

◆ OFFICE OF THE ◆
BRONX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ANNUAL REPORT 2013

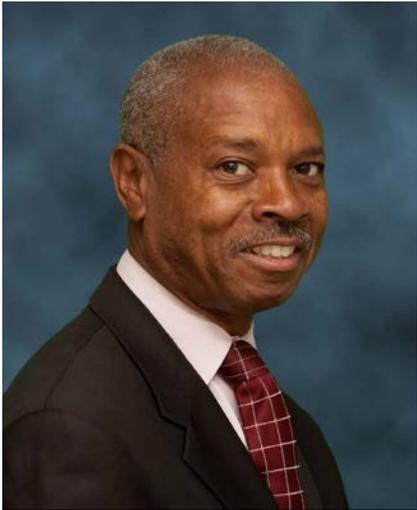


EDGAR ALLEN POE COTTAGE

Robert T. Johnson
District Attorney

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Robert T. Johnson,
Bronx County District Attorney

District Attorney's Message

"As ever, in addition to criminal prosecution we employ a wide variety of tools to fight crime. These include diversionary and treatment programs, participation in specialized courts addressing drug treatment and mental health, and numerous educational, training, and community-based efforts."

This was a good year for public safety and a bad year for crime. In 2013 there were 83 homicides in the Bronx, 87% fewer than in 1990 and 27% fewer than in 2012. There were 30% fewer shooting victims. Rape was down by 10%, robbery was down by 6%, burglary was down by 7%, and auto grand larceny was down by 12%. The news is not entirely positive. Felonious assault was up by 13%, and (non-auto) grand larceny also rose by 9%.

Crime remains very low by historic standards, but the continuing and disturbing reality is that as in prior years, Bronx residents still suffer from a disproportionately high crime rate. The numbers are virtually identical to last year. With 16.9% of the City's population, in 2013 Bronx County experienced one in four of the City's felony assaults, nearly one in four of its robberies, and one in five of its rapes. Some 29% of all of the City's Domestic Violence Incident Reports originated in the Bronx.

In 2013, we prosecuted 4,869 felony cases, a significant increase from last year's 4,350. The decline in the proportion of narcotics cases continued; they now comprise 34% of the total, a slight decrease from last year's 35% of the total.

As usual, there were some standout cases, which are recounted in more detail in the body of this report. For example, advances in DNA technology enabled us to try and convict Robert Fleming for the 1988 double homicide of Selina Cooper and her nine-year-old daughter Joi. Fleming was sentenced to 25 years to life imprisonment, the maximum sentence permitted by law. Another case involving violent crime was that of Luis Vasquez, who along with several accomplices, carried out the planned shooting and robbery of a Bronx wholesale food distributor who was known to carry a large amount of cash. Vasquez was convicted of robbery and assault, and sentenced to concurrent terms of 25 years imprisonment.

In the area of economic crime, this year a long term investigation into several tri-state identity theft rings successfully terminated in the conviction of several defendants, who were part of an elaborate operation that fraudulently raided customers' JP Morgan/Chase bank accounts. Bank losses totaled more than 1.5 million dollars. The investigation ultimately involved cooperation with the US Secret Service and the US Postal Service, eavesdropping warrants and physical surveillance as well as other investigative techniques. Some thirty people were arrested and indicted, and hundreds of counterfeit documents were seized. These included drivers' licenses, immigration documents, and counterfeit checks, as well as the equipment used to produce them. The prosecution is continuing. So far, two of the more significant convictions were those of Shawn Fagan and Markese Jones, principal figures in the scheme. Fagan pled guilty to Enterprise Corruption and was sentenced to 6½ to 13 years imprison-

ment. Jones was sentenced to 3 to 9 years imprisonment.

These cases, and many others, are more fully described in the following report. As ever, in addition to criminal prosecution we employ a wide variety of tools

to fight crime. These include diversionary and treatment programs, participation in specialized courts addressing drug treatment and mental health, and numerous educational, training, and commu-

nity-based efforts. These too are described below.

As in previous years we will continue to strive to do the very best we can to maintain the highest level of public service.

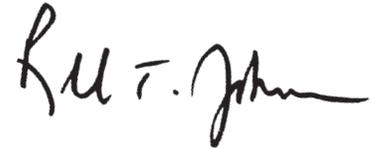


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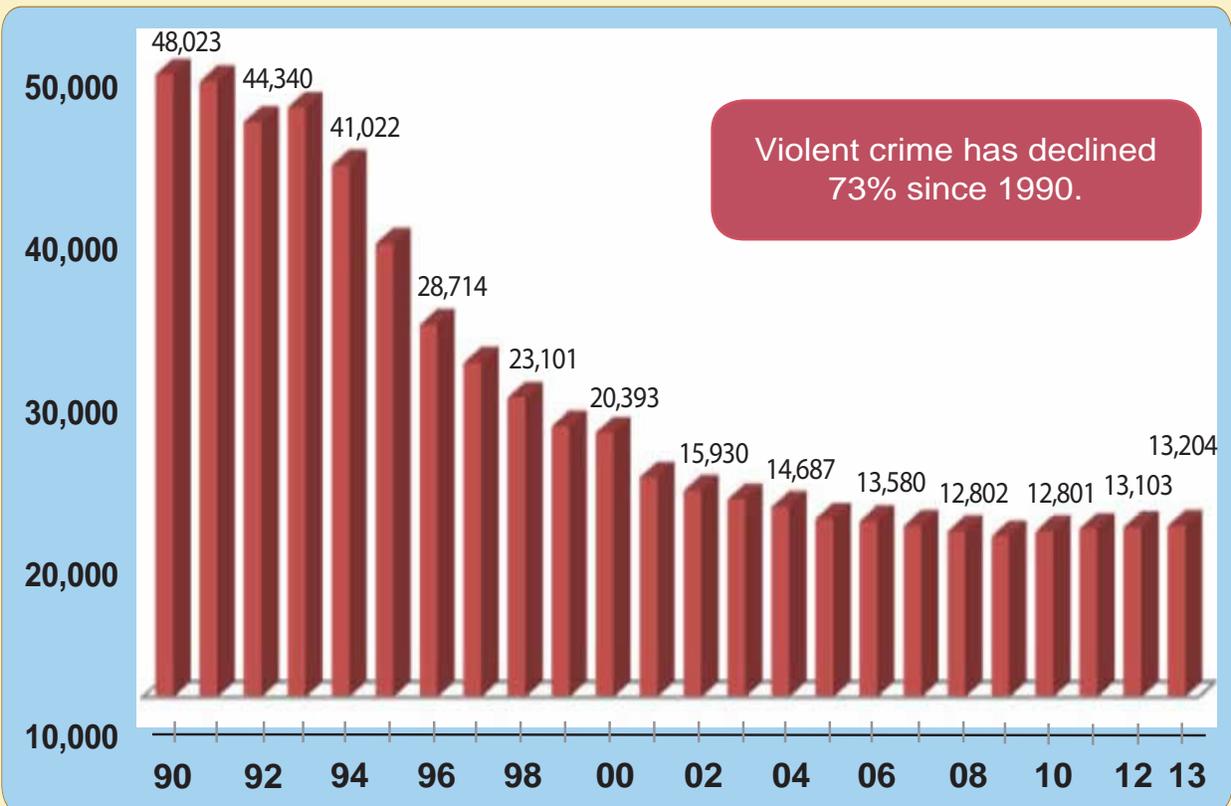
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Crime Overview

Bronx County has made remarkable progress against crime in the past two decades. For 17 consecutive years there have been fewer than 200 homicides in the County. In 2013 there were 83 homicides in the Bronx, 87% fewer than in 1990 and 27% fewer than 2012. This decrease contributed to the overall 73% decline in violent crime over that period. Robberies, for example, have been reduced by 75% since 1990.

The long-term trend of declining crime continued in 2013. The *Bronx Times* declared in a headline on January 9, 2014, "Borough crime decline leads city." In 2013, almost every major category of crime complaint tracked by the NYPD declined over 2012. Murder was down 27%, rape was down 10%, robbery was down 6%, burglary was down 7%, and grand larceny auto was down 12%. There were 30% fewer shooting victims. In a speech in December 2013 at an event hosted by the Partnership for New York City, then Mayor Michael Bloomberg said, "Today the Bronx is safe and people are starting to do business there."

