



OFFICE OF THE
BRONX COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
DARCEL D. CLARK

2022 Annual Report



“Pursuing Justice With Integrity”



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A Message from Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark



It is my pleasure to present the 2022 Annual Report, a record of our work for the people of the Bronx.

We continued to be relentless against violent crime and enhance our services for victims, and we began new initiatives to prevent retail theft and catalytic converter theft. We dismissed hundreds of old cases connected to a disgraced narcotics detective—justice with integrity.

I worked incessantly with our city, state and federal and community partners on gun violence. Our Office was laser-focused: prosecuting defendants, helping victims and engaging with the community to generate awareness and further prevention.

Last July we initiated the Violence Response Program, to address victims of non-fatal shootings and serious assaults, to establish an immediate connection to our Office even before an arrest. Crime Victims Assistance Bureau advocates provide a trauma-informed approach and psychological first aid.

Last year, there were 100 fewer shootings; still 484 people were shot. Fifty of those were 17 years old or younger.

The Bronx suffered 131 homicides; 17 fewer homicides than in the previous year.

Bronxites were increasingly affected by property crimes. Most notably, Retail theft harms the storeowner, employees and Bronx residents who lose local businesses and resources, which leads to blighted communities. Our Crime Strategies Bureau launched an initiative to combat retail theft by serial shoplifters by meeting with mom-and-pop store owners as well as representatives from big box stores. In December, I took part in the Mayor's Retail Theft Summit, where all stakeholders gathered to address this serious issue.

Our Investigations Division and Detective Investigators focused on the explosion of catalytic converter thefts. They partnered with the NYPD to hold a free event for vehicle owners to have an ID number put on the converter, so auto parts shops will know the converter is stolen. More than 350 drivers brought their vehicles to Orchard Beach parking lot for this deterrence measure.

In June, we held the first Bronx Mental Health and Criminal Justice Summit, to find solutions to the mental health crisis in our Bronx communities.

Our yearly Child Safety Fair, 5K Against Gun Violence, 5K Against Domestic Violence, and other community events drew hundreds of participants, showing that Bronxites care and want to be involved.

You are why I do this work. Thank you for the privilege of being your District Attorney.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darcel D. Clark".

Darcel D. Clark
Bronx District Attorney

From Crime Victim to Survivor: The Heart of Our Mission



Ending the cycle of violence is the purpose of the Bronx District Attorney's Office

But until we accomplish that, we are here for the victims—as soon as possible after the crime occurs, and for however many weeks or years are needed to help them make the journey from victim to survivor.

Our Crime Victims Assistance Bureau (CVAB) is constantly enhancing services, with specialty advocates and therapists for sex assault, domestic violence, human trafficking and elder abuse. Homicide advocates are embedded within NYPD's Bronx Homicide Squad, and contacts homicide victims' families usually within 24 hours of the incident.

In July 2022, we enacted another innovative approach, to address the loss of a generation of young people of color.

Last year, 50 people 17 years old or younger were shot in the Bronx, six of them fatally. Many of the wounded did not cooperate in a case out of fear, or because they wanted to retaliate, and other reasons. They, their families, and their communities were in a vicious cycle of violence and human wreckage.

The Violence Response Program engages victims of non-fatal shootings and serious assaults and their families soon after the crime occurs (usually within

48 hours), to provide an immediate connection to our Office and comprehensive services to the victims and their families, even before an arrest is made.

The advocates establish contact to provide a victim-centered trauma-informed approach and psychological first aid. Cooperation with the investigation and prosecution of the crime is not required to receive services but we hope immediate connections to the investigating ADAs and resources will encourage cooperation.

Last year VRP advocates reached out to individuals/families in 65 non-fatal shootings and serious crimes. Forty-nine people accepted services like safety assessments by our Detective Investigators, relocation assistance, therapy referrals, criminal justice system navigation and court accompaniment. Advocate outreach or follow-up services totaled 891.

Overview of Crime in the Bronx

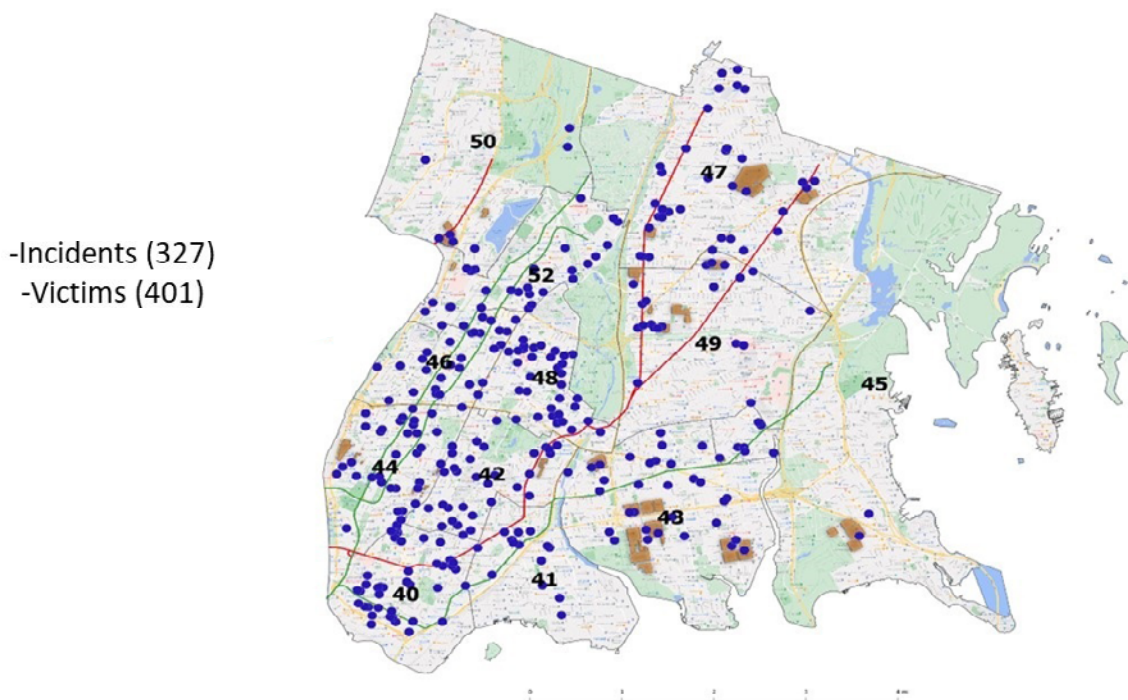
The Bronx saw a slight decrease in homicides, with 131 murders in 2022 compared to 148 in 2021. Rape incidents increased in 2022, with 653 incidents compared to 622 in 2021. The number of robberies, auto grand larcenies, and burglaries each saw an increase of nearly 30%. Overall, the Bronx saw a 21% surge in crime complaints in 2022 compared to 2021.

