

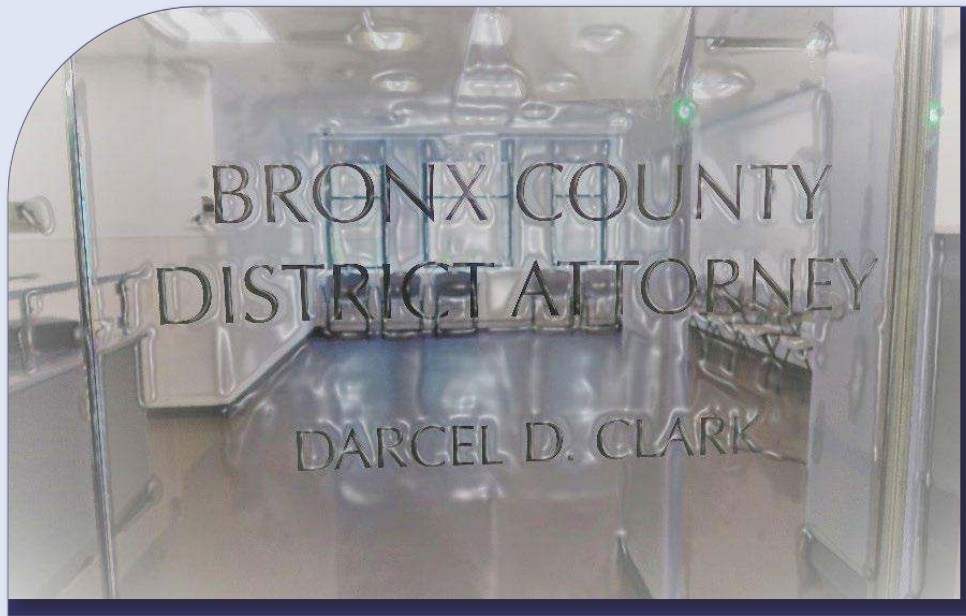
OFFICE OF THE  
BRONX COUNTY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
DARCEL D. CLARK



# 2020 Annual Report

“Pursuing  
Justice  
With  
Integrity”





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# A Message from Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

I began my second term proudly serving as your District Attorney on January 1, 2020.

The challenge then was to implement bail reform, and my new policy of “A Safer Bronx Through Fair Justice,” with the goal of ensuring public safety by seeking punishment for certain crimes and realizing when punitive measures do not advance justice. Protecting victims and providing fairness to defendants remained our mission.

We never could have foreseen what the year would bring.

In March, we were forced to leave our office and work remotely, and the courts were closed to in-person proceedings.

We adapted quickly to new technology and worked with all stakeholders to carry out our work virtually, arraigning thousands of defendants without delay virtually in Criminal Court, conducting preliminary hearings and other proceedings. Of course, interacting with complainants and survivors as early as possible and providing services is a commitment that did not wane during the pandemic.

We provided free COVID-19 testing at our community events and outside our building. We distributed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks and sanitizer. In the first month of the pandemic, when PPE was hard to come by we donated masks to NYPD domestic violence investigators.

Then in June, after the killing of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis, social unrest erupted throughout the city, including the Bronx.

Soon after, a tragic chapter began unfolding in the Bronx: an epidemic of violence. By the end of the year, we saw 111 murders, up from 84 in 2019.



Guns fueled the death and carnage. The Bronx saw 467 victims in 389 shooting incidents, up from 252 victims in 218 incidents in 2019. But beyond the 467 victims, there is an untold number of family, friends and community members who all suffer repercussions from the gunfire.

We formed a task force within the office with a multidisciplinary approach including staff from various bureaus with expertise in firearms trafficking, gangs, homicides and crime strategies.

Throughout the summer, we marched through streets particularly hard hit by shootings, to show the community we stand side by side with them. In October, we held a Gun Buyback and collected 136 guns—mostly revolvers and semi-automatic pistols—and distributed 74 iPads, courtesy of the Bronx DA’s Office and the New York Yankees, as well as a cash card.

We look forward to seeing the Bronx thrive anew. I thank you for your support. You are the reason I do this job.

Bronx District Attorney  
Darcel D. Clark

# COVID-19 Pandemic: Virtual Criminal Justice

The buildings that house the Bronx District Attorney's Office were closed in March 2020, but the Office never stopped functioning. The Office made sure staff had laptops and equipment to work remotely. Nearly **500 laptops** were distributed.

Virtual conference rooms were created by installing web cameras to facilitate virtual testimony and court appearances.

## Criminal Court Arraignments

Through virtual criminal court arraignments, thousands of defendants were processed without delay on serious charges.

## Preliminary Hearings and Grand Jury

Virtual conference rooms allowed witnesses to testify via Skype For Business in preliminary hearings.

We recreated our Grand Jury rooms for social distancing. We presented over 100 cases to our courageous community members serving as Grand Jurors in the first two months after panels

came back to hear cases, and dozens of cases were indicted, holding people accountable for violent crimes.



## Community Engagement

The Bronx District Attorney's Office took to the community amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and the epidemic of gun violence that took hold in the summer of 2020 and still grips our communities.

The Office held 'A March to End Gun Violence' on July 23, 2020, through streets of the Claremont neighborhood where multiple shootings—including three related homicides within 24 hours—had taken place. Staff was joined by the NYPD, clergy, Cure Violence Groups and community leaders in a show of support for Bronx residents and to encourage witnesses to cooperate with police.