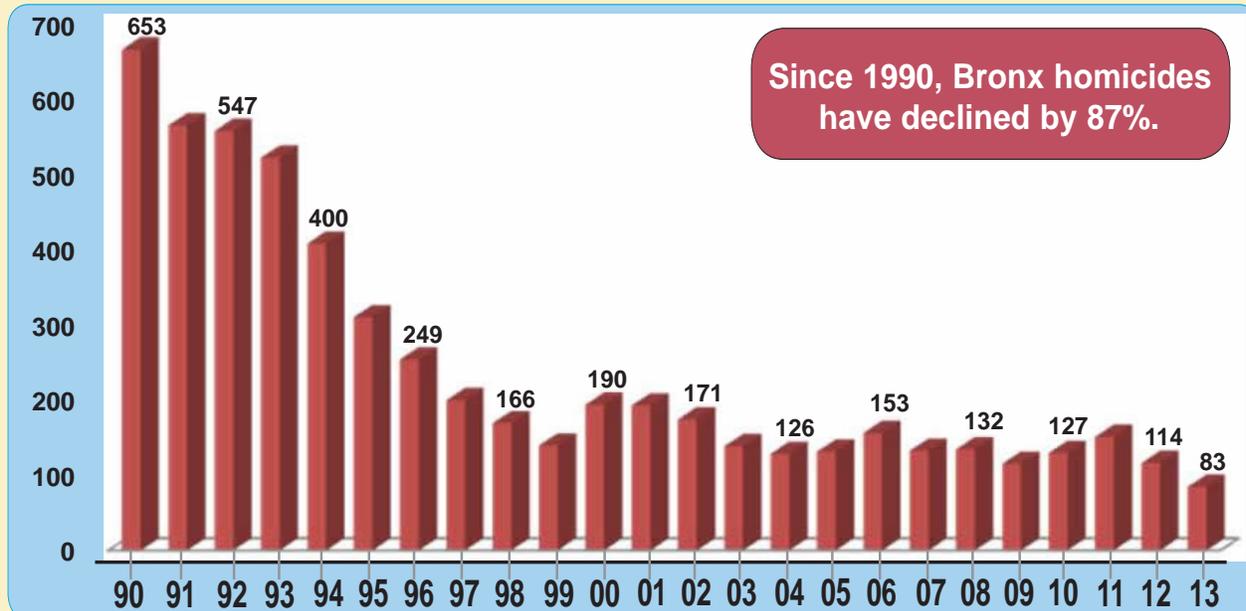
Violent Crime 1990 – 2013



Source: New York City Police Department

Decline In Homicides

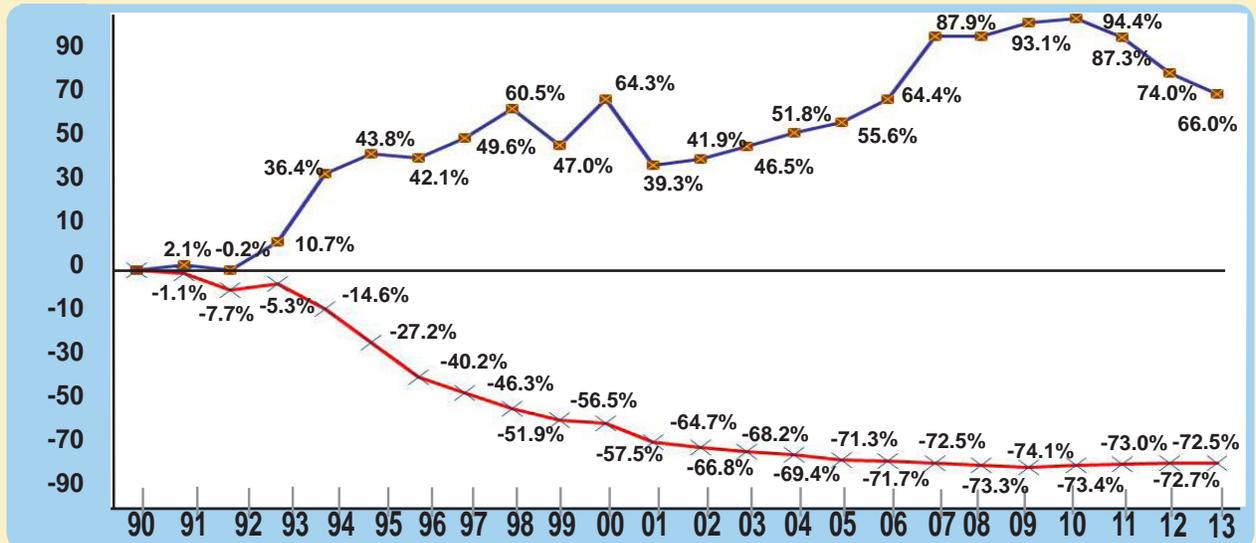
1990 - 2013



Source: New York City Police Department

Bronx Reduction in Violent Crime v. Increase in Arrests

Percentage Change from 1990 - 2013



Source: New York City Police Department

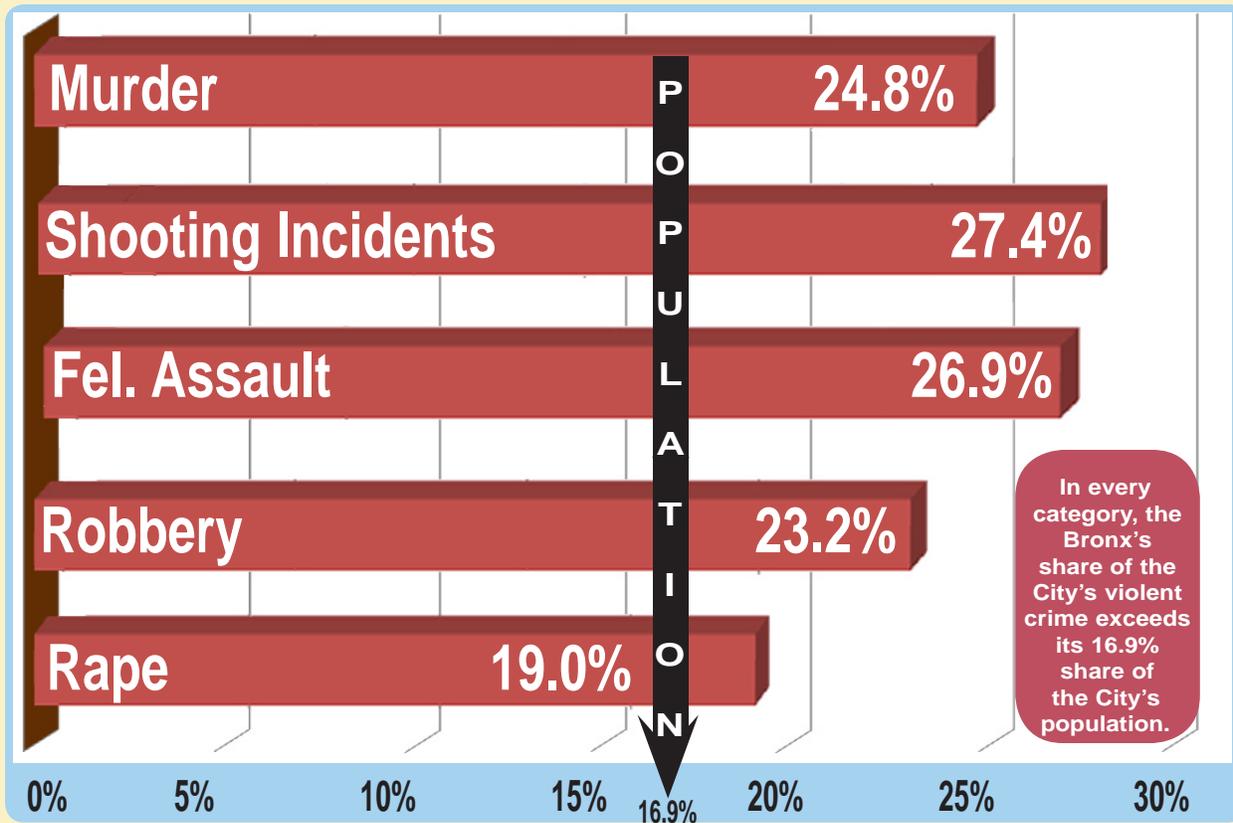
While crime rates remain at historically low levels, the news is not completely positive. Two categories of crime complaints that showed increases in 2013 were felonious assault (up 13% to 5,467) and grand larceny (up 9% to 5,564). Despite the long-term decline in

crime, Bronx residents continue to suffer from a disproportionately high crime rate. With only 16.9% of the City's population, in 2013 Bronx County witnessed more than one in four of the City's felony assaults, one in five of its rapes, and nearly one in four of its robberies, giving

the county the highest per capita incidence of murder, rape, robbery, and felonious assault among the five counties that comprise New York City. The 68,978 Domestic Violence Incident Reports originating in the Bronx represented 29% of all those filed in New York City.

Bronx Violent Crime 2013

Percentage of Citywide Violent Crime v. Population



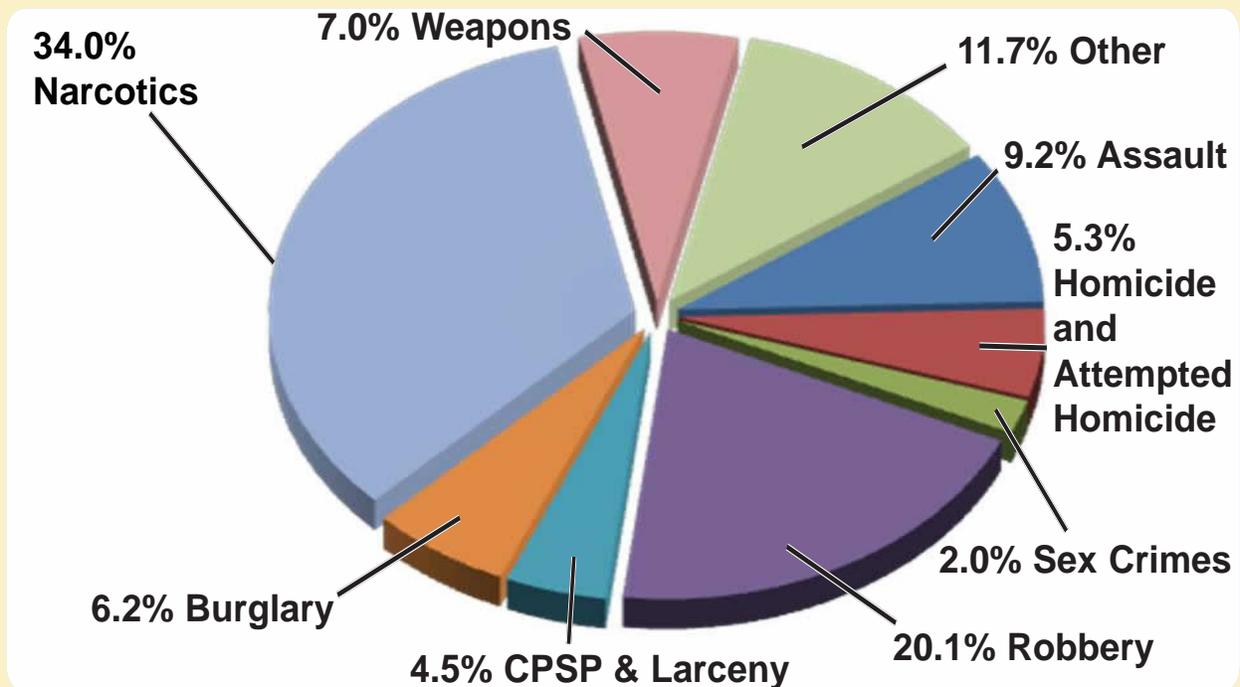
Source: New York City Police Department

Prosecuting Crime

While crime complaints have fallen dramatically, Bronx arrests have risen 66% since 1990. The Bronx District Attorney's Office indicted 4,869 felony-level defendants in 2013. Narcotics cases accounted for 34% of the felony prosecutions in Bronx County.

Bronx District Attorney's Office Felony Prosecutions: 2013

Total Felony
Prosecutions: 4,869



Source: Bronx District Attorney's Office

VIOLENT CRIME

Violence comes in many forms--such as assault, robbery, and homicide – and its victims have many different faces—young, old, male, female. The four cases presented here are very different from one another, but all illustrate the tragic consequences of violence. In the first case, DNA evidence solved a double homicide long after the murders were committed. In the second case, a robbery resulted in the shooting of a local Bronx businessman. In the next case which involved excessive force, four NYC correction officers allegedly assaulted an inmate. In the last case, an incident of domestic violence left the victim in critical condition at a local hospital for an extended period of time.

DNA Helps Solve Double Homicide Cold Case

On February 29, 1988, at about 7 am Phyliss Little went to the apartment of her granddaughter's mother, Selina Cooper, to pick up her 9-year-old granddaughter, Joi, over whom she had custody. Joi had spent the weekend with her mother and it was time for her to go to school. When Ms. Little entered the apartment, she found a horrific scene. Joi and Selina were bound with their nightgowns lifted over their shoulders. Selina's hands, feet and neck were tied and Joi had bled profusely from the vaginal area due to sexual trauma. Both had died of asphyxiation, Selina by means of ligature, Joi by manual strangulation.

There were no eyewitnesses to the crime. Over the years, two persons came forward to blame different men. Both "witnesses" were substance abusers and gave inconsistent statements that changed substantially with each interview. A third man, Robert Fleming, was interviewed the night of the murders. He admitted to living with Selina in the past, but said he had not seen Selina since he

had moved out about a month before the murders.