Index Crime Report

	Bronx County			City-Wide		
	2022	2021	% 1 Year ('22-'21)	2022	2021	% 1 Year ('22-'21)
Murder	131	148	-11%	438	488	-10%
UCR Rape*	653	622	5%	2587	2463	5%
Robbery	5163	4048	28%	17411	13872	26%
Felony Assault	7508	6342	18%	26061	23064	13%
Burglary	2892	2259	28%	15745	12879	22%
Grand Larceny	8061	7061	14%	51566	41189	25%
Grand Larceny Auto	4008	3097	29%	13750	10412	32%
Total	28148	23321	21%	126588	103404	22%

Data from NYDP CompStat and CSB

2022 Non-Fatal Shootings

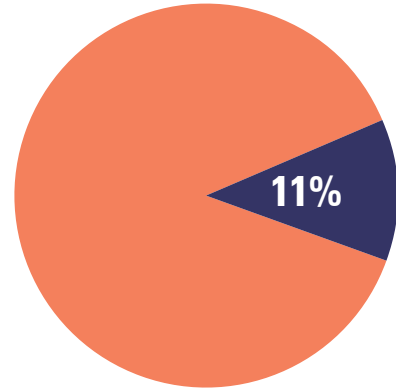
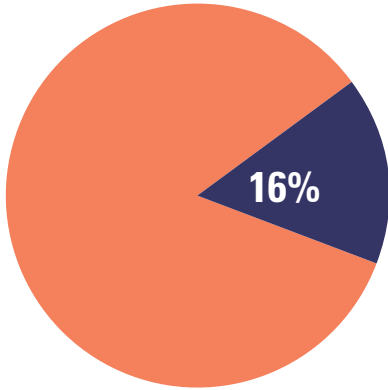


Persons 17-and-Under Involved in Homicides, Non-Fatal Shootings and Shots Fired Incidents

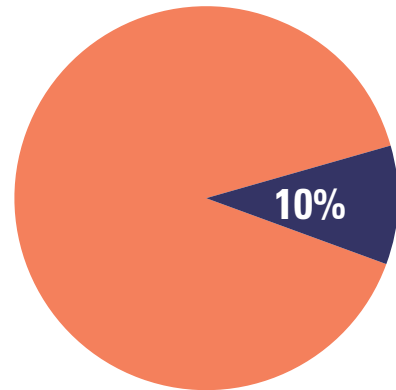
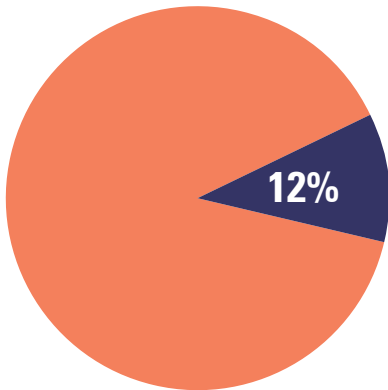
Defendants

Victims

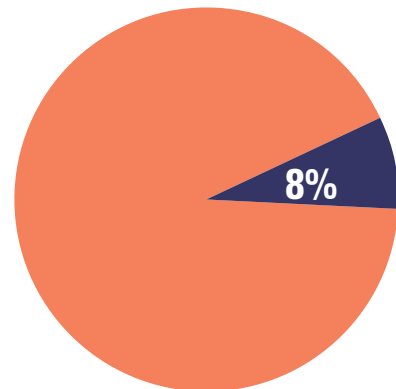
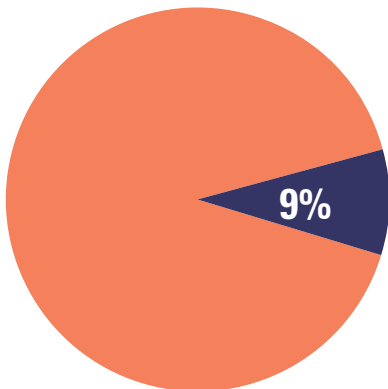
2022



