger, the first in the state, created the Criminal Division of Supreme Court which handles felony and misdemeanor proceedings that were previously divided between Supreme Court and the New York City Criminal Court. This Office has cooperated fully with OCA, including reorganization of our Criminal Court Bureau, enabling the new Criminal Division to operate more efficiently.

Although the backlog of cases decreased initially, pending cases have begun to increase again, partially as a result of OCA transferring judges from the Bronx Criminal Division. In December 2003 there were 8,639 pending misdemeanor cases. Following the court merger, in December 2005 the number of pending misdemeanor cases decreased to 5,147. By the end of 2008, however, there were 8,557, an increase of over 66%. Pending felony cases also decreased from 5,007 (in 1996) to 2,750 in 2003. Following the merger, pending felonies began a steady increase to

3,312 in 2005 and 3,765 in 2006, to 3,952 in 2007, and 4,203 in 2008, an increase of 53% between 2003 and 2008.

BRONX MENTAL HEALTH COURT

The Bronx District Attorney's Office has been diverting defendants to drug treatment for many years and developed formal partnerships to do so in October 1992. Over time it became clear that some of these defendants were suffering from both drug dependency and mental illness. While staff always tried to place such non-violent defendants in treatment programs that were appropriate for persons with dual diagnoses, in 2002 we entered into a formal partnership with Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities (TASC) and Research Triangle Institute to create the Bronx Mental Health Court. As the grantee, this Office administers grants and sub-grants, monitors compliance with the terms of grants and with sub-grantees' letters of agreement, has fiscal responsibility, and provides staff to work in the court part.

In 2003, eligibility for diversion to the Bronx Mental Health Court was extended to defendants with serious mental illness (with or without drug dependency). In 2004, the court's capacity was fur-

ther expanded to provide services for mentally ill defendants with HIV/AIDS. Using federal funds to provide mental health and drug dependence screening and assessment, placement and program evaluation, we recommended 89 defendants for placement in 2008. These defendants are subject to the same level of supervision and sanctions for failure to complete treatment as other diverted defendants.

In 2006 the US Department of Justice designated the Bronx Mental Health Court a national model for treatment alternatives to incarceration for defendants with serious mental illness. As one of just five national "learning sites" the Bronx Mental Health Court provides other jurisdictions with an opportunity to observe and study all aspects involved in the successful and sustained operation of the court. In 2008, groups from jurisdictions across the United States, including Tulsa, OK; Philadelphia, PA; Maine, and Rockland County, NY visited the court. In addition, there were international visitors from the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

In 2007 federal funds enabled us to further expand treatment capacity to defendants who have tested positive for HIV/AIDS or are at risk of contracting HIV

(but do not necessarily have a mental illness). To raise awareness of the risks of HIV, on World

AIDS Day, December 1, 2008, this Office and our grant partners sponsored a display of sections of

the AIDS Memorial Quilt in the Bronx County Hall of Justice.



World AIDS Day Display of AIDS Memorial Quilt sections in Bronx Hall of Justice



World AIDS Day Display of AIDS Memorial Quilt sections in Bronx Hall of Justice

DRUG TREATMENT ALTERNATIVE TO PRISON (DTAP)

Bronx prosecutors have had substantial success in placing drug offenders in treatment programs. Between 1993 and 2008, nearly 12,900 Bronx defendants were placed in drug treatment programs as an alternative to incarceration.

While the Office's initial experiment with ATI drug treatment focused on first-time offenders, treatment is also appropriate for some second felony offenders. In late 1995 through the TASC program, this Office began placing offenders with prior non-violent felony convictions in alternative-to-incarceration programs and first received

DTAP funding in 1998. From 1998 through 2008, the Office placed 3,097 defendants in drug treatment through DTAP. The DTAP model involves: (1) identification of drug-involved offenders; (2) assessment of the offender's drug and alcohol treatment needs; (3) referral to appropriate treatment; and (4) continuous case management.

DTAP Success Story

Forty-six-year-old Henry (pseudonym) was referred to TASC on February 20, 2007, by the Bronx District Attorney's Office after being arrested for criminal sale of a controlled substance in the third degree. An initial assessment revealed Henry's history of drug and alcohol abuse, beginning at 18 with marijuana and alcohol. Henry started smoking crack at 28, and that became his drug of choice. His drug use became a daily addiction.

Henry was born in Antigua, the youngest of five siblings. His father was abusive, and when Henry was six his mother left his father and moved to the Bronx with the children. Henry had a difficult time adapting to his new life, and he dropped out of school in 11th grade. He obtained a GED a few years later.

Henry's first arrest was at age 29 for misdemeanor possession of crack. Other arrests followed for narcotics possession, petit larceny, burglary, auto stripping, *etc.* He was arrested 17 times. His first felony arrest was in 1997 for burglary in the third degree. He received five years probation. He was unable to maintain permanent employment.

After his arrest in 2007, Henry pleaded guilty to criminal sale of a con-

trolled substance in the third degree with the condition that he would enter and complete an inpatient drug treatment program for a period of 18-to-24 months. Upon successful completion of the DTAP program, the charge would be reduced to a misdemeanor and he would be sentenced to a conditional discharge. If unsuccessful, he would be sentenced to 3½ years imprisonment with two years parole supervision. He was placed in Phoenix House's residential program on April 10, 2007.

Henry participated in all clinical functions and counseling sessions at Phoenix House. He received positive progress reports, worked with staff, took a job helping the community on stipend for the billing department, and remained in contact with his family during treatment.

Henry entered the Counselor Training Program at Phoenix House and became a counselor at the Phoenix House Foundation while continuing treatment in the outpatient program. He obtained housing through a rental assistance program. On October 3, 2008, Henry graduated from the program. He stated that his faith in God, along with the support of the District Attorney's Office and Bronx TASC, enabled him to be a success.

Bronx participants in the DTAP program are required to plead guilty to a class B felony. If they complete the program, their

felony plea is set aside, and they are permitted to plead guilty to a misdemeanor. However, those who withdraw or fail to complete the

program satisfactorily receive a sentence of three and one-half years in prison.