When these murders were committed, DNA was in its infancy as a forensic tool. Blood samples and swabs from Selina and Joi, as well as from bed sheets, were sent to a private laboratory in Maryland. Unfortunately, the only method of DNA testing then available required a large sample, and there was no data bank of DNA profiles from convicted criminals against which to test the crime scene evidence. Nonetheless, over the next few years, blood samples of suspects and witnesses who said they had been in or near the apartment during that late February weekend were sent to the private laboratory. All were excluded as possible suspects.

The Cold Case Squad joined the investigative team. Although every Detective and Police Officer who spent time on this investigation remained in contact with the ADAs assigned to the case - helping whenever they could - there was no resolution. New stories emerged

DNA Helps Solve Double Homicide Cold Case

(Continued)

about who abused and killed Joi and Selina, but all proved to be dead ends. Only improvements in DNA testing could resolve the case.

In the late 1990s, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of the City of New York (OCME) opened a forensic biology department and began to test DNA using the PCR method. PCR requires only a small DNA sample for comparison. OCME also matches its DNA findings in the CODIS data bank to the DNA profiles of convicted offenders who have committed certain crimes. In 2000, DNA taken from the bed sheets in Selina's apartment was matched in CODIS to Robert Fleming's DNA file. Fleming's DNA profile had been captured during a twenty-year criminal career that included convictions for drug sales, attempted robbery, trespassing, larceny and weapons possession.

The problem for investigators was that Robert Fleming had lived in Selina's apartment. Accordingly, DNA on the sheets did not alone prove that he had killed Joi and Selina. However, in 2003 the samples of Selina's and Joi's body

fluids that were initially sent to the private lab in Maryland were recovered, still in their original packaging. Now able to yield results from minimal genetic material, the tests concluded that the male DNA profile in swabs taken from the victims' vaginal and rectal areas matched Robert Fleming's profile. With this finding, the investigations into their deaths and into Selina's and Fleming's relationship were re-energized. Ultimately, the case was presented to the Grand Jury of Bronx County, which indicted Robert Fleming for the intentional murders, and murders in the course of sex acts, of Joi Little and Selina Cooper.

In 2013 a Jury returned guilty verdicts on two counts of intentional murder, one each for Joi and for Selina, and on September 4, 2013, the Hon. Margaret Clancy sentenced Robert Fleming to the maximum incarceration permitted under the laws in force in 1988: Sentences of 25 years to life to be served consecutively.

Conviction Of Luis Vasquez In Connection With The Robbery And Shooting Assault Of Local Businessman

On September 16, 2010, a Bronx wholesale food distributor ended the workday as usual with a half block walk from his place of business to his parked car on Lafayette Avenue. As Luis Vasquez, Francisco Calderon, and two female accomplices already knew, the businessman carried a black satchel filled with cash. The group had spent the previous days analyzing his movements in preparation for a robbery.

After waiting in their car for two hours, Calderon and one of the female accomplices approached the businessman as he left his workplace. Even before he could react, Calderon shot the businessman and took the satchel, which on this night contained approximately \$28,000. In his role as getaway driver, Vasquez pulled their car around from a nearby block and picked up Calderon and the female accomplice.

The perpetrators did not know that a retired sanitation worker was parked in the area and had observed the entire incident. A chase began, as the good samaritan pursued the perpetrators by car from the crime scene for about 30 minutes, communicating with police at each turn to help them locate the group. Once the witness managed to flag-down police officers, the chase ended, but only

briefly. Vasquez turned off the car engine and pretended to surrender, only to restart the car and drive off for a second high-speed chase.

Three of the four defendants were apprehended that evening. Although Vasquez fled on foot, he left behind his wallet and other personal identification. He was subsequently caught after an altercation with a Yonkers police officer, in which he pushed the officer into highway traffic. Vasquez was tried and convicted of that crime in Westchester before being tried for the Lafayette Avenue robbery and shooting

Calderon pled guilty to multiple charges in 2013 and is serving a sentence of twenty years imprisonment.

Vasquez, who exercised his right to go to trial, was swiftly found guilty by a Bronx jury on two robbery counts and one assault charge. On July 1, 2013, he was sentenced to three concurrent 25 year terms of imprisonment for his Bronx crimes, which will run consecutively to his ten year sentence for the Westchester assault.

Four New York City Correction Officers Indicted For Allegedly Assaulting An Inmate And Attempting To Cover Up The Incident

On April 8, 2014, a Grand Jury indicted four New York City Correction Officers for allegedly assaulting a Rikers Island inmate and for filing false reports in order to justify their use of force. The 19-count indictment charges Correction Officers Michael Dorsainvil, Christopher Huggins, and Mark Anglin with Attempted Gang Assault in the first and second degrees, Attempted Assault in the first degree, Assault in the second degree, Official Misconduct, Falsifying Business Records in the first degree, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the first degree. The indictments are merely accusations.

The case began on March 15, 2013, at the George Motchan Detention Center on Rikers Island. The indictments allege that as Carl Williams, a Rikers inmate, was being escorted back to the facility following a court appearance, he reportedly began to curse at the officers, because they confiscated a bag he was carrying and threw it into the garbage. Allegedly, three defendants placed Williams into a holding cell, held him down on the floor and struck him repeatedly, while Donnelley observed from outside the cell. Williams later received medical attention for contusions, bumps and cuts to his face and head, including nine

stitches to his mouth.

During the Department of Correction's routine use of force review, and as witnesses gave their accounts of the incident, discrepancies began to appear in the defendants' story. The defendants allegedly claimed that they had intervened because Williams threatened to hang himself, but those alleged written official accounts were contradicted by Department of Correction video recordings of the incident.

If the defendants are convicted of the most serious charges, Attempted Gang Assault in the first degree and Attempted Assault in the first degree, both Class C violent felony offenses, they will face a maximum sentence of up to 15 years imprisonment. The fourth Officer, Ronald Donnelley, has been charged only with Official Misconduct, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the first degree and Falsifying Business Records in the first degree. Donnelley faces a maximum sentence of up to four years imprisonment if convicted of the most serious Class E felony charges dealing with falsifying official reports. The Defendants are currently released on bail ranging up to \$200,000 as they await trial.

The Bronx District Attorney's Office Announces The Conviction Of 26 Year Old Keith Bailey For Arson, Attempted Murder And Coercion

On December 22, 2010, Keith Bailey and his girlfriend, Quasona Cobb, were involved in a violent domestic dispute. Cobb wanted to end her relationship with Bailey. He responded by grabbing Cobb by the hair and dragging her from the bedroom of their apartment into the living room, where he restrained her on the floor and poured flammable oil onto Cobb's face and hair. While holding a lighter in his hand, Bailey threatened, "You don't want to be with me? No other man is going to have you. I'm going to light you on fire." The next morning, after Bailey left for work, Cobb had the locks changed and reported the incident to the Police.

On December 26, Bailey wanted access to their apartment to retrieve his personal belongings. He contacted Arlene Gordon, Cobb's mother, who agreed to meet him at the apartment. Surveillance from inside the building showed Bailey and Gordon entering the apartment together. Bailey then exited and entered the apartment several times to make trips to the trash compactor, but the video showed that Gordon never left. Bailey left the apartment for the last time approximately one hour after he and Gordon had arrived.

Building tenants soon alerted the

super that the elevators were stuck on the first floor. When he checked the fire alarm, the super observed that sprinklers had gone off on the 11th floor. When he went to investigate, the super saw water flowing from under the door of apartment 11C. He entered using his master key and observed blood all over the walls and the floor inside the apartment. Hearing a voice from the smoke-filled bedroom, he found Gordon face down on the floor with a plastic bag wrapped over her head and torso. He ripped open the bag and saw bloody lacerations on Gordon's head and face. She was unresponsive and was gasping for air

Ms. Gordon lay in critical condition at the hospital for an extended period of time. Bailey had inflicted burns to approximately 20% of her body, and she remained on a ventilator and under sedation. Gordon's extensive injuries included traumatic brain injury, blindness in one eye, amputated fingers, and a fused elbow. Subsequently, she suffered through several skin graft surgeries

On June 10, 2013, Bailey pled guilty to Arson in the First Degree, Attempted Murder, and Coercion before State Supreme Court Justice Newman, who sentenced him to eighteen years to life in prison.

DRUG CRIME

The Bronx District Attorney's Office approaches drug crime with a combination of careful screening, treatment alternatives and vigorous prosecution of cases. The latter contributes to the high proportion of convicted drug sellers who receive state prison sentences. In addition to being tough on for-profit sellers, the Office offers many Bronx defendants drug treatment as an alternative to incarceration. In 2013, more than 700 drug-involved defendants were diverted to treatment. Drug arrests have decreased in recent years, resulting in a reduction in both the number of felony drug prosecutions and the percentage of the caseload that these cases comprise. In 1996 drug cases accounted for more than 65% of the Office's felony-level defendants. In 2013, just 34% of Bronx felony defendants were prosecuted on drug charges. Nevertheless, drug crime is still a very serious problem in the Bronx.

Indictment for Possession of Marijuana

In February 2012, the property manager of 2243 Ryer Avenue observed that a new large wall had been constructed in the building's basement a few feet from the front door of the superintendent's apartment, in the area where he was the sole tenant.

At first the property manager simply told Wilson Salazar, the super, to take down the wall, as it violated the New York City building code. Salazar then assured the property manager over several months that he would take the wall down, but never did, despite the property manager's repeated requests. On April 2, 2012, the property manager asked one last time about the wall, and the defendant told him that he had taken it down. When the property manager went to the basement to look for himself, he saw that the wall was still there. The property manager then instructed Salazar to get some tools, because they were going to take the wall down at that moment.

The property manager broke through the wall himself and was imme-

diately overwhelmed by a rush of hot air and a strong odor of marijuana. When he looked inside, the manager observed a small room filled with numerous marijuana plants, which the now broken wall had enclosed in an airtight, windowless growing space. The defendant said "please don't call the police, I don't want to get in trouble."

This marijuana grow house was a sizeable operation. The 40 plants alone had a street value of approximately \$40,000. The equipment, which included large heating lamps, transformers and state-of-the-art carbon filter were worth thousands of dollars more. The property manager, Cesar Torres, is a retired NYPD homicide detective, and this apartment building was located less than a block from the 46th precinct. So much evidence was recovered that every vehicle used to transport evidence back to the precinct was completely full, and the officers had to follow behind the cars on foot back to the precinct.

Indictment for Possession of Marijuana

(Continued)

At trial, the defense maintained that someone else had erected the wall, and that the defendant was unaware of what lay behind and was merely paid for the space and his silence. The jury was not convinced. Convicted on March 6, 2013, on the top count of Possession of Marijuana in the First Degree, Salazar was sentenced on April 11, 2013, to 3 ½ years imprisonment, plus two years post release supervision.