2021



2020



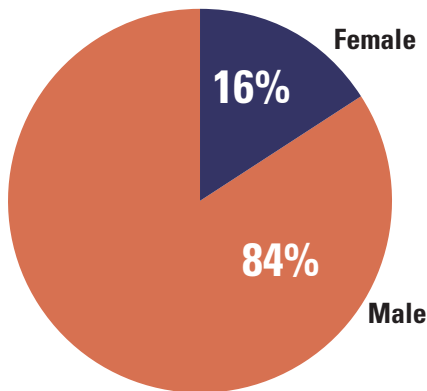
CSB Data

Trial Division

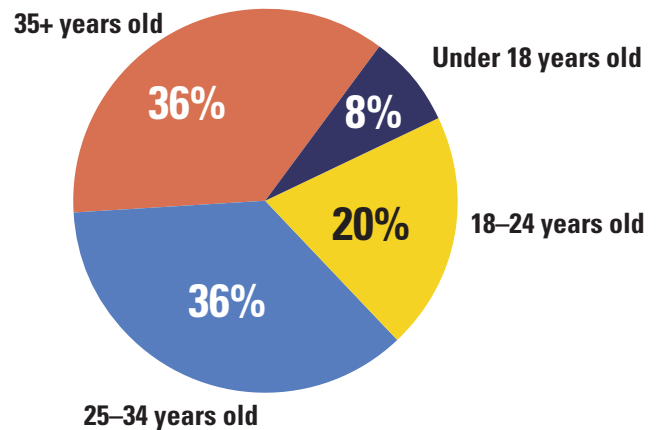
In 2022, the Trial Division **indicted 2,123** cases.
The Trial Division **charged 12,676** cases,
including **7,275 misdemeanors** and
2,572 unindicted felonies.

Homicide Victims: Demographics

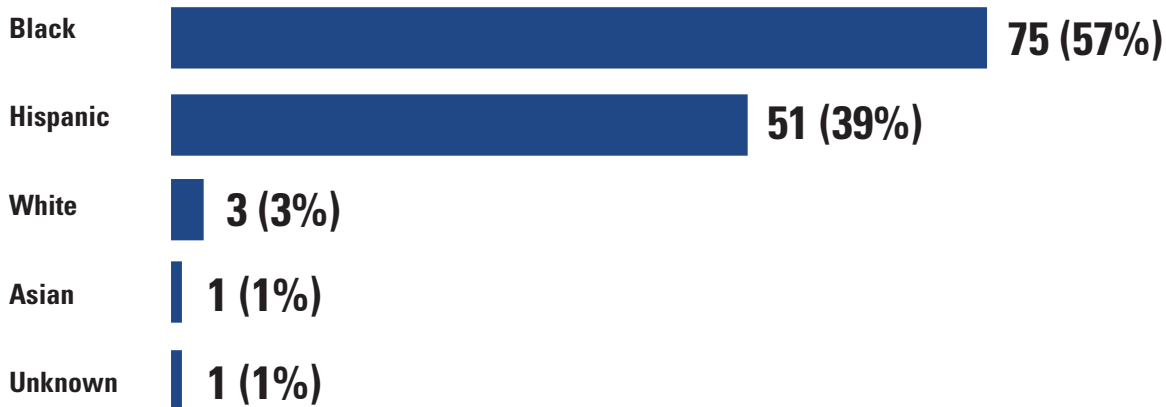
Gender



Age



Race



Total Victims: 131

Homicide Bureau

CASES OF NOTE:

Justice for Junior

Diego Suero, 33, and

Frederick Then, 24, leaders of the “Los Sures” set of the Trinitarios gang, were sentenced to 25 years to life in prison on September 16, 2022 for their roles in the June 20, 2018 fatal stabbing of Lesandro “Junior” Guzman-Feliz, 15.



The defendants instructed their members to carry out violent acts, which resulted in the killing of Junior. They were found guilty of second-degree Murder by a jury after a four-week trial.

Six other defendants pleaded guilty to first-degree Manslaughter in the winter of 2022. Danilo Payamps Pacheco, 26, Ronald Urena, 33, Jose Tavarez, 26, Danel Fernandez, 26, Luis Cabrera Santos, 29, and Gabriel Ramirez Concepcion, 30, were sentenced for their roles in the attack by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Ralph Fabrizio in January 2023. Fernandez was sentenced to 18 years in prison, Urena and Tavarez



DA Clark and Homicide Counsel Morgan Dolan with Junior's mother after the sentencing of defendants on September 16, 2022

were sentenced to 15 years in prison; and Concepcion, Santos and Pacheco were sentenced to 12 years in prison. All were sentenced to five years' post-release supervision.

District Attorney Clark said:

“ These six defendants, members of the Los Sures Trinitarios set, chased Lesandro ‘Junior’ Guzman-Feliz and dragged him out of Belmont bodega where he was stabbed by five other defendants. Their unconscionable actions led to the death of the 15-year-old boy. The shocking viral video of the attack left the Bronx community—and the world—horrified at such complete disregard for human life. Our prosecution against all 13 defendants involved in the murder ends today. It brings closure in the criminal justice aspect but does not bring an end to the pain Junior’s family and friends still suffer. They will never recover from their immense loss, but we hope it brings some peace to the community in knowing that these defendants will be in prison for years. ”

Youths Indicted for Child's Murder

Matthew Godwin, 15, and Omar Bojang, 18, were indicted on second-degree Murder, first-degree Manslaughter, Attempted Murder, and Attempted Assault in the first degree for the May 16, 2022 murder of innocent bystander 11-year-old Kyhara Tay and attempted murder of their 13-year-old intended target. Godwin was also charged with two counts of second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon. The defendants were allegedly riding on a motorized scooter driven by Bojang, with Godwin on the back, and Godwin allegedly fired multiple shots at a 13-year-old boy on the corner of Westchester Avenue. One of the bullets struck Kyhara in the stomach, causing her death.