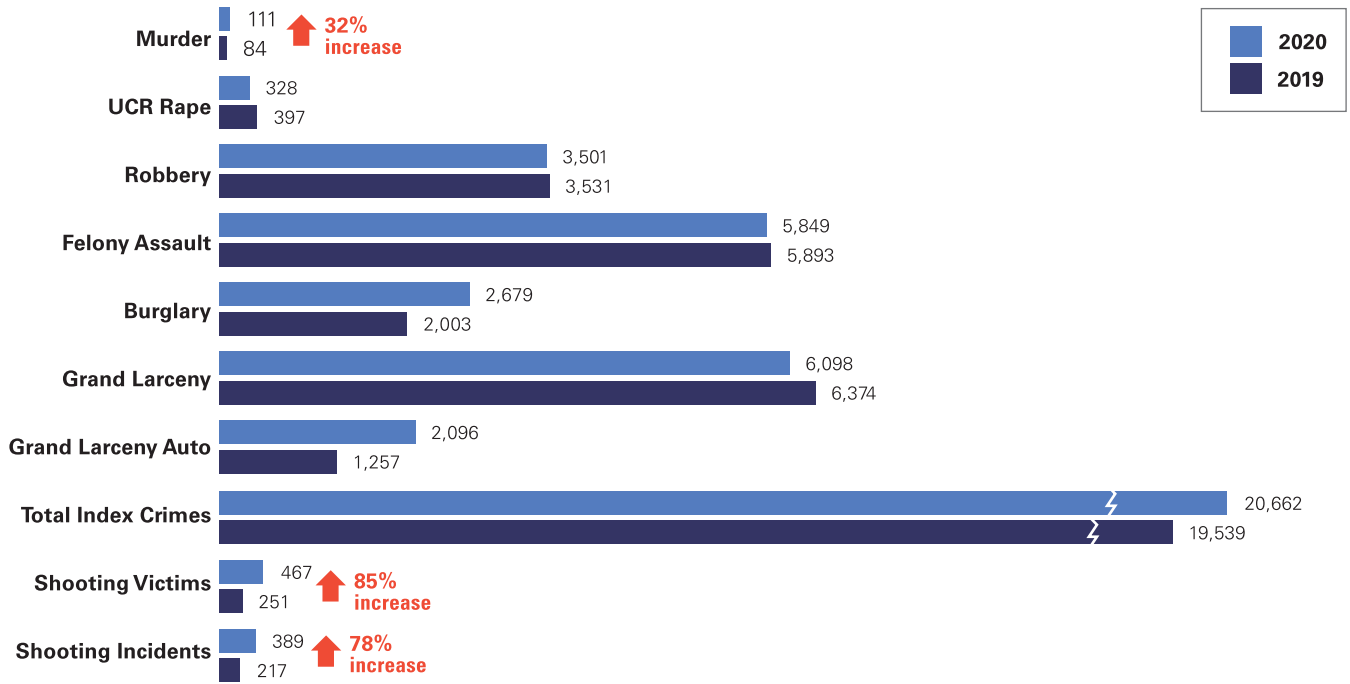
# System, Real Community Engagement

A second march, along with a resource fair, was held on September 2, 2020, through an area of Morrisania that was plagued by gunfire, including four shooting incidents that killed two men the previous weekend. The march ended at Youth Village Park where a resource fair offered information on employment, healthcare, housing and other services, as well as free COVID-19 testing.



# Overview: Crime in the Bronx

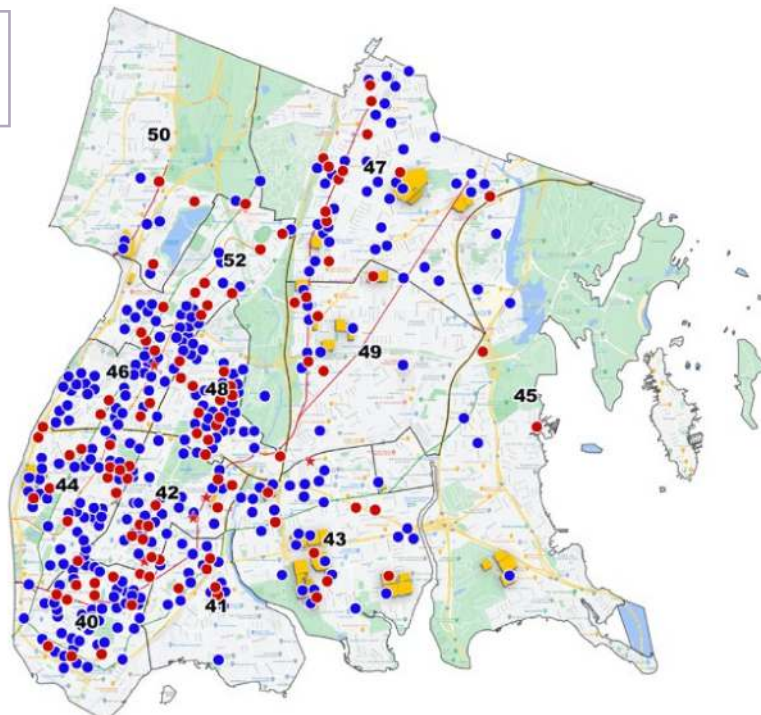
## BRONX COUNTY Crime Complaints 2019–2020



Source: New York City Police Department

Number of Complaints

### 2020 Homicide & Non-Fatal Shootings



Source: Crime Strategies Bureau



# Trial Division

The Trial Division is composed of the Homicide Bureau, Trial Bureaus 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 70, the Hate Crimes Unit and the Vehicular Crimes Unit.

## CASES:

### **Dwayne Reid, 48, was sentenced to 25 years to life**

in prison after being convicted at a jury trial for the execution-style shooting of a father of three. The defendant shot the victim multiple times in the back and head in front of a Bronx elementary school during school hours. The defendant received a sentence of 25 years to life for second-degree Murder and 10 years in prison and five years post-release supervision for second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon, sentences to run concurrently.