DRUG TREATMENT ALTERNATIVE TO PRISON (DTAP)

Bronx prosecutors have had substantial success in placing drug offenders in treatment programs. Between 1993 and 2013, more than 16,700 Bronx defendants were placed in drug treatment programs as an alternative to incarceration. In late 1995, through the TASC program, this Office began placing offenders with prior non-violent felony convictions in

ATI programs. We first received DTAP funding in 1998. From 1998 through 2013, the Office placed 3,947 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. Bronx participants in the DTAP program are required to pled guilty to a class B felony. If they complete the program,

their felony plea is set aside, and they are permitted to pled guilty to a misdemeanor. However, those who withdraw or fail to complete the program satisfactorily generally receive a sentence of three years in prison and two years post-release supervision.

Drug Treatment Enrollment 1993 – 2013

PROGRAM	1993 - 2010	2011	2012	2013	TOTAL
DTAP	3,575	140	102	130	3,947
BX Treatment Court	1,780	39	0	0	1,819
Mental Health Court	1,091	58	45	65	1,259
BX Treatment Misd. Court	1,182	64	42	6*	1,294
Other Residential	4,327	127	89	114	4,657
Other	2,562	123	85	156	2,926
Judicial Diversion**	110	242	251	236	839
TOTAL	14,627	793	614	707	16,741

Source: Office of Bronx District Attorney

Note: Drug Treatment Alternatives to Prison (DTAP) is for predicate offenders. "Other Residential" includes first-time offenders placed in residential programs. "Other" includes Extended Willard Drug Treatment, residential and outpatient programs and first-time and predicate defendants.

* Following the "demerger" of the Bronx Criminal and Supreme courts in late 2012, OCA closed the misdemeanor treatment court due to a lack of demand for misdemeanor drug treatment. Some MICA (mentally ill chemical abuse) defendants arrested for misdemeanors may still be enrolled in treatment programs

**Since 2010, the Bronx Court has classified cases even with District Attorney's consent as Judicial Diversion. The District Attorney's Office consents to approximately 95% of all diversions.

Successful Treatment as an Alternative to Incarceration

On January 24, 2012, 44-year-old Max (pseudonym) was arrested in the Bronx for selling heroin. Max was referred to TASC for placement in a residential drug treatment program.

Max is one of three children. He was born in Puerto Rico. He graduated from high school in 1985. His longest job was working for 15 years as a barber. Prior to his arrest, Max was living with his common law spouse in the Bronx. He has one child, who he visits regularly.

During assessment, Max reported an addiction to alcohol and heroin. He began using alcohol at the age of 16. At 28, Max began using heroin daily until he was prescribed methadone to stop his cravings for heroin.

On December 12, 2012, Max pled guilty to criminal sale of a controlled substance with the condition that he complete a residential drug treatment program through DTAP. Max continuously

submitted negative toxicology results and received favorable progress reports while in treatment. He was described as being “engaged in his treatment process;” he verbalized his “desire to remain clean and sober;” and he “actively participated in his relapse prevention groups and individual counseling.”

Max completed the residential portion of treatment in July 2013. He enrolled in the Apex Technical School, majoring in Auto Mechanics. He graduated in October 2013 with a 3.6 grade point average. He was also able to maintain part-time employment.

After Max completed his court-ordered obligations, his felony indictment was withdrawn and reduced to an A misdemeanor. He was then sentenced to a Conditional Discharge. Max reports that he looks forward to spending time with his wife and completing college.

TECHNOLOGY

Advancements in DNA technology and the success of the DNA databanks have revolutionized law enforcement and created a powerful crime fighting tool for prosecutors. When properly documented, collected and stored, biological evidence can be analyzed to produce a reliable DNA profile years, even decades, after a crime has occurred. Today prosecutors who understand which evidence may yield a DNA profile and how to use that evidence effectively can do more than just identify a suspect; they can place a known individual at a crime scene, refute a claim of self-defense, or exonerate the innocent.

DNA also presents challenges for prosecutors. To utilize it effectively and responsibly, prosecutors must ensure that potential DNA evidence is properly collected at the crime scene, sent to the laboratory for testing, and properly analyzed based on its potential value to a particular case. Prosecutors must have adequate training to understand test results, to assess their significance, and to present the findings to a jury in a meaningful fashion.

DNA PROSECUTIONS

The DNA Prosecutions Director of this Office advises ADAs on a broad range of DNA-related issues that involve forensic science to enhance investigations and prosecutions. The Director provides grand jury and trial assistance, as well as continuing legal education training, to ensure that the Office uses the most current forensic evidence practices. The Director also reviews and responds to requests and motions by the defense for post-conviction DNA testing. Recent efforts in 2013 have continued work originally funded through the Cold Case grant project, responding to frequent Frye motions concerning the use of Low Copy Number DNA testing and the application of the Forensic Statistical Tool in criminal case work.

Low copy number ("LCN") testing is also referred to as "high sensitivity" DNA testing. LCN testing focuses on the same genetic

markers utilized in regular high copy number DNA testing. LCN DNA testing uses the same procedures as traditional DNA testing with only slight modifications to increase the sensitivity of the testing process. Such testing allows a DNA profile to be developed using much smaller amounts of DNA than traditional DNA testing.

Forensic Statistical Tool ("FST") assists scientists in interpreting DNA mixtures by calculating a statistical weight for evidence and reference sample comparisons, particularly for mixtures of DNA that cannot be deconvoluted. The FST software provides a quantitative weight to interpretations that would otherwise be qualitative. This is referred to as a "likelihood ratio" (LR). Likelihood ratios are statistics relating to the likelihood of one scenario over another. In forensic DNA analysis the first scenario is the probability that a particular suspect contributed to a mixture of DNA detected on an item of evidence, while the second scenario

is the probability that unknown, unrelated individuals (and not the defendant) contributed to a mixture of DNA detected on an item of evidence. The statistical calculations are generated by computer algorithms which employ a conventional mathematical equation commonly used in the scientific community.

DNA Matches Solve Crimes

● **COMMERCIAL PATTERN ROBBERY** - The victim was working at a deli when the defendant jumped behind the deli counter where the cash register was located. The defendant punched the victim in the face. During the struggle the victim swung a metal spatula at defendant's head, knocking his baseball cap off into the sink. The defendant took cash from the cash register and ran out. The baseball hat was retrieved by the police and submitted for DNA testing. Later that same day the defendant approached the cashier at another store and threatened the victim. The entire incident was caught on surveillance video. The DNA testing came back to a known convicted offender who had absconded to Ecuador after these incidents. When he attempted to reenter the country, NYPD was notified and he was arrested. The defendant pled guilty and received three years.

● **ROBBERY SOLVED BY BLOOD STAIN** - Early in the morning, the victim was walking to the subway on his way to work when he was approached by the defendant from behind. The assailant put the victim into a choke hold with both arms. During the ensuing struggle, both fell to the ground. The assailant put his hand over the victim's mouth. The victim was able to bite the assailant's fingers, causing them to bleed. The assailant grabbed the victim's bag which contained his driver's license, TLC license, social security card, EZ pass, monthly metro card and address book. The assailant's blood was found on the back of victim's jacket. The jacket was submitted for forensic testing and the DNA profile matched the assailant's DNA profile, which was already on file with the NYS DNA database. This match led to the arrest and indictment of a defendant on multiple charges, including Robbery in the Second Degree.

● **SERIAL RAPIST LINKED TO TWO RAPES** - Stephen Robinson committed two separate stranger sexual assaults in 2009 within days of each other. The young women, 17 and 18 at the time, were approached by the defendant and forced into the same abandoned building at gunpoint. DNA was recovered at both crime scenes which linked both the defendant and his brother to the scene. Both men were registered sex offenders. Both victims were able to identify their attacker during lineups, but the DNA evidence conclusively linked the defendant to both crime scenes.

● **BURGLARY SOLVED BY DISCARDED SODA CAN** - Two defendants broke into a Chinese restaurant via a hole in the ceiling of the building. DNA was recovered from a soda can and a cigarette butt left at the scene after the restaurant was cleaned and closed for the night. The male profiles from these items came back to two convicted offenders already on file with the NYS DNA database.

● LATEX GLOVE FOUND AT SCENE LINKED TO ATTEMPTED MURDER - The victim and his girlfriend were returning home from work when they were confronted at the front of their apartment door by multiple masked men wearing ski masks and latex gloves armed with duct tape and mace. The men demanded money. During the ensuing struggle the victim was shot in the face causing serious and permanent disfigurement to his jaw. As the defendants fled, they left behind a latex glove, a ski mask and an imitation pistol. DNA testing on the latex glove revealed a male DNA profile which matched a person previously in the DNA databank.

● DNA SOLVES COLD CASE - On December 19, 2006 Teresa Reyes was found dead, bound and gagged with duct tape in her apartment on Bathgate Avenue. The cause of death was asphyxiation. In 2009 a DNA from a piece of glove found on the victim's body identified Mario Castro, who was in the NYS DNA databank after a prior robbery conviction in New York County. Further investigation linked additional people to this crime including several of the suspect's friends. During the investigation it was determined that one of the victim's relatives through marriage had learned that she had a large sum of money in the apartment and planned a home invasion with the defendant. In July 2013, Mario Castro was convicted of felony murder and sentenced to 25 years to life for his role in the murder.

● COLD CASE MURDER SOLVED, CONVICTION FOLLOWS - On March 16, 1993 Altragracia Valdez was discovered stabbed to death in her apartment at 1170 Gerard Avenue, Bronx, where she had recently moved. Police forced their way into the apartment and found the victim, who was in her early twenties, in a pool of blood lying face up, naked from the waist down and with her legs spread. An investigation was commenced by the 44 Precinct and the Crime Scene Unit discovered a steak knife believed to be the murder weapon in the medicine cabinet in the bathroom. The investigation also revealed that the victim had been dating a cab driver named Angel at the time of her death but no further information about him was uncovered. The autopsy showed the victim had been stabbed five times in the neck. The Medical Examiner took vaginal swabs and prepared a sexual assault evaluation kit which was sent for testing. The Forensic Biology Unit of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner determined that semen was present on the vaginal swabs at that time and a DNA profile was developed using an early DNA test. Based on the DNA profile developed, some suspects were ruled out.

In 2003, detectives from the Cold Case Apprehension Squad re-opened the investigation as part of a police initiative to look into cold case homicides where there might be DNA evidence. The detectives contacted the Forensic Biology Laboratory and requested a new analysis from the vaginal swabs taken from the victim using more advanced, sensitive DNA techniques. In 2008, the Forensic Biology Laboratory reported a "hit" from the DNA Databank to Angel Guridy, the defendant. Detectives located the defendant in the Dominican Republic and in May, 2012, following a lengthy extradition process; the defendant was arrested and returned to New York to stand trial. Guridy was convicted of Murder in the Second Degree following a jury trial and was sentenced to 25 years to life on March 5, 2014.

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 2010, 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 con-

tacts 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, 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 these crimes involve the dissemination of por-

nographic images. They 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. 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.