Drug Treatment Enrollment* 1993 – 2008

PROGRAM	1993 - 2005	2006	2007	2008	TOTAL
DTAP	2,328	241	281	247	3,097
BX Treatment Court	1,322	116	86	79	1,603
Extended Willard	233	19	14	8	274
Mental Health Court	496	156	105	89	846
BX Treatment Misd. Court	108	342	247	158	855
Other Residential	3,636	122	157	137	4,052
Other	1,700	163	145	138	2,146
TOTAL	9,823	1,159	1,035	856	12,873

Source: Office of Bronx District Attorney

*Note: Drug Treatment Alternatives to Prison (DTAP) is for predicate felony (second and later) offenders. Extended Willard Drug Treatment is also for predicate felony offenders and is operated by the New York State Department of Correctional Services in conjunction with the Division of Parole. "Other Residential" includes first-time offenders placed in residential programs. "Other" includes residential and outpatient programs for first-time and predicate defendants.

BRONX COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

In 2004 we worked with the Center for Court Innovation to establish a Community Court, known as "Bronx Community Solutions," to enhance community service sentences and provide services to defendants. The goal of the project is to provide judges with more sentencing options for the many defendants convicted of non-violent, misdemeanor offenses such as marijuana possession, prostitution and shoplifting. By combining punishment with services, Bronx Community Solutions aims to hold offenders accountable while offering them the assistance they need to avoid further criminal conduct.

Bronx Community Solutions launched two new initiatives in

2008. One was aimed at working with defendants charged with driving while intoxicated, and the other was designed to provide mental health assessments and specialized services to defendants.

In 2008, Bronx Community Solutions handled about 12,000 misdemeanor cases. Seventy percent of participants were compliant with community service and social service mandates. Community service crews performed numerous restitution projects, including graffiti removal, sorting donated food for a faith-based charity, street sweeping and maintaining local parks. In addition, Bronx Community Solutions provided services such as job training and drug treatment. A total of 72,000 hours of community service were completed in 2008.

Community service is sometimes performed in partnership with community-based organizations.

OPERATION WEED & SEED

Weed and Seed is a federally funded strategy designed to "weed out" drug traffickers and violent crime while "seeding" the community with federal, state and local resources to improve the quality of life. The law enforcement strategies that are part of this effort have combined federal and local resources to identify, target, arrest and prosecute narcotics traffickers, gang members and robbery perpetrators in the Weed and Seed area. The Bronx has been home to two Weed and Seed sites, one located in the Soundview/Bruckner neighbor-



Weed and Seed



Weed and Seed

hood and the other in Mott Haven. Unfortunately, the Mott Haven site lost its funding eligibility in 2006 and is no longer in operation.

Weed and Seed involves collaboration among the District Attorney's Office, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, the NYPD, other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and the New York City Department of Education. Operation Weed and Seed/Soundview also relies on close working relationships with the Bronx Borough President's Office, EARS, CONNECT, Phipps Houses, Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club, the Bronx Lions Club, Parkchester Kiwanis Club, clergy, elected officials, school-based parent organizations, other community-based organizations and community residents.

In July 2002 through a federally-funded grant, we formed Law Enforcement Advisory Committees (LEACs), comprised of community members who live in the Weed and Seed neighborhoods. In 2004 the Citizens Committee for New York City provided customized leadership training for LEAC members. In addition, the NYPD Citizens Police Academy provided training regarding law enforcement. LEAC members now collaborate with the District Attorney's Office to solve problems within the community. The LEAC is also represented on the Weed and Seed Steering Committee. In 2008, LEAC focused on improving police/community relations within Impact Zones of PSA7 and PSA8 by hosting sensitiv-

ity trainings with police and community residents.

An integral component of any Weed and Seed site is its "Safe Haven," where programs for children and adults are offered. In the Bronx these include recreational programs such as *Junior Knicks* basketball, mentoring programs and crime prevention through the arts. Many of the individual programs rely on linkages with other organizations, including the Police Athletic League, South Bronx Overall Development Corporation, and Phipps.

GREAT

The Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Program is a school-based classroom curriculum. GREAT is a prevention program, designed to "immunize" participants against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership. GREAT lessons focus on providing life skills to students to help them avoid delinquent behavior and violence to solve problems.

The Bronx District Attorney's Office has operated a GREAT program within the 43rd Precinct since June 2008. Approximately 450 students completed the 13-week curriculum during the fall semester (2008) and an additional 25 classes (totaling more than 600 students) are in progress. The GREAT curriculum is taught by certified GREAT Officers who have attended special training. In the Bronx, a Bronx District Attorney's Detective Investigator, supplemented by a

retired NYPD Officer, teaches the classes. GREAT staff members are also planning a summer program for middle school students.

An illustration of the program's effectiveness came during the middle of the program when a 7th grade student thanked a school staff member for allowing him to take part in the program. The student had explained that a few gang members had tried to pressure him into becoming involved with their group. However, they were unsuccessful due to the skills that he had learned and used during his time with GREAT. As a result, the entire school administration commended the GREAT Officer and the Program Coordinator for their performance in implementing the GREAT program.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In 2008 the Bronx continued to have the highest rate of domestic violence reports per 100,000 population in New York City. The Bronx's more than 56,000 Domestic Incident Reports represented 29% of the citywide total.

Beginning in 2002 this Office, in partnership with other City agencies and non-profit victim services providers, received a series of domestic violence grants from the Office on Violence Against Women of the U.S. Department of Justice. With resources from these grants, the Bronx Borough President's Office formed an advisory committee that initiates domestic violence

awareness projects. Grant funds have also been used for some of the District Attorney's staff in the Domestic Violence Court Parts, and to enable the non-profit partners to provide services to domestic violence victims.

In 2007 we and our partners received an additional two-year grant award. Resources from this award have enabled the NYC Department of Probation to expand to misdemeanor offenders a program of intensive supervision originally designed for felony domestic violence offenders. These funds have also enabled us to place Safe Horizon's crime victims advocates in Bronx police precincts with high rates of domestic violence. Through such collaborations we hope to increase victim safety, improve prosecution and hold batterers accountable.

Domestic Violence Empowerment (DoVE)

The New York City Council created the DoVE Initiative to support organizations in their efforts

to provide domestic violence services in neighborhoods throughout the city. The DoVE initiative places priority on communities with high rates of domestic violence or whose members are more vulnerable due to factors such as poverty, immigration status, and limited English proficiency. As part of a broader DoVE network, funded organizations have the opportunity to connect and collaborate with each other through forums such as advocacy groups, training programs and conferences.