### **On March 4, 2020 Bronx District Attorney Darcel D.**

Clark and New York City Police Commissioner Dermot Shea announced Robert Williams, 45, was indicted on 11 counts of Attempted Murder in the first degree, 12 counts of Attempted Murder in the second degree and additional

charges for shooting at two NYPD Officers who were inside a marked van, and for opening fire inside the 41st Precinct stationhouse, targeting cops and a civilian.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendant allegedly shot at two Officers on patrol in a van in the Longwood section, wounding one. The next day he walked into the 41st Precinct station where he allegedly shot at nine Police Officers and a civilian working there. A lieutenant was wounded. Fortunately, this mission to kill police officers failed. I commend the officers who used tremendous restraint, as well as those who conducted the investigation that led to this indictment. We will prosecute to the fullest extent anyone who would attack the very people who put their lives on the line to protect society."



## 2020 BRONX FATAL SHOOTINGS INDICTMENTS

### **Najhim Luke, 22, was indicted on second-degree**

Murder, first-degree Manslaughter and two counts of second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the death of innocent bystander Brandon Hendricks, a 17-year-old high school basketball player. The defendant fired shots at a group of people who had gathered for a barbecue in Morris Heights, striking Hendricks in his back. The victim had just graduated James Monroe High School and was set to play college basketball when he was killed.

### **Man accused in Bronx basketball star's shooting death indicted on murder charge**



<https://pix11.com/>

### **Adones Betances, 22, was indicted on first and**

second-degree Murder and first-degree Manslaughter in the killing of Winston Ortiz, 18. The defendant allegedly stabbed Ortiz and set him on fire in an apartment building hallway because he was upset about his sister's relationship with the victim.

### **Six men were indicted for two shootings that**

occurred only hours apart. Laquan Hayward, 25, Davon Delks, 21, Devin Vines, 27, and Brandon Vines, 24, were arraigned on second-degree Murder, first-degree Manslaughter and second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon for fatally shooting Anthony Robinson, 29, while he crossed the street with his six-year-old daughter in broad daylight. The victim's brother, Calvin Robinson, 28, and Nasir Greene, 21, were arraigned on two counts of second-degree Murder, Attempted Murder in the second degree, two counts of first-degree Manslaughter, and four counts of second-degree Criminal Possession of Weapon for a retaliatory shooting inside a building hallway that left two men dead and another wounded.

## COLD CASE:

### **Curtis Batchelor, 44, was sentenced to 20 years in**

prison after pleading guilty to first-degree Manslaughter in the 1999 death of his neighbor. The defendant stabbed Elsa Grullon, 56, more than twenty times in the face. DNA taken from another crime he committed in 2017 connected him to the DNA recovered from Grullon's body in 1999 crime scene.

### **Bronx man gets 20 years for brutal cold-case rape and killing of his downstairs neighbor**

By JORDAN RENCHER and JOHN ANNESE  
BRONX DAILY NEWS | AUGUST 17, 2020 AT 10:16 PM



<https://www.nydailynews.com/>

### **Albert Blease 48, was indicted on first-degree Arson,**

Assault and additional charges for intentionally setting an apartment building ablaze in the Riverdale section of the Bronx in March 2020. First responders nearby were alerted and saw Blease's apartment on fire and went inside. They observed Blease with a machete and two gas cans in the doorway. The fire traveled to the apartment located above Blease's home, injuring a 59-year-old woman and a 37-year-old man. The female victim sustained lung damage and burn injuries. She received three skin grafts and was on a ventilator for a month. Blease's next door neighbor, a 31-year-old man who went back into the building to alert neighbors about the flames and urged them to run to safety, was also injured. He and the other male victim were put on a ventilator after sustaining lung damage due to smoke inhalation.



# Special Victims Division

## Domestic Violence Bureau

**The Domestic Violence Bureau handles all cases involving intimate partner violence.**

The Bureau is co-located with service providers within the Family Justice Center and works closely with advocates to provide safety and services for complainants.

Throughout the pandemic, the Bureau's Domestic Violence Complaint Unit continued to operate remotely, screening and drafting 35 to 40 DV cases daily. The Unit, the city's first when it opened in October 2016, is staffed by designated professional staff, NYPD staff and specially trained Domestic Violence ADAs who assist witnesses.

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### The Bureau was prosecuting over 2,100 DV Misdemeanor cases and 300 felony DV cases in 2020.

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#### CASES:

##### **Victor Garo, 48, was sentenced to 17 years in**

prison and five years' post-release supervision after pleading guilty to first-degree Manslaughter for stabbing his estranged wife. According to the investigation, on the morning of September 25, 2017, the victim, Adalgisa Garo, 44, walked her son to school and as she returned home alone Garo jumped out of a car and yelled at her. The victim ran and the defendant chased her and stabbed her 12 times. The attack happened near a school as 12 and 13-year-old children were passing by. The defendant fled the scene and was arrested later that day in Hunts Point. The victim was stabbed in the chest and abdomen. She also had defensive wounds. The victim was taken to Lincoln Hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

##### **Bronx courthouse heartbreak: Remorseless wife killer apologizes to daughter for killing her mom in wild court appearance**

By BRITTANY KRIEGSTEIN and LARRY MICHAEL  
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS | FEB 25, 2020 AT 6:18 PM



Victor Garo, 48, is sentenced to 17 years in prison for manslaughter for killing his wife, Adalgisa Garo, 44, in Bronx Supreme Court in Bronx, N.Y. on Wednesday, January 15, 2019. (Neal F. Riedel/Inquirer Staff/Inquirer)

##### **Koran Hilliard, 35, was sentenced to six years in**

prison and five years' post-release supervision for beating his ex-girlfriend, with whom he shared a child, and for biting her face twice outside a Bronx club. The victim suffered a laceration from her mouth to her mid-cheek, which required 40 stitches. The defendant then forced the victim into his car and sped off, crashing into a pole a few blocks away. Hillard bribed the victim to stop her from testifying. The People continued the case after a *Sirois* hearing, during which evidence including the victim's Grand Jury testimony was determined admissible in court. He was sentenced after a judge found him guilty of second-degree Assault, Bribing a Witness, fourth-degree Tampering with a Witness and 29 counts of second-degree Criminal Contempt.