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. Sometimes the "victim" of financial crime is a government, such as New York City or State. Since 2005 this Office has received grants from NY State under the Crimes Against Revenue Program (CARP). Funds from CARP grants support prosecutors, detective investigators and forensic accountants to investigate and prosecute individuals and corporations that steal from NY State and/or NY City by failing to pay sales or income taxes. In some cases, the amounts owed may reach hundreds of thousands or even millions of dollars. The sentences for convictions of such crimes include restitution to the state and/or city of the taxes owed.

The case below illustrates how identity theft can quickly affect many innocent victims.

Identity Theft Ring

Our Office continues to see steady growth in financial fraud, including embezzlement, elder financial abuse, identity theft, welfare fraud, housing fraud, labor and workers' compensation fraud, and insurance fraud and tax offenses. One case illustrates the wide-ranging financial connections that are sometimes uncovered in these cases.

Responding to the complaints of area JP Morgan/Chase customers, who reported that their account funds had been withdrawn without permission, this Office conducted an investigation from October 2011 – April 2013 into several tri-state identify theft rings. The office ultimately expanded the investigation to partner with the US Secret Service and the US Postal Service, and discovered that customers from as far away as Louisiana and Florida had been victimized by two local identify theft rings. Bank losses totaled more than 1½ million dollars.

Eavesdropping warrants and physical surveillance resulted in the indictment and arrest of over thirty individuals. Investigators also seized hundreds of cash, counterfeit documents, including various state driver's licenses and US Green Card documents, as well as counterfeit checks, and counterfeiting equipment, including a laminating machine and blank check stock.

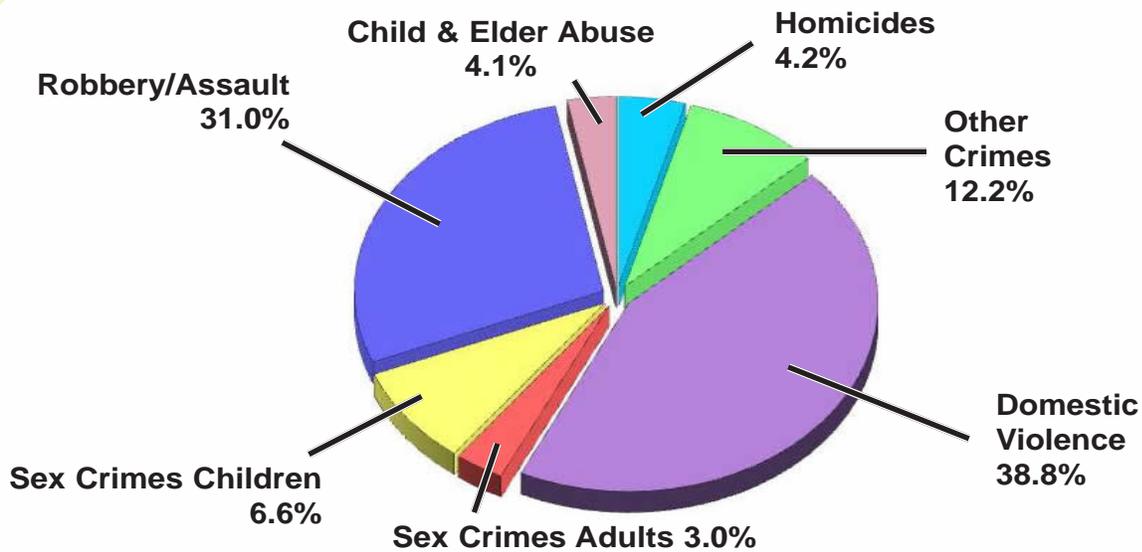
Two of the more significant convictions were of Shawn Fagan and Markese Jones. Fagan pled guilty to one count of enterprise corruption on December 20, 2013 and was sentenced to 6½ to 13 years imprisonment. Jones, who assisted in producing forged documents and recruiting people into both rings, pled guilty to two counts of criminal possession of a forged instrument in the second degree and was sentenced on January 30, 2014, to three-to-nine years imprisonment. Other cases are pending.

Crime Victims Assistance

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. These services were provided at both the Unit's three sites on 161st Street, which are in close proximity to the courts, and also at the CVAU satellite office in the northeast Bronx. The CVAU saw a total of 3,087 new clients in 2013. CVAU staff made more than 46,000 service contacts with victims and witnesses during 2013.

Crime Victims Assistance Unit Contacts By Type of Crime

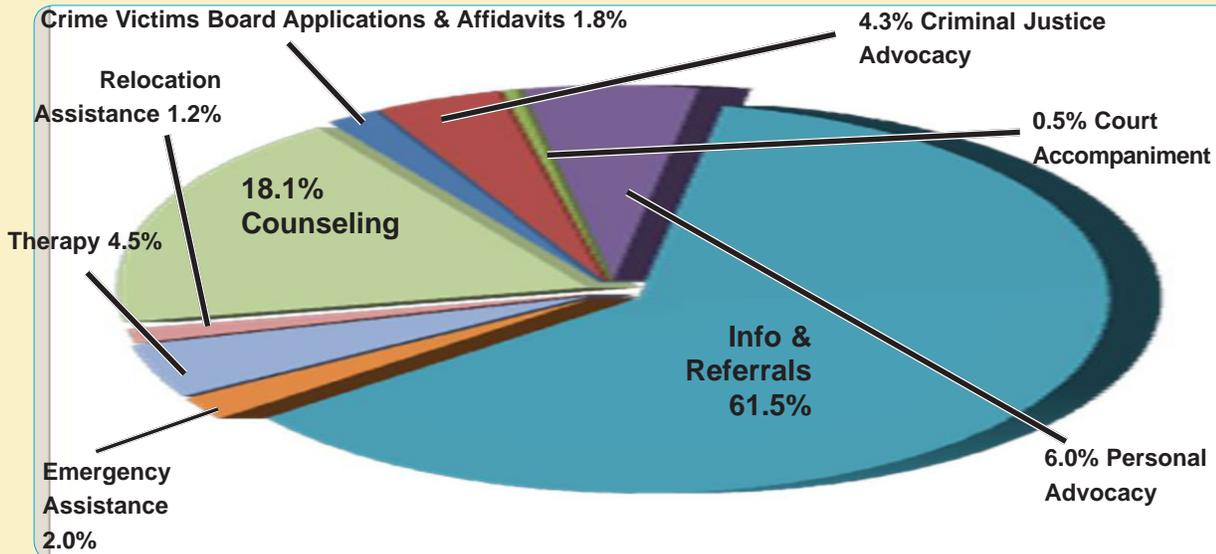
Total 2013 New Client
Contacts: 3,087



Source: Office of Bronx District Attorney

Crime Victims Assistance Unit Contacts By Type of Service Provided

Total 2013 Service
Contacts: 46,327



Source: Office of Bronx District Attorney

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

In October 2013, as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, CVAU held its fifth annual Purple Door Project. CVAU Staff covered all of the Unit's doors in purple – the designated color for domestic violence – and encouraged the rest of the agency's staff to join them, as a way to heighten awareness of CVAU's services and its mission to stop domestic violence at our doors.

As part of its adult workshop series, the Office held a Roundtable Discussion before a community audience, entitled "The Many Faces of Domestic Violence." Seated around the table were the Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau, the CVAU Director, and a

clinical therapist from the Unit, a representative from the Bronx Family Justice Center, a police officer from the NYPD's Domestic Violence Unit, and a domestic violence survivor. The survivor shared her story that led to a discussion between the professionals and the survivor. The message of the forum was that we should take more time to listen to DV victims. Once the conversation ceased, the audience had the opportunity to ask questions.

CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE UNIT SATELLITE OFFICE

This Office's Crime Victims Assistance Unit (CVAU) provides comprehensive services to crime victims, both at the Office's main location on 161st Street and also

at a satellite office that opened in 2003 in Community District 12 to make services available throughout the Bronx. The satellite office grew from a series of federal grants from 2002-2005 that funded an Advisory Committee tasked with planning and implementing a referral network to link clients to community service providers for services that cannot be provided by CVAU staff. During 2013 we held special events at the satellite office, including a Wellness Day during Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Coping with the Holiday Blues in December.

WELLNESS DAY

On October 24, 2013, the CVAU hosted its annual day of wellness for victims and survivors of domestic violence. The Wellness Day mind/body/spirit workshop promoted a positive and healthy way of feeling, thinking and living. Twenty-two women attended the event. Clients learned healthy coping skills, ways to reduce stress and reconnect with their inner selves through a variety of techniques that included art, Zumba, and yoga classes facilitated by professional instructors. The clinical staff provided clinical services on site and instruction behind the scenes. Participants began the day listening to the personal stories of fellow survivors who have prior experience with the CVAU therapy program.

There were three classes this year. The “Shake It” class was meant to invigorate the participants through movement to an easy-to-follow zumba dance. Participants in the “Making Connection” class produced individual art tiles that helped them to connect with themselves and others through creative art techniques and positive statements of reflection, insight and empowerment. The individual tiles were joined to create a group mosaic, which remains on display at the Satellite Office. Finally, the “De-Stress and Release” yoga class introduced victims / survivors to deep-breathing, stretching and meditation that brings tranquility through a renewed mind-body connection.

Following each class, clients took a group photograph to commemorate their participation. Clients received lunch and snacks throughout the day – another way to promote healthy food choices. Periodically, clients were also asked to write on a poster board specially designed for the event to capture their thoughts and feelings. As the day ended, clients and staff gathered in a circle to share their reflections on the day.

COPING WITH THE HOLIDAY BLUES

Frequently the Holidays are difficult for crime victims, as they feel a sharpened sense of loss. CVAU helps to soften the challenges of the Holiday Season with a two events: Coping With the Holiday Blues Workshop and the Lighting of the Tree of Angels. Both of these events took place at the CVAU satellite office on Saturday, December 7, 2013. The Holiday Blues Workshop was designed to help those struggling through the holidays to gain a better understanding of their feelings and to address feelings of isolation.

Forty-one CVAU clients and their families were invited to participate this past year (18 minors and 23 adults). The adults participated in two group sessions (one in English, the other in Spanish), that were facilitated by CVAU therapists and focused on what the holidays meant prior to their victimization, what they mean now, and their outlook for the future. While the adults

were involved in the workshop, the children participated in their own therapeutic art activity, led by child therapists. At the end of the day, each child received one or two new books (donated by District Attorney staff).

The Lighting of the Tree of Angels followed the workshop. The “Tree of Angels” is a program started by Milagros Guzman, whose 10-year-old daughter Jessica was murdered in 1990. In 2011 Guzman, who now lives out-of-state, requested that the Tree of Angels continue to be placed outside the CVAU Satellite Office. This program provides a way for families and friends affected by homicide to commemorate the angel they lost by hanging an angel ornament. In 2013 CVAU was joined by the Gospel of St. Luke’s Church Choir and Father Richard Gorman, Chairman of Community Board 12, who provided the Blessing of the Tree. NYPD Deputy Inspector Mullin of the 47th Precinct also participated.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK EVENTS

In April 2013, CVAU was involved in the yearly presentation of the National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCRVW) Candle Light Vigil, the kick-off event that recognizes the plight of victims and survivors.