The Bronx District Attorney's Office received DoVE grants beginning in 2006. The Office uses the funding for a bilingual therapist to provide both individual and group therapy for domestic violence survivors. We also hired a bilingual advocate who works evening hours in the Bronx District Attorney's Complaint Room, providing crisis intervention, explanation of court process and procedures, information, accompaniment, advocacy and referrals. These staff members also provide educational seminars to the Bronx community and work

closely with the Community Affairs Unit at the District Attorney's Office. The DoVE project links the education and outreach work of Community Affairs with the direct services provided by CVAU through expert bilingual domestic violence counseling.

GANG PROSECUTION

According to the NYPD, in 2008 there were 1,236 incidents in the Bronx that were either gang-related or gang-motivated. Gang activities included weapons possession, shooting, slashing, stabbing, homicide, assault, robbery, burglary, larceny, harassment, criminal possession and criminal sale of a controlled substance, and criminal possession of marijuana. This gang activity contributes to the Bronx's disproportionate share of violent crime.

The Bronx District Attorney's Gang/Major Case Bureau assigns experienced prosecutors to investigate growing and increasingly violent gang activity in the Bronx. The two cases highlighted below illustrate the brutality of these gangs.

Kings of Castle Hill

Residents in and around the Castle Hill Housing Development complained about drug-dealing activity and shootings in their neighborhood. Consequently, the Bronx District Attorney's Office Detective Squad and

the Gang Prosecution/Major Case Bureau initiated an investigation into illegal narcotics trafficking and acts of violence in the area. The resulting 16-month investigation relied heavily on information obtained through intensive surveillance, court-approved wiretaps on

Kings of Castle Hill

Continued

23 separate telephone lines, and other investigative techniques.

The investigation ended in September 2008 with the indictment and arrest of 25 defendants, many of whom were members of the “Sex, Money, Murder” organization affiliated with the Bloods street gang. Nineteen were reputed members of the King of Castle Organization, also a “Blood” organization. The 108-count indictment charged all but two of the defendants with multiple counts of conspiracy to sell narcotics, murder, attempted murder, robbery, felony weapons possession, and other acts of violence. The two defendants who were not implicated in the ongoing conspiracy were charged with the possession and sale of narcotics. The investigation resulted in the seizure of 11 semi-automatic handguns and revolvers, over a kilogram of

cocaine, 130 bags of heroin, marijuana, and \$63,000 cash.

With the exception of the two individuals not charged in the conspiracy, the defendants face a maximum sentence of up to life imprisonment if convicted of conspiracy in the first degree. It is alleged that these gang members “acting-in-concert” conspired to use children under the age of 16 to sell illegal narcotics and make deliveries to customers.

This investigation effectively quashed a one million dollar per year heroin and crack cocaine ring. District Attorney Robert Johnson said at the time of indictment that as a result of this 16-month investigation, “We also obtained information from the wiretaps that resulted in arrests in several unsolved shootings including a homicide.”

Torture-slay trial rerun: This time, jury will be sequestered to avoid intimidation, sources say

Headline from Daily News, 4/28/2008

In the summer of 2005, several rival gang members fired shots at Virgilio Samo, but he was not injured in the attempted assault. Samo came to believe that Dennis Rivera, 20, had prior knowledge of the attack and failed to warn him about it. Samo invited Rivera to visit his apartment for what was presumed to be a friendly meeting. Instead, Rivera was tied up and tortured for a day and a half by three Latin King gang members acting in concert: George Melendez, Lawrence Perez, and Virgilio Samo. While captive, Rivera was beaten with a baseball bat, forced to drink Drano, shocked by electric

current which ran through a wire attached to his genitals, and branded in the genitals and anus with a heated hammer. Rivera was finally killed when he was strangled to death with a belt after his larynx was crushed by a blow from the baseball bat.

Rivera’s body was wrapped in duct tape and stuffed into laundry bags, then dumped in a parking lot behind Yankee Stadium. His remains were set on fire. Rivera was listed as a missing person for several days before his body was identified by family members.

In June 2005, Dennis Rivera’s charred body was discovered in a parking lot behind the old Yankee Stadium.

Torture-slay trial rerun: This time, jury will be sequestered to avoid intimidation, sources say
Headline from Daily News, 4/28/2008, Continued

The body was so badly burned that it was identified by the partial remains of a tattoo.

Two trials were held for the three defendants. The first ended in a mistrial when a juror became ill during deliberations, and the entire judicial process was forced to begin anew. The second trial ended after 4½ days of deliberation on

July 1, 2008, with a conviction against each defendant. Melendez, 33, was convicted of murder in the first degree. Perez, 37, and Samo, 34, were each convicted of murder in the second degree.

Melendez was sentenced to life in prison without parole. Perez and Samo each received sentences of 25-years-to-life in prison.

AUTO CRIME INITIATIVES

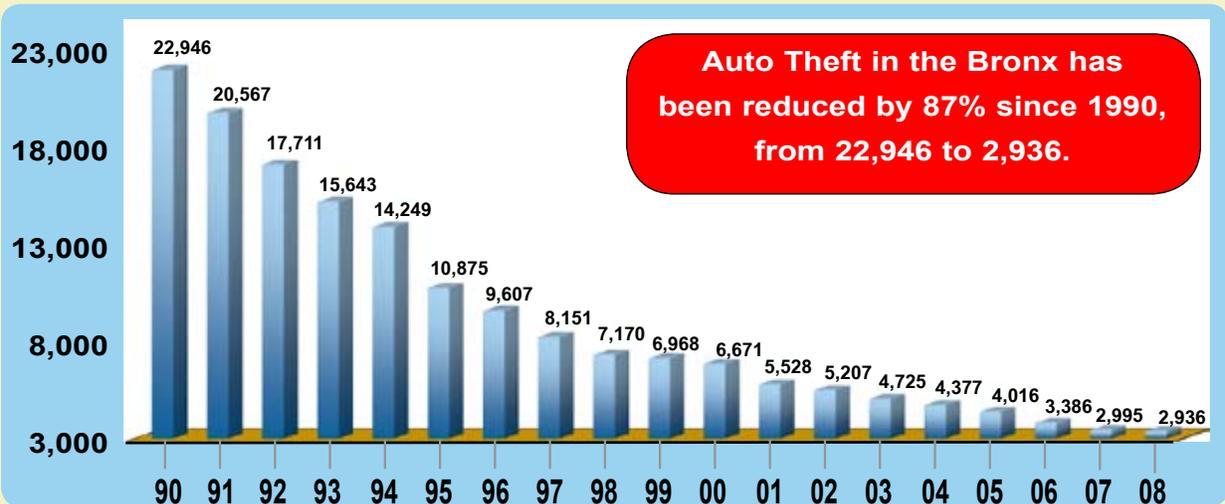
The Office of the Bronx District Attorney has operated the Bronx Anti-Auto Theft Program since 1995. In 2008 alone this Office recovered 486 stolen vehicles (for return to their rightful owners). These cars were valued at \$5,829,662. The Anti-Auto Theft program, which has been supported with resources provided by state