District Attorney Clark said:

“ This case is nothing less than a catastrophe of our young people. A beautiful little girl Kyhara, standing outside a nail salon in the afternoon, allegedly killed by a 15-year-old shooter, as he was driven on a scooter by an 18-year-old, and they were aiming for a 13-year-old boy. These ages make you weep. As I keep saying, we are losing a generation in the Bronx and we must act now to save our young people. ”

Jeremiah Ryan, 17, was indicted on second-degree Murder, two counts of Attempted Murder in the second degree, first-degree Manslaughter, two counts of first-degree Assault, and two counts of second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon for the April 8, 2022 fatal, broad daylight shooting of 16-year-old Angellyh Yambo, and for injuring two high school students. The defendant fired at least six shots with a “ghost gun,” striking Angellyh in her upper back, piercing her lung and pulmonary artery, causing her death.

Twenty Alleged G-Side/Drilly Gang Members Indicted For Crimes Including Murders, Non-Fatal Shootings And Stabbings

On April 7, 2022, District Attorney Clark and then-New York City Police Commissioner Keechant L. Sewell announced an 82-count indictment involving 20 people—including four adolescent offenders—that included charges of Conspiracy, Attempted Murder, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon. The defendants, alleged members of the G-Side/Drilly gang, a subset of Bloods Sex Money Murder, allegedly carried out 32 acts of violence—mainly in the areas of East Gun Hill Road, Hull Avenue and Decatur Avenue—between September 20, 2018 and March 15, 2022. The defendants allegedly carried out shootings and stabbings, killing two people and wounding six people. “These defendants terrorized residents of the Fordham/Bedford Park neighborhoods who were forced to run for their lives as bullets flew,” said DA Clark. The defendants, who are prominent in the Drill

rap scene, allegedly boasted about the acts of violence they or their associates executed in music videos that were posted on YouTube. A total of 18 guns were seized in the investigation. Three defendants were also charged for alleged violence while held in Rikers Island.

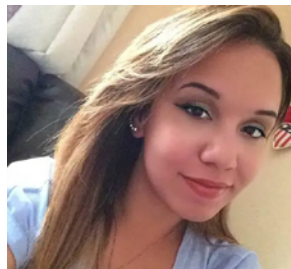


Daquan Wheeler, 34, was sentenced to 27 years

to life in prison on May 6, 2022 for the 2018 murder and dismemberment of Lisa Marie Velasquez. A jury found the defendant guilty of second-degree Murder, Tampering with Physical Evidence and Concealment of a Human Corpse. Velasquez was in the house of her friend Ciara Martinez—who was the mother of Wheeler’s child—when the defendant showed up and struck the victim in the head with a hammer at least 14 times. He then wrapped an electrical cord around her neck and strangled her to make sure she was dead. Wheeler dismembered the victim’s body using a machete and placed her remains in trash bags. Wheeler and Martinez discarded the victim’s remains in Crotona Park and in the water off Barretto Point Park. Martinez testified under a cooperation agreement and was sentenced to time served on a misdemeanor charge of fifth-degree Conspiracy on May 10, 2022.

District Attorney Clark said:

“It was a horrifying series of acts against a woman who had come to the aid of her friend, who lived with the defendant. He mercilessly struck the victim with a hammer, then strangled her with a cord. The victim’s remains were placed in trash bags and the defendant and the friend Ms. Velasquez was trying to help dumped the bags in two Bronx parks. I send my condolences to the victim’s family and loved ones who have been waiting for justice, and hope today’s sentence gives them some measure of peace during this nightmare they are living.”



Trial Bureaus

CASES OF NOTE:

Trial Bureau 40

JayQwan Byers, 24, was sentenced on July 26,

2022 to 16 years in prison and five years of post-release supervision for the unprovoked stabbing attacks of six men, two of whom were 65 and 75 years old. The incidents happened over the course of two days in 2020. The defendant pleaded guilty to six counts of first-degree Assault and was sentenced to 16 years in prison for each count, to run concurrently.



Trial Bureau 50

Alexander Wright, 49, was indicted on two counts of second-

degree Assault and third-degree Assault for attacking a NYC Transit employee on August 11, 2022. The defendant allegedly approached the victim, a station cleaner in the Pelham Bay Park train station, punched him in the face, then grabbed him and slammed him to the ground. The victim suffered a dislocated nose, broken collarbone, and other injuries, and required two surgeries to fix his collarbone.



Suspect indicted in assault on subway cleaner in the Bronx, MTA wants ban

By Eyewitness News
Friday, August 19, 2022



Tyrell Livingston, 29, was sentenced to four years in prison on September 9, 2022 after pleading guilty to second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon for having five handguns, an ammunition feeding device and high-capacity magazines in his car. Livingston was in a 2007 Mercedes Benz with dark tinted windows double-parked in a bus lane when NYPD Officers told him to move the car. The defendant told them his license was suspended. As Officers proceeded to arrest him, they found under the driver's seat a .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol loaded with seven rounds. More firearms and ammunition were found during an inventory search.



Trial Bureau 60

Shamel Rodriguez, 33, was sentenced on September 7, 2022 to nine years in prison and five years of post-release supervision after pleading guilty to second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon. The defendant robbed a man of his personal property and stole his car, recklessly driving through red lights and speeding while police pursued him for seven blocks before he crashed into a subway pillar. NYPD officers found Rodriguez in possession of a loaded .22 caliber pistol.