THE BRONX CLOTHES-LINE PROJECT

Throughout the year CVAU displays the Bronx Clothes-Line Project (BCL) at various locations around the County. BCL 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. 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. Some t-shirts were memorials to victims of homicide.

BRONX HOMICIDE SURVIVORS SUPPORT PROJECT

During 2013 the Bronx Homicide Support Project, now in its 13th year, continued to provide therapy groups for the family members, mostly mothers, of Homicide Victims. These two groups are facilitated by the Director of the

Crime Victims Assistance Unit and a Director from Safe Horizon. While there are other peer-led support groups in the Bronx and other boroughs throughout the City, Bronx Homicide Survivors is the only professionally led traumatic grief group of its kind in New York City specifically for family members of homicide victims. However, in 2012 the CVAU director was able to train another CVAU therapist in the Restorative Retelling Model and was able to have her attend a Restorative Retelling Conference sponsored by Tulane University and the Virginia Mason Medical Center's Separation and Loss Services. As such, during 2013 CVAU was able to expand its weekly group sessions to include two evening sessions and one day session for Spanish-speaking participants.

Surviving Homicide

Jane and her twenty-four year old daughter Tina (pseudonyms) were referred to the Crime Victims Assistance Unit (CVAU) in November 2011, after the death of their daughter and sister, respectively. The victim, a mother of four, had lived with her boyfriend until an argument ended in her murder. A CVAU advocate met with Jane and Tina three days after the homicide to deal with the family's immediate trauma and concrete needs. The victim's thirteen-year old-son was the first to discover the murder when he ran into the apartment and saw his mother's body on the bed. The defendant had beaten her to death. Jane and Tina, who lived in the same apartment building as the victim, returned home to the crime scene.

CVAU began supportive services immediately. The advocate referred the family to the CVAU Therapy Program. In February 2012, Jane began to participate in CVAU's Homicide Survivors Weekly Support Group and in May of 2012 Tina began individual therapy. Each modality was utilized to help them process their traumatic grief. Both presented and experienced similar symptoms: Intrusive images and flashbacks of what happened to their daughter/sister; tremendous guilt and blame for having missed the warning signs of an abusive relationship and fantasies of reunion and rescue. All of these symptoms are common after enduring an unnatural and traumatic death. Jane and the CVAU advocates were also deeply concerned about the emotional health of

the deceased's children, ages 6 through 14. CVAU immediately made a referral to the Center for Court Innovation's Child and Adolescent Therapy program which is housed on the same floor as the CVAU. The children began getting therapy in February 2012.

In addition to individual therapy, Tina and the family participated in other CVAU events. Holidays are always a difficult time for crime victims, and this was especially true for this family, as the murder occurred so close to Thanksgiving. The first event was the annual Holiday Blues event, which helps survivors of violent crime cope during the holidays. During this day separate therapeutic events are held for children and for adults. The day concluded with all participants sharing what they had learned and remembering their loved ones. The family also took part in the annual "Tree Lighting" event at the Satellite Office, where staff and adult and child survivors of homicide put an angel on the tree to commemorate the memory of their loved one.

With the emotional trauma of their daughter/sister's murder came many practical challenges. Initially, the family needed financial assistance with her burial. CVAU worked with the NYS Office of Victim Services and the funeral home on the documents necessary for financial assistance. Custody of the deceased's four children was also a pressing issue. CVAU helped Jane to successfully navigate the Bronx Family Court process and become the sole legal guardian of her grandchild-

Surviving Homicide

(Continued)

dren.

Advocacy work was also done to help lighten the financial strain Jane experienced in taking custody of her four grandchildren. To make sure that she maintained a residence for her grandchildren, Jane needed rent assistance, which CVAU helped obtain with an advocacy letter and multiple phone calls to the Human Resources Administration. Working with Administration for Children's Services, CVAU also helped Jane claim child support for the deceased's eldest child.

The criminal justice process also left the family with many questions. They relied upon CVAU for information about the criminal justice process, including what to expect from upcoming court cases and proceedings. The continuing dialogue involved meetings with the ADA assigned to the case, so the family could directly hear about procedural details.

On October 9, 2013, the defendant pled guilty to Manslaughter 1. CVAU

staff helped the family to prepare victim impact statements that were read in open court at the defendant's sentencing on October 28, 2013. The defendant was sentenced to 17 years imprisonment. The day was emotional and powerful for all family members. Once the sentencing was complete, the advocate registered the family for parole updates, so they will stay informed of future developments. Although there will never be complete closure for this family as it relates to the loss of their loved one, their concrete needs have been met, and they continue to make progress in dealing with their traumatic grief and guilt.

This past November and December, Tina and Jane once again participated in CVAU's Wellness Day and Holiday Blues events but in a different way. In honor of their daughter/sister, they were able to speak and share their story in an effort to help other crime victims/survivors.

Partnerships and Collaboration

OPERATION GUN HALT

In July 2012, with funding provided through the NY State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), the Bronx District Attorney's Office implemented Operation Gun Halt. This gun violence reduction program is based on an offender notification forum model originally implemented in Chicago. A multidisciplinary team was created to implement the monthly forums. The Team consists of federal (US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, ATF) and local law enforcement (NYPD, Bronx District Attorney, NYS Division of Parole), community partners (the Fortune Society, the Bronx Borough President's Reentry Task Force), and ex-offenders.

Each month a group of ex-offenders (now probationers as well as parolees) who have recently been released to community supervision in the 40th Precinct are invited to attend the forum. The forums, which were initially held at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, and have now been relocated to NYC Probation NEON, are conducted in a roundtable format that seats all participants together at the same table. The focus of the presentations is on the choices these ex-offenders make and the consequences of those choices. Ex-offenders who decide to re-involve themselves with guns face federal

prosecution, which often results in a much stiffer sentence than if prosecuted locally. Alternatively, s/he can opt to take advantage of the services that are offered. One of the most compelling presentations at the forum is provided by ex-offenders themselves, who speak directly to the participants from personal experience.

SPECIALIZED COURTS AND PROGRAMS

This Office plays a key role in Bronx County's specialized courts and programs. There are currently a number of such specialized courts within the county, including the Bronx Treatment Court and the Bronx Mental Health Court. The Bronx District Attorney's Office has diverted defendants to drug treatment for many years and developed formal partnerships to do so in October 1992. In 2013 the Bronx District Attorney's Office diverted 707 defendants to treatment through the Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison (DTAP) program, the Bronx Mental Health Court, and other programs. In July 2013, the Veterans Court was established in the Bronx through which 13 people have been placed in treatment programs.

BRONX MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Over time it became clear that some candidates for diversion suffered from both drug dependency and mental illness. While staff always tried to place such non-violent defendants in treatment programs which were appropriate for individuals with dual diagnoses, in 2002 we entered into a formal partnership with Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities (TASC) and Research Triangle Institute (RTI) to create the Bronx Mental Health Court. As the grantee, this Office administers grants and subgrants, monitors compliance with the terms of grants and with subgrantees' 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 further expanded to provide services for mentally ill defendants with HIV/AIDS. These defendants are subject to the same level of supervision and sanctions for failure to complete treatment as other diverted defendants. The program has been further expanded on several occasions, most recently in 2012.

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 (BCS) aims to hold offenders accountable while offering them the assistance they need to avoid further criminal conduct.

In 2013, 8,943 cases were mandated to Bronx Community Solutions (29% of the cases disposed at arraignment in the Bronx). Of those, approximately 5,106 received community service sentences. Eighty-three percent of offenders who appeared for intake completed their community service mandate. Community service projects included 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. On average participants performed three days of service. An estimated 66,059 hours of community service were completed.

In addition to community service, Bronx Community Solutions offers other sentencing options, including treatment readiness programs, inpatient and outpatient drug treatment, social service and educational assessments and customized group classes. Examples of social service group classes that are available include health education, job readiness, decision making, anger management, drug treatment, and youth life skills.

BCS also operates special initiatives. The Adolescent Diversion Program (ADP) began in January 2012, focusing on 16 and 17 year old defendants. In 2013, 75% of the 659 ADP youths successfully completed their mandates. In 2013, the Mental Health Initiative (MHI) completed its fourth year and with a screening instrument identified 1,491 clients. MHI achieved a 75% completion rate. In 2013 the Prostitution Initiative completed its third year and included 145 prostitution cases with a 70% completion rate. BCS has continued to take proactive steps to comprehensively improve the existing process for DWI cases. Notably these clients maintain an 87% compliance rate.

In recognition that many individuals, mostly women and girls, arrested for prostitution-related offenses may be victims of trafficking and other forms of violence, in October 2013 Chief Judge Lippman created the Human Trafficking Intervention Court (HTIC) program in 11 coun-

ties throughout the State. In Bronx County, Bronx Community Solutions has been designated as the HTIC site provider and handles all prostitution-related offenses in the borough. The HTIC program aims to help individuals safely exit the sex trade by identifying victims of sex trafficking, linking individuals to social services, and reducing or eliminating consequences of criminal conviction for victim-defendants.

OPERATION WEED & SEED

The Weed and Seed program focuses on specific communities to "weed out" drug trafficking, violent gangs, and robbery perpetrators, while "seeding" the community with resources to improve the quality of life. Beginning in the late 1990s, Bronx County has been home to two Weed and Seed sites, one located in the Soundview/ Bruckner neighborhood and the other in Mott Haven (which reached maximum funding and closed in 2006). After reaching maximum funding from the US Department of Justice, the Soundview/Bruckner site is now a "graduated" site. Although we no longer receive federal funding, activities and programs continue to be offered. The Soundview/ Bruckner Weed & 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.

Seed/Bruckner also relies on close working relationships with the Bronx Borough President's Office, Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club, the Bronx Lions Club, Parkchester Kiwanis Club, PEP Senior Center, clergy, Children's Arts and Science Workshop, Inc., St. Raymond's Community Outreach, Phipps Houses, C.O.N.N.E.C.T., elected officials, school-based parent organizations, other community-based organizations and community residents.

Each year since 2007, Weed and Seed has operated a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that provides free tax preparation services for community members. In 2012 VITA volunteers at the Bronx River Houses Community Center prepared and filed (electronically) 255 returns for community residents. As a result, they generated \$250,000 in federal tax refunds for the community. In 2013 funding from Councilwoman Palma enabled us to pay one person to manage the VITA Center for three half-days per week during tax season.

THE CONCEPT PROGRAM (CREATING OPPORTUNITIES NECESSARY TO CREATE EMPOWERED POSITIVE TEENS)

CONCEPT is a twelve week, comprehensive, school-based curriculum that includes classroom instruction, academic enrichment,

and diverse-learning activities taught by certified professionals from the Office of the Bronx District Attorney. Since antisocial behavior often acts as a prerequisite for crime, the focal point of this curriculum is prevention, which is to provide life skills to students who need assistance in avoiding delinquent behavior. During the program, every instructor teaches and encourages students to demonstrate the following skills of leadership: Attain and reinforce positive relationships, focus on the problem and not the person, be proactive and lead by example.