##### **Bronx man gets 6 years for biting ex, trying to bribe her**

By BRITTANY KRIEGSTEIN and JOHN ANNESE  
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS | FEB 25, 2020 AT 6:18 PM



Koran Hilliard, 35, is sentenced to six years in prison for assaulting his ex-girlfriend, Marlene Richardson, 31, outside Barcelona Brasserie, a neighborhood Bronx nightclub, on Jan. 29, 2017. (Chris Pappalardo/Inquirer Staff/Inquirer)

<https://www.nydailynews.com/>

<https://www.nydailynews.com/>

## 5K RUN/WALK/ROLL

**The Bronx District Attorney's Office, along with the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence, held a 5K Run/Walk/Roll event to raise awareness and prevent domestic violence. Due to the pandemic, the event was held virtually, allowing participants to complete the 5K anywhere and anytime between October 3-10, 2020. Over 100 participants took part in the event, running, walking or rolling in parks, streets or treadmill wearing purple—the color of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.**



## Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau

The Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau (CASC) handles all misdemeanor and felony sexual assault cases involving both child and adult victims, as well as most misdemeanor and felony physical child abuse cases, and all child abuse fatalities. The Bureau investigates child abuse allegations at the Bronx Child Advocacy Center, where ADAs, NYPD, Administration for Children's Services, and doctors all come together in one location.

In 2020, the Bureau held the 2nd Annual Infant Safety Expo virtually, because of the pandemic. The event educated new and expectant parents on the dangers of unsafe sleep practices in an effort to reduce the number of infant fatalities.



*Lobby in Bronx Child Advocacy Center*

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**There were 18 infant sleep fatalities  
in the Bronx in 2020.**

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## CASE OF NOTE:

### **Teshawn Watkins, 27, was charged with two**

counts of second-degree Murder, first and second-degree Manslaughter, two counts of Criminal Obstruction of Breathing or Blood Circulation, first-degree Reckless Endangerment, Attempted Assault in the second degree, Endangering the Welfare of a Child and third-degree Assault. According to the investigation, in the early morning of January 29, 2020, the defendant was in the apartment he shared with his girlfriend and their three children when six-week-old Kaseem began to cry. The defendant allegedly became irate with the baby's crying and placed pillows on the infant, blocking his nose and mouth. The defendant went back to sleep and when he woke up, he found the infant unconscious. The mother called 911 and the child was taken to Montefiore Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. An autopsy report revealed the child died of asphyxia due to smothering. According to the investigation, the defendant allegedly placed pillows over

Kaseem's head on at least one other occasion prior to the fatal incident, sometime between December 9, 2019 and January 29, 2020. Video from a baby monitor camera allegedly shows Watkins grabbing Kaseem by the head and spinning his head, causing the child's body to flail into the air, and then covering the baby with pillows. Another video allegedly shows the defendant smothering and punching his girlfriend inside their home on October 27, 2019, while she was pregnant with Kaseem.

#### **Prosecutors: Video allegedly shows father in the act of killing 1-month-old boy**

By News 12 Staff | Jan 31, 2020 6:00am | Updated on: Mar 29, 2021 10:00am



<https://bronx.news12.com/>

### **In 2020, the Child Abuse Sex Crimes Bureau:**

- Opened **2,357 cases**, including **29** child fatality investigations
- Received **1,141 referrals** from ACS
- Received **68** law enforcement referrals
- Jointly investigated **985 child abuse allegations** with NYPD and ACS deriving from calls from the child abuse hotline

# Human Trafficking Unit

The Human Trafficking Unit, created in 2019, continued to handle cases involving the exploitation of people by forced labor and sexual slavery.

## HTU Arrest Numbers 2020:

- **22 arrests** for promoting-prostitution-related charges, including Sex Trafficking and Sex Trafficking of a Child. That is a **37% increase** compared to 2019 when the Unit was launched.
- **216 arrests for patronizing prostitution**, an **86% increase** over 2019.
- **24 arrests for prostitution**, a **35% decrease** from 2019.
- **0 arrests for loitering** for the purposes of prostitution.
- BXDA provided social services to **34 human trafficking victims**.



## CASE OF NOTE:

**Nine alleged Bloods gang members were indicted** for Sex Trafficking of a Child, Sex Trafficking, Promoting Prostitution and additional charges. According to the investigation, between May 6, 2020 and November 19, 2020, the defendants allegedly ran a sex trafficking ring out of multiple Bronx motels and other hotels around the city, and also forced their victims to meet with Johns at other private locations.

The defendants allegedly used social media platforms to reach out to victims, luring them with money. They allegedly took photos of the victims—who were teens and young women—and posted them as ads on several prostitution-related websites. The defendants allegedly communicated with Johns and told victims where to meet with the Johns. The defendants allegedly manipulated the victims by beating them and plying them with drugs, like Xanax and Percocet.

### Alleged Bloods gang members busted for Bronx sex trafficking operation

By News 12 Staff | Dec 23, 2020, 5:26pm | Updated on: Dec 23, 2020, 5:26pm





## Crime Victims Assistance Unit

The Crime Victims Assistance Unit handles the Rape Crisis Program, Therapy Program, and the Early Victim Engagement (EVE) Program, in which advocates reach out to domestic violence victims to inform them if their abusive partner has been released or is in jail, and Enough is Enough, an initiative that aims to curb sexual assaults on campuses. The Complex Homicide Program responds to homicide victims' family and loved ones within 24 to 72 hours after the crime has occurred. Due to a rise in homicides in 2020, the CVAU created homicide support groups for mothers of murdered children.