grants, was designed to increase the number of successful prosecutions of defendants charged with grand larceny of a motor vehicle, criminal possession of stolen property, illegal possession of a vehicle identification number, auto stripping and/or unauthorized use of a vehicle. It was also expected to result in an increased number of stolen cars recovered pursuant to arrests made and/or search warrants executed.

Although this program has been very successful, in 2005 (the most recent year for which statewide statistics are available) auto theft in Bronx County remained at the highest rate per 100,000 registered vehicles in the state and second highest rate per 100,000 population.

The Bronx District Attorney's Office owns two bait cars. Working jointly with precincts that experience an increase in car theft, the bait cars are positioned in high crime areas,

**Decline In Grand Larceny Auto
 1990 - 2008**



Source: New York City Police Department

with plainclothes police officers stationed nearby. After a suspect breaks into the car and removes property, the police move in to make an arrest. Break-ins in a given area are often

committed by relatively few people. Removing these car thieves from the streets can greatly reduce a neighborhood's auto damage and petit larceny numbers. There have been numerous

arrests in the last year based on the use of the bait cars, and this Office continues to deploy them around the county in an ongoing effort to reduce break-ins.

Bait Car Leads to Big Catch

On February 28, 2008, the Bronx District Attorney's Detective Investigators were working a joint operation with the NYPD's 48th Precinct. The bait car was placed in a high crime area with high rates of break-ins and vandalism from cars. The car was locked and the windows were closed. Luis Santos, 38, approached the bait car. Inside the car were two cell phones on the floor and a GPS device on the dashboard. After patiently waiting until he saw no one else in the immediate vicinity, Santos threw a spark plug at the window, smashing it. He entered the car and was apprehended as he exited the vehicle. He was carrying a white plastic bag that contained the GPS device and cell phones. Santos picked the wrong car to break into.

Santos was charged with auto stripping in the third degree and other related misdemeanors. After further investigation, consent was obtained to search Santos'

car and residence. The searches resulted in the recovery of ten stolen GPS units, two stolen mp3 players and assorted other stolen property.

On April 30, 2008, Santos pleaded guilty to the top count of auto stripping in the third degree, a class A misdemeanor. He was sentenced the same day to one year in jail. He waived the possibility of early release. Santos did not have a prior auto stripping conviction within the past five years (which would have allowed his case to be elevated to a felony). If he is arrested for auto stripping within the next five years, his misdemeanor arrest can be elevated to a felony, and his sentence enhanced.

There were 12 other arrests in 2008 based on the use of the bait cars. Police precincts continue to request the cars when break-in hot spots develop. The Office continues to deploy these cars throughout the Bronx in the ongoing effort to keep auto crime under control.

Over the years we have added components to the Anti-Auto Theft Program. In 1999, we added nighttime surveillance and investigations of auto-related crimes. In the last eight years, we expanded the program to include document fraud and insurance fraud. This expansion was made possible through grants

from the New York State Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention (MVTIFP) Board, which provides funds for equipment which enables detectives to conduct surveillance operations at night (or in other low-light conditions).

Since September 2006, Bronx District Attorney's Office Detective

Investigators have worked with NYPD precincts three-to-four days and three-to-four nights per week using a License Plate Reader (LPR) provided by the National Insurance Crime Bureau. LPR technology uses specialized cameras and computers to capture large numbers of license plates quickly, convert them to text

and compare them quickly to a large list of plates of interest. LPR systems can, within seconds of con-

tact, identify a plate, allowing law enforcement to target vehicles that might otherwise be overlooked. In

January 2008, using MVTIFP grant funds, the Office purchased an additional LPR.

License Plate Reader Yields Results

On the first day of operation for the new License Plate Reader (LPR), while on routine patrol in the 45th Police Precinct, the machine sounded an alarm. The District Attorney's Detective Investigators (DI's) had just passed a parked Lincoln Town car which had been reported stolen from Washington Heights about three months earlier. A second alarm sounded, indicating a link to a missing person reported from Bronx County. As the detectives approached the car, they encountered a strong foul odor coming from the rear of the vehicle. They called NYPD Emergency Services which responded and forced the trunk open. Inside was a man's decomposed body stuffed into a duffel bag. An investigation is ongoing.

Use of the LPR has yielded other significant results. DI's issued 84 summonses and recovered over 300 stolen cars in 2008. They arrested 50 individuals wanted for a variety of crimes. George Gonzalez was one such individual. On February 26, the DI's, while on routine patrol with the LPR in the 40th Police Precinct, passed a 1998 Acura. The LPR alarm sounded for a stolen car. With the assistance of officers from the Housing Anti-Crime Unit, the car was stopped and Gonzalez was arrested for criminal possession of stolen property, a felony. The car had been stolen from the 48th Precinct seven days earlier. Gonzalez, who was a predicate felon, pleaded guilty to possession of a stolen vehicle on March 3, 2008. He was sentenced on April 16, 2008, to one-and-a-half to three years in state prison.

ELDER ABUSE

"Elder abuse" can take many forms, including neglect or abuse of a physical, financial, psychological, emotional or sexual nature. Although anyone can be a victim of crime, age may render victims physically weak, physically or emotionally isolated, or mentally disabled. These conditions increase the trauma of victimization and make the criminal justice system more difficult to negotiate. The Bronx District Attorney's Office hired an Elder Abuse Coordinator in 2000 to serve as a liaison among the bureaus and units of the office, obtain services

from outside agencies and serve as a resource for educating the community. The Coordinator handled 184 calls in 2008 regarding suspected elder abuse and neglect and is often the first point of contact for elder abuse inquiries.