CONCEPT offers students the opportunity to avoid gang affiliation; acquire problem solving skills; obtain a realistic view of criminality, and build strong relationships with peers by using a skills-based strategy that addresses three areas of learning: reasoning, social, and affect. CONCEPT promotes a positive attitude and creates behavioral changes through a unique combination of skills training, cooperative learning, healthy dialogue, and role-playing. Participants have the opportunity to learn and practice life skills pertaining to real circumstances. With training and positive reinforcement, youths will more than likely exhibit these behavioral skills in practical situations.

Over 800 students have completed the CONCEPT program during the 2013-2014 school year, with an average attendance of 26 students attending 32 class-

es. Also, 158 parents/adults have attended seven workshops offered in conjunction with the CONCEPT program at the schools where it is taught. In addition, during 2013 CONCEPT staff provided parent workshops on such topics as "Gang Awareness and Cyber-Bullying." They also presented assemblies and symposia for students on various topics, including "Bullying," "Making Healthy Choices," and "Unlawful Weapons and Making Smart Decisions."

POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE PLAYSTREET PROGRAM

Through a collaboration between this office, the Police Athletic League (PAL), and the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, in July 2013, the summer Playstreet Program opened at the Mott Playground, which lies in the South Bronx's 44th Precinct. Playstreet, which opens again on weekdays beginning July 10, 2014, invites young people aged 6 to 16 to participate in a range of games, sports and other recreational activities, such as table games, cultural arts and basketball tournaments. Commenting on the goals of Playstreet, District Attorney Johnson noted that "Policing is essential to public safety, but the importance of positive outlets and support for our young people cannot be overlooked." Fittingly, Playstreet operates in the territory that was the focus of intense anti-gang efforts beginning in Spring,

2011 that resulted in the prosecution of 41 members of three violent drug gangs – “Dub City,” “WTG” and “6 Wild.” These gangs were responsible for multiple shootings and narcotics sales in the area

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In 2013, the Bronx continued to suffer the highest rate of domestic violence reports per 100,000 population among the five boroughs. The Bronx’s 68,979 Domestic Incident Reports represented 29% of the City’s total. The Office has pursued many strategies to address the domestic violence problem. These include its work with criminal justice agencies and nonprofit organizations in Bronx County’s Domestic Violence court parts, and its collaboration with local agencies, most prominently the Bronx Borough President’s Office. Although many of these initiatives have been supported by some level of grant funding, those funds have waned.

In 2011, the Bronx Borough President’s Office, in partnership with this office, Safe Horizon (a nonprofit provider of victim services), and the NYC Department of Probation, received funds under the federal Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies program. This 24-month grant funded four prosecutors; an interpreter; and two probation Officers, as well as support and services for domestic violence victims, and a Batterers Intervention

Program. Unfortunately, this grant expired, although the Office will apply shortly for additional support. Presently, the Stop Violence Against Women program is the only source of grant funds that support the office’s work on Domestic Violence issues.

In 2013 this Office continued to work with the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence on the Bronx County Family Justice Center (FJC), which opened in April 2010 and is located in our main building at 198 East 161st Street. The FJC houses the Bronx District Attorney’s Domestic Violence Bureau, as well as representatives from a vast array of social service organizations that include Safe Horizon, Sanctuary for Families, inMotion, and the Urban Justice Center). Also present are legal services providers, and City agencies including NYPD, Probation, and NYCHA). Services are available in English, Spanish, and other languages. The FJC is a one -stop center for domestic violence victims and their children.

In the three years since opening in April 2010, FJC has served a growing number of domestic violence victims. There were 51,741 total client visits (new and repeat) to the FJC between April 26, 2010, and April 26, 2014, of which 18,654 were new clients seeking domestic violence services. During the same period, 47,020 children were supervised in the Children’s Room.

GANG PROSECUTION

In 2013 gang-related or gang-motivated crime incidents in the Bronx ranged from homicides and other violent crimes, to weapons, drug possession, and various property crimes. 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. These assistant district attorneys use an array of investigative techniques including wiretap and DNA evidence and monitoring of social network sites to effectively combat violence and other criminal activity engaged in by gang members and associates. Three cases that follow show how a variety of violent criminal gang activity continues to plague our communities, even in a time of declining violent crime.

Indictment of Rival Drug Gangs in Highbridge

In May 2013, Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced the grand jury indictment of 37 alleged drug dealers from rival crews in the Highbridge section of the Bronx following an eleven-month long joint investigation with NYPD.

The 124-count indictment alleged a range of crimes. The defendants, belonging either to the "Woodycrime" crew or to the "165th and Nelson" crew, were alleged to have "acted-in-concert," engaging in more than 100 drug transactions with undercover detectives during the course of their investigation. The majority of these drug sales occurred on a one block stretch of 165th Street between Woodycrest and Nelson Avenues, where the defendants resided. The indictment charged the defendants with conspiracy to sell narcotics, criminal sale and possession of narcotics, attempted murder, assault, criminal possession of a weapon, and possession of ammunition.

Twenty defendants have already pled guilty and have been sentenced to multi-year prison terms. For those who await trial, the most serious conspiracy charge, Conspiracy in the second degree, is punishable by a maximum sentence of up to 8 1/3 to 25 years imprisonment. The most serious drug charge, Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the third degree, is punishable by a maximum sentence of up to 9 years imprisonment on each count, depending on prior criminal records.

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett ordered that Luis "Lou" Pacheco, 21, an alleged principal player in the Woodycrime crew, be held without bail. Pacheco is currently awaiting trial in connection with two separate shootings as well as narcotics sales and conspiracy charges. The indictment alleged that on November 9, 2011, Pacheco intentionally shot Nicholas Barbour in the back with a .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol, in the course of firing several shots at Barbour's minivan as he attempted to drive away on West 165th Street and Woodycrest Avenue. The gunfire is believed to have erupted over a dispute between one of Pacheco's fellow Woodycrime crew and the occupants of the van. For his alleged role in this incident, Pacheco was indicted for Attempted Murder in the second degree, assault in the first and second degrees, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the second degree. He faces a maximum sentence of up to 25 years imprisonment if convicted of the most serious offense, attempted murder.

The other shooting for which Pacheco was indicted occurred on January 16, 2011, when he allegedly fired in the direction of a crowd of people, striking a bystander in the hand. That shooting occurred on East 161st and Gerard Avenue outside a coffee shop. The most serious offense, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the second degree, is punishable by a maximum sentence of up to fifteen years

Indictment of Rival Drug Gangs in Highbridge

(Continued)

imprisonment, if convicted. Another alleged Woodycrime leader, Christian Caban, 27, was also remanded, without bail on Second degree conspiracy charges, weapons possession and possession of

over four ounces of crack cocaine as well as \$10,000 in cash. A third alleged principal player, Marvin Gamoneda, 27, pled guilty to conspiracy charges and is currently serving his sentence.

Bloody Milla Army

Gang activity significantly contributes to the Bronx's disproportionate share of violent crime in New York City. Gang-related or gang-motivated crime incidents in the Bronx range from homicides and other violent crimes, to weapons and drug possession, and various property crimes. The deaths of Christopher Umpierre and John Hopkins-Drago illustrate the severity of the gang problem in Bronx County. In December 2008, Mr. Umpierre was found lying on the floor of an apartment building in the northern Bronx. He had been shot once in the chest. Mr. Hopkins-Drago was found stuffed inside a cart lined with garbage bags in an alley on Pelham Parkway in the eastern Bronx.

These seemingly unrelated crimes were both perpetrated by members of the Blood Milla Army, a set of the Bloods street gang. Mr. Umpierre was an innocent bystander present when gang members were sent to kill a rival gang

member. Mr. Hopkins-Drago was falsely accused of "snitching" on a gang member, a violation of Blood code that warrants death. These facts emerged from an investigation that involved inter-agency law enforcement coordination, the use of confidential informants, accomplice testimony involving cooperative agreements, civilian eyewitnesses, the interception of surreptitious gang-related communication, wiretap evidence, and enhanced forensic analysis.

Five gang members received lengthy state prison terms for committing these crimes. On February 6, 2014, Robert Pastore was sentenced to 25 years in state prison for actions resulting from his attempt to control this set of the Bloods. He pled guilty to manslaughter in the first degree. Carlos Colon--the most active stabber of Mr. Hopkins-Drago—pled guilty to murder in the first degree on February 18, 2014, and was sentenced to 25 years-to-life in state prison.

The Office of the Bronx District Attorney has operated the Bronx Anti Auto Theft Program since 1995. In 2013 alone this Office recovered 221 stolen vehicles for return to their rightful owners. These cars were valued at \$3,135,735. 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 (Bronx grand larceny auto has been reduced 94% since 1990), in 2010 (the most recent statistics 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 (highest in New York City).

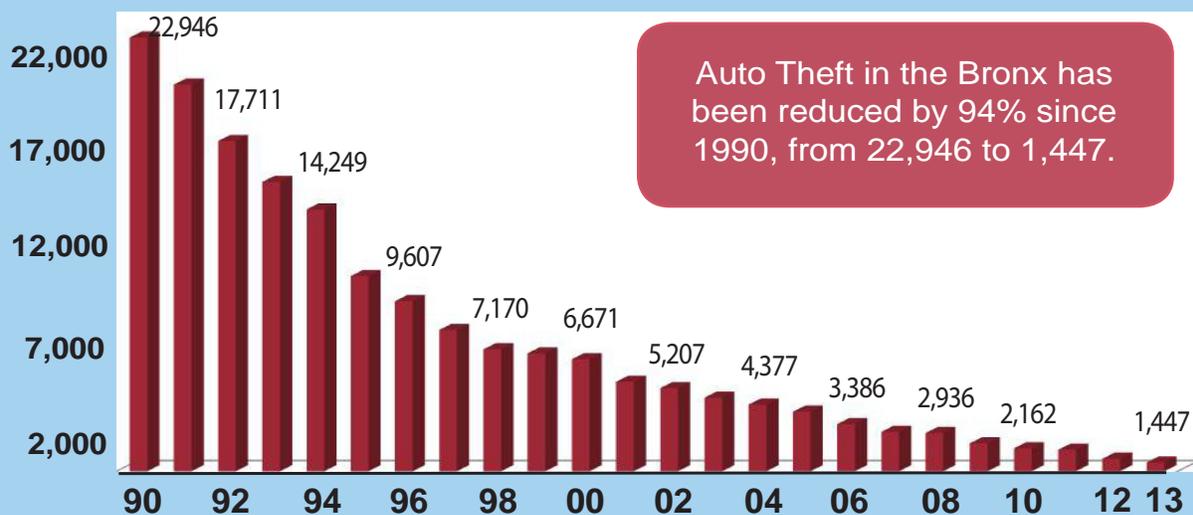
The Bronx District Attorney's Office has owned bait cars for several years. In 2010 the Office received a Legislative Grant through State Senator Klein which provided funding which enabled us to purchase two additional bait

cars. Working jointly with precincts that experience an increase in car theft, the bait cars are positioned in high crime areas, 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 significantly reduce a neighborhood's auto damage and petit larceny numbers. This Office continues to deploy bait cars around the county in an ongoing effort to reduce break-ins.