### The Unit conducted therapy sessions via Zoom with clients through the pandemic.

The Unit coordinated BXDA's annual "Tree of Angels" event, dedicated to victims of homicide, via Zoom on December 5, 2020. During the event, DA Clark placed an angel bearing each victim's name on the tree as their families and friends participated virtually. Approximately 70 commemorative pieces were hung. The Unit also facilitated BXDA's annual "Operation Gift Giving," where almost \$10,000 was raised for gift cards for 16 crime victims and families.

### Caring for Victims During Pandemic Between March 2020 and January 2021:

- CVAU took in **4,853 clients**
- Offered **4,060 therapy sessions**
- Conducted **7,672 follow-ups**



# Investigations Division

The Investigations Division consists of the Public Integrity Bureau, Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau, Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau, Special Investigations Bureau, which contains the Narcotics Investigations Unit; and the Economic Crimes Bureau, which contains the Immigrant Affairs Unit and the Civilian Complaint Unit. The Organized Criminal Activity Bureau was created in August 2020 to investigate and prosecute possession and sale of controlled substances, child pornography, animal cruelty, pattern robberies and burglaries, terroristic threats, murder-for-hire, organized crime, and other criminal activity.

## Investigations Opened in 2020 by Bureau:

Economic Crimes Bureau . . . . .	85
(and 257 Civilian Complaint matters evaluated)	
Special Investigations Bureau . . . . .	5
Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau . . . . .	135
Public Integrity Bureau . . . . .	89
Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau . . . . .	18
Organized Criminal Activity Bureau . . . . .	12

## Public Integrity Bureau

**Three New York City Department of Correction** Officers, Edenuel Serrano, Keith Glover and Tahiem Stewart, were variously charged with Attempted Assault, Tampering with Physical Evidence, Offering a False Instrument for Filing, Falsifying Business Records and other charges in February 2020. According to the investigation, the officers fought with three 17-year-old residents at Horizon Juvenile Center. One officer gave a resident a bloody lip. The defendants did not report the incident and allegedly lied in the paperwork to cover up the fight.

## Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau

**Annette Span, 45, pleaded guilty to second-degree** Conspiracy on May 26, 2020. Span hired a hitman, who was actually an undercover detective, to kill a man to keep him from testifying against her son, who was charged for a non-fatal shooting. She was sentenced to two and one-third years to seven years in prison.

## Organized Criminal Activity Bureau

**Peter Rivera, 66, was indicted on multiple Criminal** Possession of a Weapon, Criminal Possession of a Firearm and Manufacture of Weapons charges in December 2020 after OCAB launched an investigation into ghost guns, where numerous firearm components capable of being constructed into at least two AR-15 style assault rifles were being ordered online. The defendant had in his possession six completed assault weapons, numerous imitation pistols, unfinished receivers, and a work bench and tools for the construction of firearms.





## Economic Crimes Bureau

**Eleana Marrero, 32, pleaded guilty to first-degree** Falsifying Business Records and was sentenced for stealing over \$100,000 in Human Resources Administration (HRA) benefits and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. A judge sentenced Marrero to five years' probation and ordered her to pay back \$30,000 in restitution and received a \$86,963 judgement order of restitution. For three years, the defendant lied about her income, illegally collecting funds while her husband worked for the New York City Fire Department and the New York City Department of Sanitation. The defendant also failed to disclose that she was working at Domino's Pizza.

**Hansey Abreu, 40, pleaded guilty to eight counts of** third-degree Grand Larceny and was sentenced to five years' probation and was ordered to pay \$127,166 in restitution to 14 victims. The defendant, who operated a car repair shop in the Bronx from August 2016 through July 2017, cashed customers' insurance checks and never repaired their vehicles. He also stole several vehicles. The defendant has paid \$50,000 of the amount ordered and faces state prison time if he fails to pay the rest.

### 'Where is my car?' Car owners concerned when Bronx body shop closes down



<https://pix11.com/>



## Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau

### OPERATION GREEN FURY

**In June 2020, 26 alleged Trinitario gang members—** who are current or former Rikers Island inmates—were indicted for a total of 14 violent acts in the jail, including multiple slashings, after an investigation by the Bronx District Attorney's Office, Homeland Security Investigations and the New York City Department of Correction's Correction Intelligence Bureau, with assistance from the New York City Department of Investigation.

District Attorney Clark said, "During their time in Rikers Island, these defendants allegedly conspired and engaged in numerous slashings and stabbings that caused grievous wounds. They allegedly carried out these attacks in order to preserve and protect the power of the Trinitario gang, meting out punishment to their own members as well as rivals. We will not tolerate such brutality against incarcerated individuals and will hold people accountable even after they have left jail. We will continue to attack the pipeline of violence from Rikers Island to the streets."



# Strategic Enforcement & Intergovernmental Relations Division

## Alternatives to Incarceration Bureau (ATI)

**In 2020, the Alternatives to Incarceration Bureau (ATI)** continued to screen and divert hundreds of cases. Additionally, the Bureau began a collaboration with the Bronx Psychiatric Center to reduce their reliance on criminal justice outcomes. Patients being held at the Bronx Psychiatric Center often commit low level crimes due to their underlying behavioral health

issues. Prior to the collaboration, patients would be arrested, charged, and then resentenced to a period of care at the facility, creating a circular system and backlogs. ATI now regularly conferences these defendants with facility staff and creates collaborative care plans that help avoid unnecessary rearrests.

## Crime Strategies Bureau

**The Crime Strategies Bureau (CSB) works with internal and external stakeholders, including the NYPD,** state, local and federal agencies, among others, to develop and implement strategies that focus on reducing violent crime. CSB provides intelligence and analytical support using innovative technologies, data science, and other information sharing techniques.