In 1998, the Bronx District Attorney formed an elder abuse committee to develop strategies to enhance prosecution in elder abuse cases and to increase the coordination of services to elderly victims. As an outgrowth of the Office's committee, an Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Task Force was created in 2001. The complexities of elder mistreatment and neglect

necessitate a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach. The Task Force is co-chaired by the Elder Abuse Coordinator at the Bronx District Attorney's Office, the Assistant Director of ElderServe Licensed Home Care Services Agency of the Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale, and the Bronx Borough Director of Adult Protective Services. This bimonthly gathering of law enforcement, social service, healthcare, financial, business, governmental and private agencies enables the sharing of expertise and facilitates the coordination of efforts to prevent, inves-

tigate and remedy the abuse of our most vulnerable seniors.

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the Bronx District Attorney's Office participated in the second annual senior information fair at Capital One Bank (formerly NorthFork Bank). Assistant district attorneys arranged and presented a comprehensive two-session elder abuse training program titled "A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Elder Exploitation and Fraud: Recognition,

Prevention and Intervention." This program was presented to the Bronx branches of major banks and will be presented to additional banks in 2009.

The Bronx District Attorney's Office was selected in early 2006 to become a CASE ("Communities Against Senior Exploitation") Model Site. The CASE partnership is an elder fraud prevention and intervention program. The Bronx District Attorney's Office is one of approximately 50 sites across the

country that work with faith-based communities and senior centers to combat elder fraud and exploitation. As part of this program, staff from the District Attorney's Office conduct training in the community using CASE resource materials. During 2008, the program made 25 CASE presentations to community groups, churches, senior centers, tenants' associations, social service providers, *etc.* This program is currently implemented without funding, staffed by volunteers from the Office.

Financial Elder Abuse

Claire (pseudonym) survived a World War II Nazi concentration camp. At 84, she found walking extremely difficult. Claire hired a home health care aide, 48-year-old Nolvía Ordonez, to care for her after she was injured from a fall in her home. Ordonez visited Claire for about two hours during the day from November 2007 to January 2008. She stole Claire's keys to obtain access to her apartment and mailbox. Ordonez also stole numerous checks from Claire's checkbook. Over time, Ordonez wrote 22 checks to herself and her husband in amounts that totaled \$20,300. Ordonez used Claire's personal information to open an ATM account and apply for a Visa debit/credit card. Over time, Ordonez withdrew a total of \$14,525 from ATM machines. She was caught on camera making some of these withdrawals. In addition, she made \$7,406.44 in debit/credit card purchases at various places, including Target and Rent-A-Center, to buy clothes, furniture, electronics and home appliances (including a flat screen TV, dining room set, washer/dryer, refrigerator, water cooler,

etc.). In addition, Ordonez made payments to Sprint, Verizon, and Con Edison. She even wired money overseas and made a tuition payment for a child's education with Claire's money.

Claire testified before a grand jury for over two hours. Based on Claire's testimony, Ordonez was indicted on March 18, 2008, on charges including 22 counts of possession of a forged instrument, four counts of grand larceny in the third degree, and four counts of criminal possession of stolen property in the third degree, among other charges. Within a few months, Claire passed away and was unable to see Ordonez convicted. Nevertheless, on May 30, 2008, Ordonez pleaded guilty to grand larceny in the fourth degree. On July 14, 2008, Ordonez was sentenced to six months in jail plus five years probation and ordered to pay restitution of \$44,000 to Claire's estate and Chase bank. If she fails to pay the restitution, Ordonez faces an alternative sentence of four years imprisonment. On March 26, 2009, Ordonez made a monthly payment of \$575 and at that time still owed \$31,000.

BX mom and daughter helped selves to elderly neighbor's

\$600G DA Says,

Headline from NY Daily News 9/21/07

Eighty-four-year-old Elizabeth (pseudonym) was hospitalized after having a stroke. She was subsequently transferred to a nursing home to recover. While she was away from home, two neighbors stole the majority of her monetary assets.

The neighbors were a mother-and-daughter team, 36 year-old Rayleshia Cage and 56-year-old Burnestha Wilder, who raided the victim's bank account. The crimes occurred between September 1, 2006, and March 7, 2007. Elizabeth's bank account was drained. The two neighbors looted the elderly woman's Emigrant Savings Bank account of approximately \$189,000 and submitted a fraudulent transfer document to Prinicpal Annuity Life Insurance that gave Cage ownership of Elizabeth's \$400,000 annuity.

When Elizabeth returned to her apartment, she discovered that checkbooks and bank books were missing; that checks had been written on her account; and that ownership of her annuity had been transferred. Elizabeth contacted her minister, who confronted Cage and notified the bank. Elizabeth's bank contacted the District Attorney's Office, and an extensive 2½-month investigation followed that involved a detective investigator, a forensic accountant, the Office's Elder Abuse Coordinator, and the New York City Department for the Aging. The District Attorney's Elder Abuse Coordinator worked with Elizabeth's attorney to help her obtain housing and other services. Cage returned the annuity to Elizabeth.

Wilder and Cage pleaded guilty to attempted grand larceny in the second degree. Cage also pleaded guilty to one count of petit larceny for illegally collecting \$9,000 in Medicaid benefits while

employed at an accounting firm at an annual salary of \$40,000.

Wilder and Cage were sentenced to a conditional discharge after agreeing to return over \$139,000 that was stolen from Elizabeth. The court issued a judgment for an additional \$6,000 in compensation to Elizabeth. The stipulation of settlement in this civil action also called for \$60,204 to be paid to the estate of another elderly victim (74 years old at the time of her death). Criminal charges were never filed in this matter. However, Wilder agreed to return the money. Wilder befriended the woman and persuaded her to make her a joint holder of her bank accounts. The financial relationship came to light during the investigation into the theft of Elizabeth's assets.

Under the terms of the conditional discharge, Cage must also pay \$9,000 in restitution to the City of New York for welfare fraud. These plea agreements prevented a trial at which the frail, elderly victim would have to testify.