General Crimes Bureau (handles misdemeanors)

Jamal Sims, 37, was indicted on three counts of Leaving the Scene of an Incident Without Reporting, two counts of Right of Way, and Drivers Exercise to Due Care for striking a mother and her four-year-old son while they crossed Rosedale Avenue on September 14, 2022. The defendant allegedly struck the mother on the right side of her body and ran over the child, who sustained a broken leg. The victims required further medical treatment.

Vehicular Crimes Unit

Yeramil Alvarez, 22, was indicted on October 19, 2022 for Leaving the Scene of an Incident without Reporting, Reckless Driving, and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle for allegedly speeding and running a red light on the Grand Concourse, leading to the death of a Bronx food delivery worker in 2020. The defendant allegedly fled the scene without stopping after crashing into the victim, who was on a bicycle.

Demoy Adams, 35, was indicted on January 18, 2022 on Leaving the Scene of an Incident without Reporting, Criminally Negligent Homicide, Insurance Fraud, Grand Larceny, Offering a False Instrument for Filing, Assault and other charges. On August 28, 2021, Adams was recklessly driving his BMW 5 Series on East Fordham Road near Morris Avenue when he overtook the curb and fatally struck a pedestrian and caused injury to another pedestrian struck by debris. The defendant allegedly fled and then falsely claimed his car was stolen to obtain financial compensation.

DAILY NEWS

NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Suspect arrested for hit-and-run Bronx crash that killed single mom three months ago



Special Victims Division

Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau

The Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau (CASC) investigated approximately 2,000 cases and handled more than 700 arrests. Twenty-eight of the cases investigated were fatalities and 10 were sleep-related deaths. CASC received 2,883 referrals from ACS, and jointly investigated 1,905 child abuse allegations with the NYPD and ACS, which derived from the State Central Registry.

In 2022, CASC had more than **700 arrests**. Of those arrests, **186** were child sexual abuse cases; **275** were child physical abuse and neglect cases, and **134** were adult sex crimes cases.



CASC interview room for children

CASES OF NOTE:

Mother And Son Indicted In Death Of Julissia Batties, 7

On June 29, 2022, District Attorney Clark announced Navasia Jones, 36, and her son, Paul Fine Jr., 18, were indicted on two counts of second-degree Murder, under circumstances evincing a depraved indifference to human life; two counts of second-degree Manslaughter, and three counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child in the death of Jones' daughter Julissia Batties, 7. Fine Jr. was additionally charged with first-degree Assault, and first-degree Sexual Abuse.

On August 10, 2021 Julissia was pronounced dead at Lincoln Hospital. She was beaten and died while in the care of her mother and half-brother in their apartment. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner determined Julissia died from blunt force trauma to her abdomen, causing damage and bleeding to her internal organs. She also had multiple bruises visible on her face and body. According to the investigation, Fine Jr. allegedly sexually abused Julissia.

The New York Times

Mother and Son Are Charged With Murder in Death of 7-Year-Old Bronx Girl

Julissia Batties, who was beaten to death, had a case file with the city's child welfare agency from the day she was born.

Give this article



District Attorney Clark said:

“ It is alleged that a woman and her teenage son caused the death of her innocent, defenseless seven-year-old daughter, Julissia, in their Bronx home. Further, there are allegations that the child was beaten and sexually abused and denied medical attention. This is a disturbing case of brutality and callousness. A 10-month investigation with the NYPD led to the indictments charging the defendants with Murder. The investigation indicates that there was a failure of care throughout Julissia’s brief life. The signs of her torment were there but not acted on. We send our condolences to Julissia’s father and grandmother, who remain devastated by the loss of this beautiful, little girl. ”

Bronx Daycare Owner Indicted For Sexual Abuse

Silfredo Castillo Martinez, 32, was indicted on two counts of Predatory Sexual Assault Against a Child, two counts of first Criminal Sexual Act, two counts of second-degree Criminal Sexual Act, first-degree Sexual Abuse, two counts of Use of a Child in a Sexual Performance, two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, five counts of Promoting a Sexual Performance by a Child, and 12 counts of Possessing a Sexual Performance by a Child.

On May 3, 2022, the U.S. Secret Service and NYPD conducted a search inside Lina's Garden Daycare on Decatur Avenue, which was owned by the defendant, and seized 30 devices containing child pornography. According to the investigation, Castillo Martinez allegedly downloaded images and videos of boys ages seven to 12, and one-year-old. Investigators found a photo and video of a child that were taken inside the daycare center. The defendant allegedly sexually abused the child multiple times.

news12

Police: Norwood day care worker arrested for child pornography; 12-year-old victim attended facility

May 30, 2022, 9:54pm • Updated on May 30, 2022

By: News 12 Staff



Former Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at Montefiore

Hospital Woojin Cho, 48, of Hartsdale, NY, was sentenced on July 19, 2022 to nine months in jail for sexually abusing a 22-year-old patient. He was convicted of Forcible Touching, third-degree Sexual Abuse, and second-degree Harassment by a jury on May 25, 2022. During an appointment, Cho grabbed the victim's chest area and kissed her neck and cheek. He also touched her private area under her clothes and put the victim's hand on his private area.