With the marked increase in shootings in 2020, the Bureau increased its cooperation with community-based organizations and Cure Violence groups to develop violence prevention strategies.

## Forensic Science Unit

**This Unit supports the forensic investigation and** litigation in criminal prosecutions and plays an essential role in conviction integrity reviews and cold cases. The unit conducts investigations and provides office-wide training regarding DNA science, courtroom presentations, discovery, and the admission of DNA evidence. In 2020, the Unit helped Assistant District Attorneys comply with new, expanded discovery obligations.

### In 2020 the Forensic Science Unit:

- **Processed 2,400 DNA Reports**
- **Made 2,000 Requests** to NYPD's crime lab for drug testing, firearms testing and microscopic ballistics comparisons
- **Identified 106 cold cases**—some from the 1980s—for which modern DNA technology may be applied to help solve them



## Technical Investigations Bureau

### Video Unit

The Video Unit is tasked with taking photos and video footage to document statements, crime scenes, items of evidence and witness injuries. In 2020, the Unit documented the Office’s anti-gun violence marches.



### Body-Worn Camera Unit

Since the Body-Worn Camera Unit was created in 2018, it has handled 90,052 videos, totaling 23,520 hours, shared by the NYPD.

### Digital Forensic Lab

The Digital Forensic Lab handles forensic examinations of electronic devices and provides legal and technical help to Assistant District Attorneys. In 2020, the lab became the first accredited digital lab in a prosecutor’s office in New York State, and only the fourth such lab in a prosecutor’s office in the country.

### 2019 vs 2020—Overall Stats

	2019	2020	%
# Devices Received	189	172	-8.99%
# of Consent Devices	77	32	-58.44%
# Warrant Devices	105	132	25.71%
# Decedent Devices	4	6	50%

## Information Technology Bureau

### IT was vital as Staff switched to remote work

during the COVID-19 pandemic. Within weeks of the shutdown, IT procured 600 laptops and configured remote access for 975 ADAs and professional staff. Additionally, the Bureau created more than a dozen socially distanced preliminary hearing and interview rooms for ADAs and began offering Microsoft Teams so that all bureaus and units could communicate and hold remote meetings.



**In 2020, the Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs team focused on the implementation of the new criminal justice reform, and the Planning and Analysis Unit analyzed resources and helped the Office obtain funding through grants.**

# General Counsel Division

## Dismissal of Protest Summonses

In May 2020, in the middle of the pandemic, George Floyd was killed by a Police Officer in Minneapolis, sparking protests all over the City, including the Bronx. On June 4, arrests were made at a large protest in Mott Haven and 312 summonses were issued. District Attorney Clark declared that the Office would not prosecute anyone for simply violating curfew or protesting, and on September 3, 2020 Supervising Judge of Bronx Criminal Court George Grasso granted the Office's motion to dismiss more than 300 summonses issued for Disorderly Conduct and Administrative Code Violation of the Emergency Order of a curfew.

District Attorney Clark said, "I believe in and encourage our Bronx residents to raise their voices to protest social and racial injustice in a peaceful way. I said back in June that I would not prosecute protestors simply for violating the curfew. While my Office does not prosecute summonses, I will file a motion with the court to dismiss these summonses, which were issued June 4 in the Mott Haven section, in the

BRONX

### Bronx DA moves to dismiss over 300 curfew-violation summonses from June protest



Protesters are taken away in a police van after they were arrested for breaking a curfew during a solidarity rally calling for justice over the death of George Floyd, Friday, June 5, 2020, in the Brooklyn borough of New York. Floyd, an African American man, died on May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee into his neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving and pleading for air. (AP Photo/Wong Maye E)

interest of justice. The people who received these summonses are due back in court on them on October 2, 2020. As the COVID-19 virus is still very much with us, and the courts are trying to limit in-person appearances, I believe it serves no purpose to summon hundreds of people to the courthouse for low-level violations. These unprecedented times require prosecutors to be flexible as well as compassionate."





## Appeals Bureau

**The Appeals Bureau handles all** post-conviction litigation for the Bronx District Attorney's Office. The Bureau had an overall success rate of 96 percent in state and federal courts in 2020, prevailing in 300 out of 313 cases, with an added emphasis on COVID-19-related litigation.

### **DECISION OF NOTE:**

**People v Reginald Goldman, 35** NY3d 582 (2020), advanced the People's ability to fairly obtain buccal swabs and to authenticate YouTube videos.



## Conviction Integrity Bureau

**In 2020, the Conviction Integrity Bureau vacated its seventh conviction.**

On February 6, 2020, Bronx Supreme Court Justice Ethan Greenberg granted a motion by the Bronx DA's Office and defense to vacate the conviction and dismiss the indictment against Austin Babb, 30, for the 2010 fatal shooting of Demetrius Jones, after a review of the case by the Conviction Integrity Bureau. Babb had been convicted of murder in 2014 by a jury in a case that was based on single witness's identification. Prior to filing an appeal, the Office of the Appellate Defender asked the CIB to investigate Babb's claim of wrongful conviction.

The Bureau reviewed the trial and hearing transcripts, and interviewed numerous witnesses, some of whom cast doubt on the accuracy of the testimony of the identifying witness. Additionally, during the course of the trial, the investigating detective admitted that he had shown photo arrays to various witnesses who were not able to identify Babb and did not document those identification proceedings. On July 24, 2020, Justice Greenberg dismissed the indictment.

## Civil Litigation Bureau

### ASSET FORFEITURE

#### **Civil forfeiture proceedings further deter criminal**

activity and provide restitution to victims of criminal activity. In 2020, the Asset Forfeiture Unit assisted in investigations of narcotics trafficking, tax-related offenses, gambling and other financial frauds.