This investigation revealed that Wilder had been convicted on federal charges for fraudulently collecting a dead man's Social Security benefits. In that case, Wilder was placed on probation and ordered to repay approximately \$100,000 to the U.S. Treasury Department. Although the illegally obtained proceeds were in Wilder's bank accounts accruing interest, she stole money from Elizabeth to satisfy the federal assessment. As a result of Wilder's arrest on the Bronx case and information obtained from a search warrant executed by federal authorities, a federal judge ruled that Wilder violated the terms of her probation. She was sentenced to serve nine months in a federal detention center beginning December 1, 2008.

BRONX SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM

In 2002 the Bronx Adolescent and Adult Sexual Assault Task Force began meeting at the District Attorney's Office. The goal of the Task Force is to identify and respond to system challenges and develop solutions to improve services for victims of sexual assault. The Task Force is composed of representatives from hospitals and the medical community, the New York City Mayor's Criminal Justice Coordinator's Office, the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault, nonprofit crime victim service providers, the New York City Police Department, and the Bronx District Attorney's Office. The members identified a need and with the aid of the Mayor's Office obtained funding for a Bronx Sexual Assault Response Team (SART).

The Bronx SART began delivering advanced forensic and counseling services in April 2004 to every sexual assault victim seeking treatment at any of the three municipal hospitals in the Bronx. The Bronx SART is on-call around-the-clock, every day of the year to respond within one hour. The responders include a specially-trained forensic examiner and a rape crisis advocate. Compassionate and competent care delivered promptly helps sexual assault victims overcome the trauma from the attacks. The rapid response is also meant to ensure that critical evidence is properly collected as soon as possible after

an attack, which assists in the investigation and prosecution of these violent crimes.

In 2008, Bronx SART participated in the establishment of a city-wide protocol which mandates that any city ambulance transporting a sexual assault victim bring the victim to a SART-based hospital. In the Bronx, that includes North Central Bronx, Jacobi and Lincoln Hospitals. Also in 2008, Bronx SART was a major impetus in the development of a "Suspect Evidence Collection Kit" which is now being used to collect important forensic evidence in appropriate cases from the person of an alleged perpetrator of a sexual assault.

The Bronx SART is supported by federal and state grants and consists of a group of 12 - 14 Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs) who are coordinated by a project director who works from North Central Bronx Hospital. The examiners conduct a physical examination, collect potential DNA evidence, and document both internal and external injuries. In 2008 Bronx SART hospitals covered 256 of these cases. In 97% of those cases, a SART examiner responded to the hospital within one hour of admission of the sexual assault victim to the Emergency Room. Ninety-one percent of the victims admitted to the Emergency Room consented to a forensic exam. In 51% of the cases, the physical examination of the victim revealed findings of genital trauma. In 54% of the cases, the physical examina-

tion revealed findings of non-genital injury.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM ON CHILD PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE

The Multidisciplinary Team on Child Physical and Sexual Abuse is a coalition of representatives from the Office of the Bronx District Attorney, Bronx hospitals, mental health service providers, school districts, the Administration for Children's Services, the New York City Corporation Counsel, the NYPD and the Juvenile Rights Division of the Legal Aid Society. Its purpose is to improve communication among participating agencies and coordinate their involvement in child abuse cases. The primary benefit of this multidisciplinary approach is the minimization of system-induced trauma to the victim. The Multidisciplinary Team assists hospital personnel in identifying and treating victims of child abuse, and acts as a network for further referrals.

This team approach affords a number of benefits. First, it enhances the quality of evidence available to all participants by affording them the opportunity to be present to ask questions at the victim's first interview. Second, it minimizes the additional trauma to the victim who, if subjected to repeated interviews, must revisit incidents that may have been emotionally devastating. Third, it avoids problems associated with having victims

repeat their stories, such as details forgotten or inadvertently omitted, and having victims become tired and uncooperative. In 2008, the District Attorney's Office responded to 218 joint interviews with members of the Multidisciplinary Team. Through its participation in the Multidisciplinary Team, the Office has significantly improved its ability to prosecute child abusers effectively while addressing the needs of child abuse victims.

JOINT TRAINING PROGRAM WITH THE NYPD

In January 2002 we launched the BXDA/NYPD Joint Training Program. This program is conducted regularly in the Litigation Training Unit of the Office of the Bronx District Attorney. The faculty is comprised of a group of experienced attorneys and NYPD supervisors designated to teach specific topics. During each session approximately 30 - 35 uniformed members of the New York City Police Department are trained together with assistant district attorneys. Since 2002 approximately 425 assistant district attorneys and more than 1,100 police officers and detectives received this training. Of these, 76 assistant district attorneys and 139 police officers participated in six trainings in 2008.

The experience levels of the police and attorneys vary. There are usually two patrol officers per precinct and two Bronx Task Force officers, plus officers from specialized units and a Precinct Training

Sergeant. The attorneys are from various prosecution bureaus and usually have between one and two-and-one-half years of experience.

The purpose of the program is to educate and promote an open discussion on criminal law and procedural issues and to keep communication open between the two law enforcement agencies. This will help both agencies to better serve the public and the criminal justice system.

The basic core of program topics includes (1) New York Law, including search and seizure, identification evidence and statement evidence, (2) Complaint Room Procedures, (3) Domestic Violence Issues and (4) Case Preparation and Presentation.

NYPD NEW POLICE OFFICER TRAINING

In 2005 the Bronx District Attorney's Office began a training program for newly appointed police officers in Bronx County. The training is provided to officers after they have had four-to-six months of street experience and covers basic legal issues (*e.g.*, citizen/police encounters and laws governing identification and statements), proper procedures when responding to domestic violence incidents, Complaint Room policies and procedures (including how to complete supporting depositions), and what to do when lodging a prisoner at Central Booking.

The training is provided by the Chief of Vehicular Crimes,

the Chief of Arraignments and Complaint Room, and NYPD Supervisors from Bronx Central Booking. The Office receives cooperation and support from the NYPD Patrol Borough Bronx Commanding Officer and the Borough Training Officer, who provides coordination and assigns officers to attend the training. Depending on the size of the Police Academy graduating class, there are three to four training sessions per year. In 2008 there were two sessions, each with 80 - 100 officers per class.