Man Indicted For Sexual Attacks Against Three Women; One Victim Rescued Through Food Delivery App

Kemoy Royal, 32, was indicted on Predatory Sexual Assault, three counts of first-degree Rape, Attempted Criminal Sexual Act in the first degree, four counts of first-degree Criminal Sexual Act, nine counts of first-degree Sexual Abuse, third-degree Rape, two counts of third-degree Criminal Sexual Act, and second-degree Strangulation, Criminal Obstruction of Breathing or Blood Circulation for attacking three women during separate incidents in June 2022. The defendant allegedly raped a 27-year-old woman he met on a dating app and forced her to perform sexual acts on him. He allegedly lured the second victim, a 26-year-old woman, to his apartment, refused to let her leave and threatened to kill her and tried to force her to perform sexual acts. The third victim, a 24-year-old woman, met with the defendant in his home and Royal allegedly refused to let her leave, threatened to kill her, strangled her, and raped her. The defendant had taken her cellphone away but gave it back to her when she asked if she could order food. While on a food-delivery app, the victim sent a message to a restaurant to call the police and to send them to Royal's home. The establishment alerted the police, who responded, rescued the victim, and arrested the defendant.

NEWS

Woman rescued from hostage situation after sending a note to a restaurant with her Grubhub order

5th Annual Bronx Child Safety Fair

The Bronx District Attorney's Office, in partnership with the NYPD, Safe Horizon and NYC Administration for Children's Services, held the 5th Annual Child Safety Fair at PS 5 on April 30, 2022. Bronx families enjoyed music, sweets, and games. The fair provided safety tips and life-saving information to children ages 3 to 13 and their parents/caregivers. Participants were also able to obtain a free New York State Safe Child Identification Card, which is used by the New York State AMBER Alert and Missing Child Alert programs.



Domestic Violence Bureau

There were **13 Domestic Violence homicides** in the Bronx in 2022.

This Bureau handles cases involving intimate partner violence. The Strangulation Initiative provides services and counseling to victims who have survived choking—an indicator for homicide. Two Advocates are assigned to the program and receive all strangulation complaints through onsite NYPD Police Officers. In 2022, the program handled 335 cases and 3,712 follow-ups.



The Cyber Crime Initiative, created in 2021, prosecutes Domestic Violence cyber-crime cases, including cyber-stalking and the Unlawful Dissemination of Intimate Images. The Bureau

works with the NYPD in pre-arrest investigations and evidence gathering. Victims can report Unlawful Dissemination complaints directly to the Bronx DA's Office, through a designated email address or hotline. The Bureau handled seven pre-arrest cybercrime investigations in 2022.

CASES OF NOTE:

Oscar Alvarez, 34, was sentenced to 14 years in prison on April 14, 2022 after pleading guilty to Attempted Murder in the second degree for stabbing his fiancée, Livia Abreu, in 2018, leading to the death of their unborn child. The defendant viciously stabbed the victim, a US Army veteran who was 26 weeks pregnant, six times in the torso and chest and kept her from medical attention for a half hour. To save herself and her baby, the victim tricked the defendant by pretending to be dead and then crawled to her neighbor's apartment to call for help. The child died, and Abreu was hospitalized with injuries for approximately two weeks.

Wilson Rojas, 33, was sentenced on April 5, 2022 to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to Attempted Murder in the second degree. On August 27, 2018, the defendant broke down the door of his ex-girlfriend's apartment and stabbed her with a kitchen knife multiple times in front of the victim's two children, one of whom is the defendant's child. NYPD Officers responded to the scene and applied a tourniquet before paramedics arrived. The multiple stabbings caused massive blood loss and the victim had to undergo multiple surgeries. She also sustained nerve damage on her left arm.

Ernesto Valerio, 27, was sentenced to 20 years in prison and five years post-release supervision on November 9, 2022 for fatally stabbing his wife, Emilsy Calix, 19, inside a Bronx homeless shelter in October 2019. The couple's two-year-old daughter and five-month-old daughter were present.

Argenis Baez, 33, was indicted in July 2022 on second-degree Murder, first-degree Manslaughter, and fourth-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon for stabbing his estranged wife, who served as a NYPD Transit Bureau Officer. On June 13, 2022, the defendant went to the Grand Concourse apartment of Arianna Reyes, 31, the mother of his child, and confronted her. Baez allegedly struggled with Reyes and forced his way into her home. He allegedly stabbed Reyes eight times in the chest, leg, back, and torso with a knife.

District Attorney Clark said:

“ The defendant allegedly went to the home of his estranged wife, who served in the NYPD Transit Bureau, confronted her, then stabbed her multiple times, causing her death. She leaves behind a young child. I send my condolences to her family and extended NYPD family who lost a dedicated public servant to domestic violence. ”

Hector de la Cruz, 29, was sentenced on September 15, 2022 to 12 years in prison and five years of post-release supervision after pleading guilty to Attempted Murder in the second degree for hacking his girlfriend with a machete inside the lobby of a Grand Concourse building. On February 21, 2020, the defendant

approached Lisbeth Acosta-Ramirez, 20, and struck her on the right side of her face, her right hand, and the back of her neck, causing deep bleeding lacerations. The victim was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital and underwent reconstructive and life-saving surgery.

5K Run/Walk/Roll

The Bronx DA's Office, in partnership with the New York Yankees and the Office of the Bronx Borough President, held the 5th annual 5K Run/Walk/Roll to End Domestic Violence on October 15, 2022. More than 300 participants attended the event, which was held during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The gathering included resources and information, and celebrated the strength of survivors and honored those who lost their lives to domestic violence.



Crime Victims Assistance Bureau

The Crime Victims Assistance Unit was expanded into a Bureau in 2022, to better serve the needs of victims in the Bronx. The Bureau offers support through therapy sessions and resources and service to anyone who has been a victim of a crime that occurred in the Bronx, and victims who are Bronx residents, even if they do not have a case with us, or if years have passed since the case was closed.



CVAB 2022: Caring for Victims

- CVAB took in 6,158 new clients.
- Offered 2,405 therapy sessions.
- Conducted 30,981 follow-ups services.
- Served a total of 21,647 unique clients.