In the last 12 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. Since September 2006, Bronx District Attorney's Office Detective Investigators have worked with the NYPD using a License Plate Reader (LPR). LPR technology uses specialized cameras and computers to capture large numbers of license plates quickly, convert them to text and compare them to a large list of plates of interest. LPR systems can identify a target plate within seconds of contact with it, allowing law enforcement to identify target vehicles that might otherwise be overlooked.

Decline In Grand Larceny Auto

1990 - 2013



Auto Theft in the Bronx has been reduced by 94% since 1990, from 22,946 to 1,447.

Source: New York City Police Department

People V. Reynaldo Nazario

Reynaldo Nazario's knowledge of cars and the scrap business helped him to steal 26 early model Toyotas, Hondas and Nissans from Bronx residents during the period August through October, 2012. Nazario gained access to the cars using "jiggle keys," which are keys from other vehicles that can be used to enter older Toyotas, Hondas and Nissans when they have been shaved down by a skilled car thief. After stealing the cars, Nazario took each them to local scrap yards, where he claimed to be the rightful owner and sold them for quick cash, usually about \$400 per vehicle. Nazario knew that to sell a vehicle more than eight years old he did not need to present a valid title. He had only to complete a special DMV form, sign under penalty of perjury that he was the vehicle owner, and present his NYS

identification card. All twenty-six local Bronx residents whom Nazario victimized lost their vehicles. None of them received money from their insurance companies, as the cars were too old to be carrying full theft coverage. Each resident lost their transportation to school, work and family events.

In November of 2012, the Bronx District Attorney announced that the Grand Jury of Bronx County had indicted Nazario both for the car thefts and his false statements to the scrap yards. Nazario was held on bail, then pled guilty in November of 2013 to 26 counts of Grand Larceny, one count for each car. Hon. Martin Marcus sentenced Nazario to a term of 3 ½ to 7 years in prison for his crimes.

“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 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. Now in its 13th year, the Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Task Force, an outgrowth of the Office’s committee, continues to meet. The Task Force is co-chaired by the Elder Abuse Coordinator at the Bronx District Attorney’s Office 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 exper-

tise and facilitates the coordination of efforts to prevent, investigate and remedy the abuse of our most vulnerable seniors. At each meeting an expert in his/her field speaks and advises members about elder abuse.

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 2013, the Elder Abuse Coordinator gave 10 CASE “ID Theft and Scam Recognition, Prevention and Remedy” and various Elder Domestic Violence presentations to community groups, churches, senior centers, tenants’ associations, social service providers, banks, colleges, and at conferences. This program is currently implemented without funding, staffed by volunteers from the Office.

The Elder Abuse Coordinator continues to represent the Bronx District Attorney’s Office in various NYC Elder Abuse Coalitions and Multi-Disciplinary Teams.

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 promotes the prompt collection of critical evidence 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, those are 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 primarily supported with NYC funds and consists of a group of 12 – 14 Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFEs) who are coordinated by a project director based at North Central Bronx Hospital. The examiners conduct a physical examination of the victim, collect potential DNA evidence, and document both internal and external injuries.

In 2013, Bronx SART hospitals covered 270 Cases. In 87% of those cases, a SART examiner responded to the hospital within one hour of admission of the sexual assault victim to the Emergency Room. The average length of response was 53 minutes. Eighty-five percent of those victims eligible for a forensic examination consented to being examined. In 13% of the cases where a forensic examination was conducted, the physical examination of the victim revealed findings

of genital trauma only. In 17% of the cases, the physical examination of the victim revealed findings of non-genital injury only. Twenty nine percent of the examinations revealed both genital and non-genital injuries, and 41% showed no visible 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, the NYC Department of Education, 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. The team approach strengthens the evidence gathering process by affording all parties the opportunity to ask questions at the victim's first interview, thereby avoiding the problems that arise when victims must repeat their

stories. Details may be forgotten or inadvertently omitted as victims become tired and uncooperative. Through its participation in the Multidisciplinary Team, the Office has significantly improved its ability to effectively prosecute child abusers while addressing the needs of abuse victims.

The large number of cases referred to the Unit in 2013 created a heavy burden. There were over 300 joint interviews in the Bronx of which approximately 200 were conducted with DA participation. The Child Abuse Response Unit (CARU) screened 4,298 cases (a 7% increase from 2012) and assigned 2,552 of the cases to paralegals for follow up with ACS. Another 1,447 (an approximate 40% increase from 2012) of the screened cases involved the NYPD. The demands on the Unit will continue to rise with the anticipated opening of the Bronx co-located Child Advocacy Center (CAC) in January of 2015.

NYPD 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 four-to six months of street experience, and covers basic legal issues, such as citizen-police encounters, laws governing identification and statements, Complaint Room policies and procedures (including how to

complete supporting depositions), and what to do when lodging a prisoner at Central Booking.

This training is jointly provided by Chiefs of the Vehicular Crime and Arraignment/Complaint Room Bureaus and NYPD Supervisors from Bronx Central Booking. The Office receives cooperation and support from the NYPD Patrol Borough's Commanding Officer and Training Officer, who coordinate and assign 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 2013 this office was able to host three separate sessions.

These training sessions have resulted in a 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.

In 2013, we continued to collaborate with other New York City prosecutors to train approximately 25 NYPD sergeants each month at the Police Academy. At this one day training event, the District Attorneys provide senior prosecutors to lead discussion workshops

on ethics and integrity issues surrounding the arrest process.

ST JOHNS LAW SCHOOL CLINIC

Since 1999, staff from the Bronx District Attorney's Office have participated in a clinical program for St. John's law students. Several students are designated each year as student assistant district attorneys and are permitted to prosecute cases under a special designation to practice issued by the Appellate Division, First Department. The students handle misdemeanor cases and argue their cases in Court under the supervision of Bronx District Attorney staff. In addition to the clinical component, the Chief of Vehicular Crime Prosecutions teaches coursework related to this program at St. John's University. Several times in recent years, he was honored as Clinical Professor of the Year.

INFORMATION-SHARING VISITS

Over the past several years representatives from governments both and internationally 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 national and international visits.

During the past year the Office was visited by the Joint Service Committee of the Armed Forces. As part of a conversation that included many local jurisdictions around the country, Chiefs of our Child Abuse / Sex Crimes and Crime Victims Bureaus met representatives of the four branches of the armed services to discuss training, victim advocacy, and procedural issues involved with the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault complaints in the military.

Last December, former Bronx ADA Sandy Baggett returned to learn how our office coordinates the work of ADAs and detectives in Investigations cases. Ms. Baggett, who departed the office in 2005, now serves as Deputy Public Prosecutor/ Deputy Senior State Counsel for the Economic Crimes and Governance Division of the Singapore Attorney General's office. She met with Investigation Bureau Chiefs Stuart Levy and William Zelenka.

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 enhances 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 (CAU) is often the connection between the District Attorney and the residents of Bronx County. For example, the Community Affairs Unit facilitates community involvement in the Office’s Felony Trial Training program for new assistant district attorneys. CAU staff reach out to Bronx residents over the age of 18 at community meetings, schools, churches, senior centers, etc. to serve as mock jurors for the training.

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.

While the Office’s programs are coordinated by the unit, 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 around issues of crime prevention and intervention.

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

PROJECT JUMP (JUVENILE MENTORING PROGRAM)

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 mentors allows students to experience the work environment and learn about the functioning of the criminal justice system. Twenty-one mentor/mentee pairs were matched in 2013.

READ-TO-ME PROGRAM

In partnership with two local day care centers, staff from the Bronx District Attorney’s Office hold weekly reading sessions. Support staff and assistant district attorneys volunteer their time 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. Most requests are from the Bronx, but we also receive requests from foreign delegations, universities and suburban school districts. Assistant district attorneys and support staff 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, staff members

are available to conduct tours of the courthouses and explain how a case proceeds through the criminal justice system

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 debate 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

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," and "Sexual Assault" 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.

COURT MONITORING

State Senator Jeffrey Klein organized a Bronx court monitoring program in 2010. The Community Affairs Unit cooperates by providing information regarding court dates and other case-related information. Senator Klein's office organizes residents, provides transportation, signage, *etc.* The program began by monitoring graffiti cases and expanded to auto crime cases in the Senator's district. They continue to monitor selected cases.

PRECINCT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

There are twelve precinct community councils and two Police Service Areas (PSAs) in the Bronx which meet monthly. Fourteen assistant district attorneys have volunteered to attend these meetings. These representatives ensure 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. National Night Out, held each year on the first Tuesday in August, is one of the unit's biggest special projects. Planning begins in June and involves collaboration with community residents and leaders, faith-based organizations, and the NYPD. Bronx District Attorney's staff members volunteer their time to participate in the evening's activities in all 12 police precincts and the two Police Service Areas in the Bronx. In 2013 approximately 40 staff members participated.

PAL PLAY STREET AND TEEN CENTER

In January 2011, a long-term, joint investigation between the Bronx District Attorney's Gangs/Major Case Bureau and the NYPD's Narcotics Borough Bronx led to the indictment and arrest of 22 alleged drug dealers at the River Park Towers housing complex. Prior to the Bronx District Attorney's takedown in River Park Towers, the Special Narcotics Prosecutor dismantled a nearby drug network. These prosecutions enabled this

Office and the Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office to use asset forfeiture funds to support a Police Athletic League (PAL) Play Street in July and August 2011 in the area previously controlled by drug dealers. These funds were also used to support a PAL Teen Impact Center in IS 229 for six months, beginning December 5, 2011, and ending in June 2012. The Impact Center continues to provide a range of activities, including Cops & Kids basketball, volleyball, dance, and cultural events. It also includes a prevention component designed to reduce risk-taking behaviors.

2013 BRONX LAW DAY

On May 1, 2013, the Bronx District Attorney's Office hosted some of the top Bronx high-school students for the third annual "Law Day." The purpose of this day is to expose high-school students who are interested in law to the different types of units and jobs that are available in the Criminal Justice system. The students were able to speak to the Chief of the Detective Investigators, the Deputy Chief of the Arson, Auto, Economic Crime Bureau and a Supervisor from the Narcotics Bureau about what they do in the Office and what they had to do in their careers to get to their current positions.

The students were also able to take a tour of the Criminal Court Building. A Court Officer spoke to the students regarding what it takes to be a Court Officer and

what it's like to work in the Criminal Court Building.

The final part of Law Day provided an opportunity for the students to meet with and ask questions of District Attorney Robert Johnson. The District Attorney shared his experiences in the Office and what it took for him to become the District Attorney. He also talked about the tough decisions that have to be made on a daily basis in the Office. The students were given certificates at the end of the program