These training sessions have resulted in marked improvement in new officers' paperwork, particularly in completing supporting depositions and in articulation of the facts of the case to establish probable cause to justify the arrest. In addition, the training sessions continue to open communication within law enforcement. The officers rate the training very highly and have requested that "refresher" courses be offered every six months and that their supervisors also attend the training.

ST. JOHN'S LAW SCHOOL CLINIC

Since 1999, staff from the Bronx District Attorney's Office have participated in a clinical program for law students at St. John's University School of Law in which several law students are designated as student assistant district attorneys. Each year the students prosecute cases under a special designation to practice order issued by the Appellate Division, First

Department. The students handle misdemeanor cases and are permitted to argue their cases in Court. The students are supervised by Bronx District Attorney's Office staff. In addition to the clinical component, a member of the Bronx District Attorney's Office staff, Assistant District Attorney Joseph McCormack, Chief of Vehicular Crime Prosecutions, teaches coursework related to this program at St. John's University. In 2006, 2007 and 2008 he was named Clinical Professor of the Year at St. John's University.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS AND VISITS

Over the past several years representatives of governments around the world have visited the

Bronx District Attorney's Office. Some of these have been part of the International Visitor Leadership Program of the US Department of State. Others have come independently. In return members of our staff have been invited to make international visits.

In February 2008, as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program, three prosecutors and a motion picture industry representative from Turkey visited this Office for a meeting about intellectual property crime. This Office's Senior Investigative Assistant District Attorney discussed how we prosecute intellectual property crime in Bronx County. Representatives from the United States recording industry and the Motion Picture Association of America also participated.

In June 2008 a delegation of Royal Dutch Prosecutors from the Netherlands, including a Senior Public Prosecutor, met with District Attorney Johnson and other staff members. Over the course of several days, the visitors "shadowed" assistant district attorneys from specific bureaus in which they had an interest. They were particularly interested in community outreach as an adjunct to prosecution.

In August 2008 a group of approximately 20 social workers from South Korea visited the office to learn how we respond to sexual assault and domestic violence cases. They were interested in both prosecution and crime victims assistance; therefore, they attended a meeting of the Multidisciplinary Team on Child Physical and Sexual Abuse. They also met with the



Senior Investigative Assistant District Attorney with visitors from Turkey

Chief of the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau, the Director of the Crime Victims Assistance Unit and members of her staff.

On invitation from the US Patent and Trademark Office, the Office's Senior Investigative Assistant District Attorney traveled with a delegation to Mongolia in June 2008 to address prosecutors, law students and administrators from their intellectual property office.

The successes of District Attorney Johnson's balanced approach to criminal justice - punishment, rehabilitation, and prevention - have had a global reach, attracting the attention of law enforcement professionals not only in the United States, but also internationally. Twice in recent years, our Office has hosted officials from South Africa's legal system who were particularly impressed with the strong relationships we have forged with the numerous and diverse community groups and individuals who

live, work, and do business in the Bronx. As a result, Mr. Johnson traveled to Johannesburg, South Africa in November 2008, at the invitation of the Africa Prosecutors Association (APA) to participate in the APA's annual meeting. Criminal justice officials from 23 African countries attended the meeting.

District Attorney Johnson was the key speaker for the session that

explored the issue of "Justice For Communities: What Does This Mean?" In discussing his philosophy of a three pronged approach to fighting crime (prosecution, rehabilitation, and prevention), Mr. Johnson stressed the importance of community outreach and the value of investing resources in a wide variety of crime prevention programs (which are outlined in this report's sections on Weed and Seed and Community Outreach). These efforts include mentoring youth and conducting adult workshops to educate the community on a wide range of topics, from how the court system works to how to recognize signs that gang members may be attempting to recruit their children. Mr. Johnson also explained how bonds to the community are strengthened by his Office's representation at neighborhood Precinct Council and Community Board meetings where ordinary citizens have an opportunity to express their concerns about



Visitors from the Netherlands with District Attorney Johnson and Chief Trial Counsel.



Visit to Mongolia

specific issues and communicate their expectations of the officials and agencies that are charged with addressing those issues.

District Attorney Johnson told the conference that ultimate-

ly “Justice For the Community” means that people feel safe and free from worry about being prosecuted unfairly, and that they have a say in what they believe to be the important issues. Mr. Johnson said

he is convinced that the foundation of such a successful dynamic is maintaining open and accessible lines of communication.

Community Outreach

Community residents and business people often serve as the “glue” that holds together collaborative efforts among public and private sector agencies and thereby enhance each group’s efficacy in preventing crime and improving quality of life. The Bronx District Attorney and his staff actively participate in a variety of programs and community activities to better serve the residents of the county.

In these collaborations the Community Affairs Unit is often the connection between the District Attorney and the residents of Bronx County. Staff from the unit attend community meetings, and the unit provides speakers and tours of the

courts, offers education and prevention programs, participates in interagency committees, and interacts regularly with community residents, neighborhood leaders and others. The unit also keeps residents informed of the status of cases as they progress through the criminal justice system.

The Office’s programs are coordinated by the unit, but volunteers from both legal and support staff throughout the Office are needed to implement them. These individuals use their own time, often during evenings and weekends, to work with the Bronx community.

The programs highlighted below are just a sample of those

offered by the Office. Some of the other programs, such as the Elder Abuse Initiative and Operation Weed & Seed, are discussed elsewhere in this report. Still other programs have been in existence for a number of years and are described on the Office’s web site: www.bronxda.nyc.gov.

ASK THE BRONX D.A.

Ask the Bronx D.A., winner of a 2004 “Telly” award, is a 12-part series co-hosted by the District Attorney and Bronxnet’s Melanie Torres, that serves to educate Bronx residents about the criminal justice system. The show was created as



National Night Out

part of an outreach effort to educate the public on matters of concern ranging from street-level drug sales to elder abuse. Each show lasts one half-hour and deals with a particular topic. People from the community are invited to ask the District Attorney and his staff various questions related to that topic. Topics of discussion have included: Economic Crime, Quality of Life, Domestic Violence, Narcotics, Community Outreach, Elder Abuse, Homicide Survivors, the Abandoned Infant Protection Act and the Bronx Multidisciplinary Team on Child Abuse, Project Safe Neighborhoods, Safeguarding Your Child on the Internet, Bias Crime, and the Bronx District Attorney's Crime Victim Assistance Unit Satellite Office. This series airs on Bronxnet, Channel 67 in various time slots each week.