A Violence Response Program was formed in 2022, in response to the rise in shootings. The team reaches out to victims and their families of non-fatal shootings and other serious assaults within 48 hours. CVAB handles the Homicide Program, which reaches out to the victims' family within 24 hours.

CVAB also handles the Early Victim Engagement (EVE) Program, in which advocates contact domestic violence victims immediately after an arrest is made and prior to arraignment to offer supportive services and information about the criminal justice process, including whether or not the defendant has been released from jail.

The Enough is Enough initiative aims to prevent, educate, and bring awareness of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking on college campuses.

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

Tree of Angels

CVAB coordinated BXDA's 12th annual "Tree of Angels" lighting. Families and friends of homicide victims gathered to support each other through the holiday season. They placed angel ornaments on the tree in honor of their loved one. More than 120 people attended the event.



Operation Gift Giving

The Office held its annual Operation Gift Giving event in December 2022. BXDA Staff donated \$7,626 to 17 Bronx families who were victims of crime and had a closed case with the Office. Each family was given \$300-\$500 to purchase gifts for their loved ones, pay bills or for food shopping for their holiday meal.



Human Trafficking Unit

The Human Trafficking Unit investigates and prosecutes

incidents involving the exploitation of people by sexual slavery and forced labor. On average, the Human Trafficking Unit received four notifications of complaints to investigate each week in 2022. Tips came from Staff within the Office, the Child Advocacy Center, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, the Human Trafficking Team of the NYPD and the NYPD Special Victims Unit.



HTU Numbers 2022:

- HTU opened 75 investigations into human trafficking in 2022
- 3 arrests for patronizing-prostitution in 2022
- 9 arrests for prostitution-related offenses
- BXDA provided social services to 19 adult and children human trafficking victims

CASES OF NOTE:

Reginald Cooke, 33, was sentenced on May 13, 2022 to

10 years in prison and five years' post-release supervision after pleading guilty to Attempted Sex Trafficking involving a 28-year-old woman and a 15-year-old girl.

Between August 21, 2020 and October 8, 2020, the defendant took photos of the 28-year-old victim and posted them as ads on sex websites. The victim performed sexual acts with approximately 10-15 Johns per day in Cooke's apartment, or at an apartment nearby. When the victim did not abide by Cooke's rules, he would slap, punch, choke her and pull her hair. He also plied her with PCP. On August 2020, a 15-year-old girl was sold to Cooke by another pimp for \$300 and he took her to his home and refused to let her leave. During that time, Cooke coordinated meetings with Johns. As with the other victim, Cooke took pictures of her and uploaded them as ads on sex websites, and also beat her to instill fear.

Shamel Jones, 25, was indicted in June 2022 on

kidnapping and sex trafficking charges for selling teen girls for sex, and on rape charges for the attack of a 14-year-old girl. On April 28, 2022, Officers were searching for a missing 14-year-old. Staff at a Bronx hotel informed investigators the missing teen was last seen in one of their rooms with Jones. When Officers arrived, they allegedly found Jones with a 17-year-old, and a 14-year-old, who was not the missing teen they were initially searching for. They also recovered several phones containing naked images of the teens. The images were posted online, allegedly in an attempt by the defendant to traffic the two minors. Video surveillance was also recovered allegedly showing the original missing 14-year-old entering the hotel with Jones and the two girls. The defendant allegedly raped that 14-year-old at the hotel.

Albert Lenhardt, 41, was indicted on June 8, 2022 for

allegedly holding a 15-year-old girl hostage for six months, and raping and trafficking her. He was charged with first-degree Kidnapping, Sex Trafficking of a Child, Sex Trafficking, two counts of first-degree Rape, three counts of second-degree Kidnapping, second-degree Assault, third-degree Promoting Prostitution, five counts of third-degree Rape, two counts of third-degree Criminal Sexual Act, second-degree Strangulation, and two counts of fourth-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon.



Investigations Division



2022 Investigations Opened by Bureau:

Economic Crimes Bureau	77
Public Integrity Bureau	31
Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau	332
Special Investigations Bureau	34
Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau	46

Special Investigations Bureau & Narcotics Investigation Unit

CASES OF NOTE:

Deandre Lamar, 66, was arraigned on a 131-count indictment on August 11, 2022 charging Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance; Criminal Possession of a Weapon, Criminal Use of a Firearm, Criminal Possession of a Firearm, Possession of Ammunition, Unlawful Possession of Large Capacity Feeding Device, and Unlawful Possession of Certain Ammunition Feeding Devices. When executing a search warrant in his apartment, investigators allegedly found five revolvers and 12 semi-automatic pistols (three of the guns had defaced serial numbers), along with 1,100 rounds of ammunition, two bulletproof vests, nearly two pounds of fentanyl, about two and a half pounds of fentanyl and heroin mixed and approximately three ounces of morphine. Investigators also allegedly recovered \$42,000, and two extended magazines which held 21 and 34 rounds of ammunition. The Bronx DA's Special Investigations and Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureaus are handling the case.

Carlos Munoz, 43, was indicted in June 2022 on

Operating as a Major Trafficker, various degrees of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia, after an

investigation by the Bronx DA's Office and the New York Strike Force, Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. On May 12, 2022, at the defendant's home in the Van Nest section of the Bronx, investigators allegedly recovered approximately 13 kilograms of heroin and approximately 300 grams of fentanyl, which were hidden in ceiling and wall. Investigators also allegedly found a 400-lb kilo press, hydraulics to operate the press, a grinder, and a stamp. Two hundred glassine envelopes and an additional 150 grams of heroin were also allegedly recovered from the defendant's vehicle. The heroin and fentanyl found had an estimated street value of about \$1 million dollars.