In addition to utilizing CPLR Article 13-A, the Office partners with federal agencies in administrative or judicial forfeiture actions to recover money on behalf of state and/or local law enforcement, using a multi-agency approach to target financial crimes such as money laundering in the New York and New Jersey areas. The Office received \$68,694 in equitable sharing in 2020.



### EVICTION UNIT

#### **The Eviction Unit seeks to remove those who**

engage in illegal trade in both residential and commercial premises. By working closely with landlords, tenants, community groups, and law enforcement agencies, the Unit utilizes the civil court system to improve the quality of life in the Bronx, by pursuing evictions arising from narcotics, human trafficking, gambling, and prostitution. In 2020, the Unit's efforts resulted in eradicating illegal operations from properties in more than half of the precincts in the Bronx.

### FOIL UNIT

#### **The FOIL (Freedom of Information Law) Unit**

responds to lawful requests made to the Office for any records, including closed case files, statistics, and other documents. In 2020, the FOIL Unit received over 500 individual requests from attorneys, reporters, and members of the public. Additionally, the Unit responded to over 100 requests from intergovernmental agencies, such as other District Attorney Offices, the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), the New York State Attorney General's Office, the United States Attorney's Office, and other governmental institutions. The FOIL Unit also litigated seven different civil actions brought under CPLR Article 78 in Bronx County Supreme Court, Civil Term in 2020.

### SUBPOENA COMPLIANCE UNIT (SCU)

#### **The Subpoena Compliance Unit handles civil**

actions that arise from closed criminal prosecutions. The Unit works closely with the Law Department and private attorneys to respond to requests for documents from our criminal files, as well as requests from other agencies in matters with civil implications. The Unit received over 250 requests for documents in 2020. Additionally, the Unit continues to work on approximately 50 active civil matters.

## Litigation Training Bureau

In 2020, the Bureau held four extensive in-house training program series geared towards training on specific prosecutorial practices. To keep ADAs active and involved in their professional development, the Bureau also held six one-time CLEs and countless re-screenings. The Bureau also coordinated presentations to Staff from other city agencies, nonprofits, criminal justice partners and the community. In addition to accredited trainings, the Bureau also kept legal staff up-to-date with case law developments.



## Communications/ Public Information

This office handles all external and internal communications, responds to media inquiries and provides information to government agencies and the general public.

This includes the release of court documents, statements from the Office, press releases, court calendars and more. Communications/Public Information processes thousands of requests every year from the media and the public, and did not stop working during the pandemic shutdown. Communications/Public Information provided material to the media regularly, and kept the public informed through media interviews with District Attorney Clark. The team also manages the Office's website and social media accounts.





# Administrative Division

## Community Affairs Unit

The **Community Affairs Unit** reaches out to Bronx residents through special programs, workshops and events focused on the education of the criminal justice system and on crime prevention, like Gun Buybacks and anti-violence marches.

### BRONX DA HOLDS TOWN HALL ON THE NEW CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

#### District Attorney Clark held a Town Hall on the new criminal justice reform law at the Bronx County

Courthouse on January 21, 2020. DA Clark unveiled her new “A Safer Bronx Through Fair Justice” policy, which dovetails with the state’s new criminal justice reform law. More than 200 people attended the town hall to voice their questions or concerns.



### An Anti-Violence Town Hall and Reentry Resource Fair was held in Belmont on October 3, 2020.

The event included free COVID-19 testing, and information on re-entry services, housing, jobs, healthcare and more.





## GUN BUYBACK

**The Bronx DA's Office and the NYPD held a Bronx Gun Buyback event at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Wakefield on October 24, 2020.**

Participants turned in 136 guns, mostly revolvers and semi-automatic pistols. Seventy-four participants received an iPad, courtesy of the Bronx DA's Office and the New York Yankees, as well as a cash card.







## BXDA Detective Investigators

**This Unit includes 33 Detectives and five Lieutenants** among its staff. Detective Investigators assist in long-term investigations, arrests, extraditions and witness security.

### Witness Security Program for 2020:

<b>Total Cases</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<b>Relocated Witnesses</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>2018 &amp; 2019 Relocated Witnesses</b>	
<b>Waiting to Testify</b> .....	<b>6</b>

## Human Resources

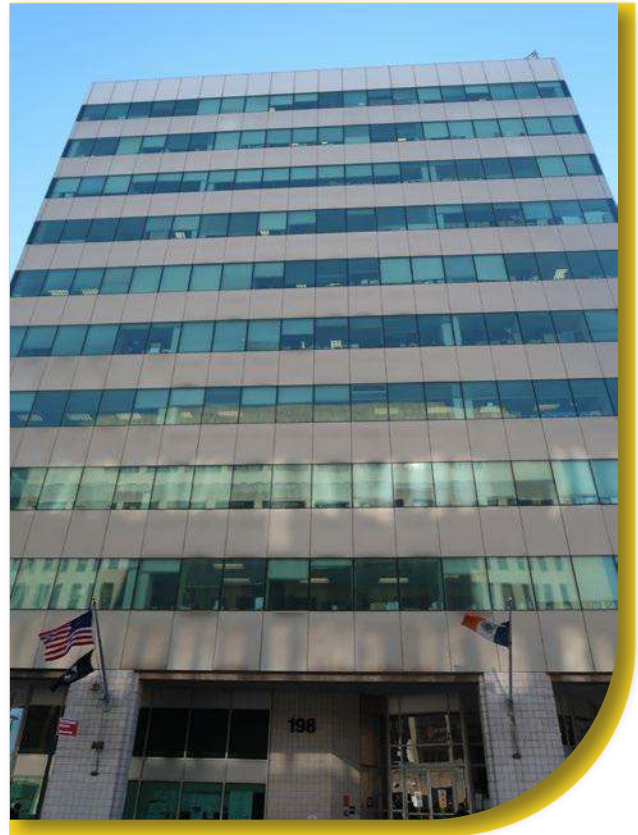
**The Human Resources Unit oversees the hiring of the Office’s Professional Staff, and recruits managerial, administrative and clerical personnel.** The Unit also handles labor relations.