PROJECT JUMP

Sophomores, juniors and seniors from the Law, Justice and Public Service Academy at Theodore Roosevelt High School are matched with volunteers from the Bronx District Attorney's Office on a one-to-one basis. Mentors provide much-needed support and inspiration to students making their way through school. Traveling to the Bronx District Attorney's Office to meet with their mentors allows students to experience the mentors' work environment and learn about the functioning of the criminal justice system. Sixteen mentor/mentee pairs were matched in 2008.



National Night Out

READ-TO-ME PROGRAM

In partnership with two local day care centers, staff from the Bronx District Attorney's Office hold monthly reading sessions. Support staff and assistant district attorneys volunteer their time once a month to read stories to children between the ages of two and five at the Marshall England Early Childhood Learning Center and at the Paradise Learning Center.

TOURS AND SPEAKERS

The Community Affairs Unit coordinates requests for tours and speakers. Assistant district attorneys address community, religious, civic and student groups regarding various topics within the criminal justice system. Speakers discuss a variety of issues of specific interest to the community. In addition, assistant district attorneys are available to conduct tours of the courthouses and explain how a case pro-

ceeds through the criminal justice system.

STUDENTS TOGETHER AVOIDING RISK (S.T.A.R.)

The S.T.A.R. program uses a multi-faceted approach to battling narcotics and violence. Trained staff at the District Attorney's Office participate in a three-part community outreach program for 5th and 6th grade children and their parents. This program provides age-appropriate information on the negative effects of gangs, gun violence and drugs. The program also provides information on the people and operations of the District Attorney's Office and the criminal justice system. Close to 300 students participated in the S.T.A.R. program in 2008.

YOUTH TRIAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The Bronx District Attorney's Office Youth Trial Advocacy Program

(Y.T.A.P.) provides motivated students with an opportunity to explore a career in law. Students meet with assistant district attorneys to discuss legal careers and the criminal justice system. Students are then divided into teams, each with up to four assistant district attorneys serving as coaches or mentors. Each team learns how to develop advocacy skills and debating techniques. Students then test their newly acquired skills in a moot court competition. At the end of the program, every student is awarded a certificate marking successful participation in the program, and the top two participants are awarded Summer Internships within this Office.

PEOPLE'S COURT PROGRAM

(P.S. 156)

Elementary school students from P.S. 156 travel to the Bronx District Attorney's Office to participate in mock trials. Incidents

violating school rules are brought before the mock court and the children act as defense counsel, prosecutor, jury and court officers. With the aid of assistant district attorneys, the students learn how trials are prepared and conducted. The program also assists the students by helping them to develop effective communication skills while learning more about the complexities of the judicial system.



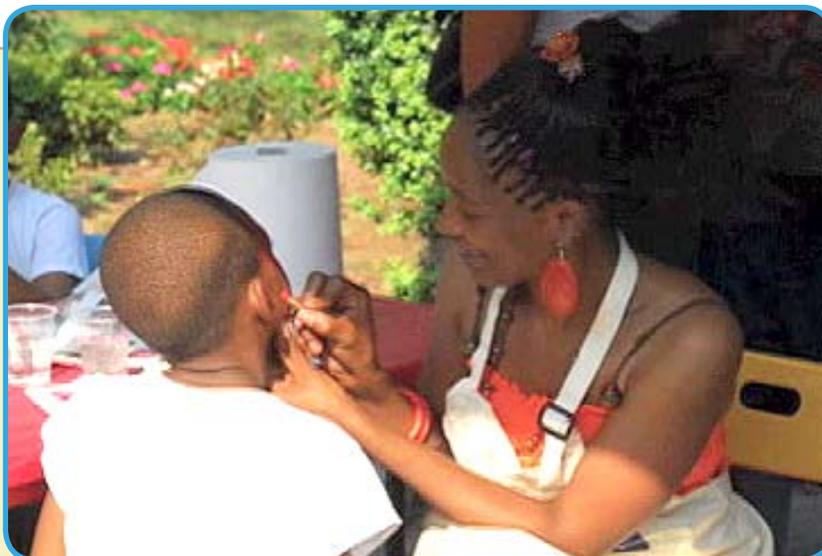
National Night Out

EAGLE ACADEMY MENTORING PROGRAM

The Eagle Academy is an all-boys public charter school that stresses academic excellence. Students from the Eagle Academy are matched with male mentors from the Bronx District Attorney's Office. A staff member from the Office meets with personnel from the Academy to coordinate group activities for the mentor/mentee pairs and provides support and advice on fostering a positive relationship with mentees. There were ten pairs in the 2008-2009 school year.

LAW, GOVERNMENT AND JUSTICE MENTORING PROGRAM

The Law, Government and Justice Mentoring Program was designed in collaboration with the School for Law, Government and Justice to introduce seventh grade



National Night Out

students to volunteer professionals from the criminal justice field. The mentors will provide insight into their professions, while providing guidance, adult friendship and positive reinforcement to mentees. There were 17 pairs in the 2008-2009 school year.

THE ADULT WORKSHOP SERIES

The Adult Workshop Series provides the District Attorney's Office with an avenue to educate Bronx residents about various issues related to the criminal justice system. Workshops such as "After the Arrest," "You Be the Judge," "Safeguarding Your Child on the Internet," "Perspectives

on Protecting Your Identity," "Gang Awareness," "Domestic Violence," "Sexual Assault," and "The Fundamentals of Court Monitoring for Community-Based Groups" have been developed to inform citizens about issues such as identity theft, criminal court arraignment, trial procedures, dangers lurking on the Internet and the presence of gangs in our schools and neighborhoods. Workshops are presented monthly on a rotating basis.

PRECINCT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

There are 12 precinct community councils and two Police Service Areas (PSAs) in the Bronx that meet

monthly. Fourteen assistant district attorneys have volunteered to attend these meetings. These representatives assure that the District Attorney is kept informed about issues of significance to the community.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

The Community Affairs Unit also implements several special events and programs throughout the year to address various community needs. Special programs are developed with community organizations to afford various segments of the Bronx community an opportunity to interact with the Bronx District Attorney and his staff.