## Recruitment Bureau

**This Bureau oversees the hiring of Assistant District Attorneys and Professional Staff, as well as the recruitment for lateral and high-level positions.** Among those hired last year were 61 new Assistant District Attorneys who made up the Fall Class of 2020. Legal Recruitment also manages the Office’s internship program.

## Support Staff Training & Professional Development

**This Unit provides numerous sessions of training and keeps Professional Staff up to date on administrative procedures and practices.** During the COVID-19 pandemic trainings were held virtually.





# Operations and Budget Division

## DAT/Complaint Room/Arraignments

**This Unit, which runs 24 hours a day**, 365 days a year, works with all divisions and has dozens of assigned Assistant District Attorneys and Professional Staff who handle cases at the inception. ADAs and Professional Staff in the Complaint Room must craft and submit cases within 24 hours after an arrest is made. This includes interviewing witnesses and NYPD Officers, and analyzing evidence. Cases are then sent to Arraignments.

### Bronx County Arraignments January 2020–December 2020:

<b>Felony</b> .....	<b>4,410</b>
<b>Misdemeanor</b> .....	<b>12,253</b>
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>16,663</b>

*Source: Division of Criminal Justice Services*



## Operations

**This Unit is responsible for maintenance** in the BXDA building, offices in the Hall of Justice, Criminal Court, and a newly opened office space on 161st Street. During the pandemic, the Unit constantly cleaned areas, installed plexiglass where needed, and installed hand sanitizer dispensers to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Operations also manages the switchboard, mail delivery, moving of furniture and case file storage.



# Executive Staff

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

# Legal Managers

Alternatives to Incarceration	<b>John Vallely</b>	Organized Criminal Activity	<b>Louis Mendys Jr.</b>
Appeals	<b>Nancy Killian</b>	Public Integrity	<b>Omer Wiczak</b>
Arraignments/Complaint Room	<b>Rene Aponte</b>	Recruitment	<b>Sherry Marcus Cohen</b>
Asset Forfeiture	<b>Lisa Waller</b>	Rikers Island Prosecution	<b>Francis Alberts</b>
Child Abuse/Sex Crimes	<b>Rachel Ferrari</b>	Special Investigations	
Civil Litigation	<b>Beverly Ma</b>	and Narcotics Investigation	<b>Craig Cecchini</b>
Conviction Integrity	<b>Risa Gerson</b>	Technical Investigation	<b>Peter Kennedy</b>
Crime Strategies	<b>Vladimir Kocheulov</b>	Trial Bureau 20	<b>Meredith Holtzman</b>
Domestic Violence	<b>Agata DiGiovanni</b>	Trial Bureau 30	<b>Julie DeLeon</b>
Discovery Compliance	<b>Nancy Strohmeier</b>	Trial Bureau 40	<b>Catherine Davis</b>
Economic Crimes	<b>Herman Wun</b>	Trial Bureau 50	<b>Lawrence Piergrossi</b>
Grand Jury	<b>Nina Carlow</b>	Trial Bureau 60	<b>Susanna Imbo</b>
Homicide	<b>Christine Scaccia</b>	Trial Bureau 70	<b>Jeffrey Glucksman</b>
Human Trafficking	<b>Stephen Knoepfler</b>	Violent Criminal Enterprise	<b>Julie Trivedi</b>
Litigation Training	<b>Justin Braun</b>		

# Administrative Managers

<b>Frank Chiara</b> Chief of Detective Investigators
<b>Niesha Roberts</b> Chief Officer Human Resources
<b>Jessica Rosado</b> Director of Crime Victims Assistance
<b>Barbara Robles-Gonzalez</b> Director of Litigation Training

<b>Cindy Redcross-Aguam</b> Director of Planning & Analysis
<b>Raymond Vazquez</b> Chief Information and Technology Officer
<b>Meiling Viera-Delgado</b> Director of Community Affairs

<b>Marques Johnson</b> Director of Operations
<b>Jeannette Rucker</b> Chief of Professional Staff Training and Development
<b>Polly Puner</b> Professional Responsibility



# BXDA Family



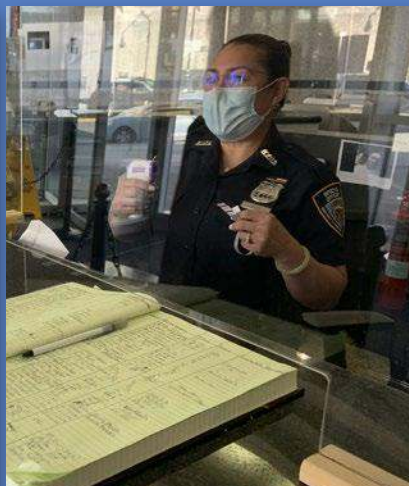
**BXDA Staff at Gracie Mansion  
Black History Month Celebration, February 2020**



**Staff of the Community Affairs Unit at a resource fair,  
September 2020**



**DA Clark and Detectives wear purple  
during Domestic Violence Awareness Month**



**BXDA Staff following COVID-19 check-in  
protocols in office lobby, October 2020**



**Staff of the Trial Division at BXDA March to  
End Gun Violence, July 2020**



**DA Clark, BXDA alumni of Brooklyn Law School and Dean Michael T. Cahill at a gathering on February 4, 2020**





Bronx District Attorney's Office  
198 East 161 Street  
[bronxda.nyc.gov](http://bronxda.nyc.gov)