Public Integrity Bureau

CASES OF NOTE:

Charlie Vasquez, 23, was indicted on January 23, 2022 on Attempted Murder, Attempted Aggravated Assault Upon a Police Officer, Attempted Assault in the first degree, second-degree Assault, Criminal Use of a Firearm, Criminal Possession of a Weapon, Criminal Possession of a Firearm, and Obstructing Governmental Administration for opening fire at two NYPD Officers in November 2021. The defendant was allegedly sitting on a stoop when police responded to a 911 call about a man with a gun. When the cops approached, the defendant allegedly took out a pistol and fired six shots at them, wounding one Officer in the arm. The other Officer struggled with the defendant in an attempt to restrain him, and the wounded Officer shot at the defendant, striking him several times.

Martinson Afari Yeboah, 30, an NYPD Police Officer, was sentenced on January 14, 2022 to one to three years in prison after pleading guilty to second-degree Manslaughter in the fatal shooting of his next-door neighbor in 2019. Yeboah, who was off-duty, was in his friend's apartment playing video games when the defendant's 9-mm semi-automatic pistol discharged, striking the victim once in the neck. Instead of performing life-saving measures, Yeboah went to his apartment, left his firearm there and changed his shoes. He then went downstairs to the lobby to wait for first responders.

Ronnie Cole, 62, was sentenced to 12 years to life in prison on December 6, 2022 after pleading guilty to second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon, related to a 2019 police-involved shooting. The defendant was trying to steal a BMW vehicle when he was confronted by a NYPD Police Officer. Cole pulled out a gun and threatened to kill him. The Officer pushed away the gun and fired at Cole, shooting him twice.

Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau

CASES OF NOTE:

Brighton Montgomery, 20, was sentenced to three years in prison and one-and-a-half years post-release supervision on August 11, 2022 after pleading guilty to second-degree Assault for attacking a NYC Department of Correction Officer and an inmate in 2021. The Correction Officer was asked to remove trash from inmate Luis Rivera's cell. Rivera fled, taking the Officer's keys and opened Montgomery's cell. Montgomery had two knives and gave one to Rivera. The two then slashed an inmate several times. The Officer was also slashed in the nose and neck.



Zaki Smith, 31, was sentenced to five years in prison and five years of post-release supervision on June 27, 2022 after pleading guilty to second-degree Assault of a NYC Department of Correction Officer at Rikers Island. Smith approached the Officer and threatened her. The Officer deployed her pepper spray as the defendant advanced towards her and she ran to the exit. When she fell to the ground, Smith repeatedly



struck her in the head with closed fists. The Officer sustained lacerations to her forehead, a swollen nose and eye sockets, as well as a herniated disc and hip tear. Body camera footage captured the attack.

Eric McKenzie, 56, was indicted on April 6, 2022 on

Attempted Murder in the second-degree, first-degree Assault and two counts of second-degree Assault for attacking another inmate in jail, causing him to suffer brain damage and seizures. The defendant, a Rikers Island detainee, allegedly assaulted an inmate in 2021 for playing loud music while he was trying to sleep. McKenzie allegedly chased the other inmate and threw him to the floor. He allegedly stomped on the inmate's neck and head, and punched him. The victim suffered traumatic brain injury and seizures, and was left unable to speak.

Peter Rodriguez, 31, was sentenced to nine years in prison

and two-and-a-half years of post-release supervision on May 4, 2022 after pleading guilty to second-degree Kidnapping. In 2018, the defendant attacked a doctor providing treatment. Rodriguez pulled on the doctor's arm tearing multiple muscles. In another attack, the same year, the defendant put another doctor who was treating him into a headlock, threatening to take him hostage. In 2019, Rodriguez barricaded a clinic door while receiving treatment from a physician assistant. He threatened to blow up the room with oxygen tanks, and to chew off the physician assistant's face. It resulted in a nearly two-hour standoff.

NORWOOD NEWS

Rikers Island Inmate Gets 9 Years for Assault & 2-Hour Stand-Off, Threatened to Chew Off Employee's Face

© May 8, 2022 Archive, Blog, Crime, Latest, News

By **SÍLE MOLONEY**

Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau

CASES OF NOTE:

Shakor Rodriguez, 23, was sentenced on November 16,

2022, to 10 years in prison and five years' post-release supervision for selling weapons to an undercover NYPD officer during an operation dubbed, "Operation Overnight Express." Rodriguez pleaded guilty to first-degree Criminal Sale of a Firearm and also received a 1 to 3 years indeterminate sentence for fourth-

degree Conspiracy, to run concurrently. The defendant sold 73 weapons, 59 of which were loaded, and 40 high-capacity magazines, including multiple "drum" magazines. Rodriguez transported the weapons in duffel bags and in some instances traveled with them by bus. The sales happened in the Bronx and Manhattan between July 2021 and December 2021.

District Attorney Clark said:

“ The defendant allegedly brought these semi-automatic weapons and high-capacity magazines up from the south, sometimes transporting them in a duffel bag by bus. Dozens of the firearms were loaded and four are considered assault weapons. The NYPD worked diligently to intercept these deadly weapons before they hit our streets. Bronxites are dying from gunfire and we cannot tolerate one more illegal gun in our community. ”





Peter Rivera, 67, was sentenced to two years in prison, two years' post-release supervision and 90 days of alcohol treatment on April 25, 2022 after pleading guilty to second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon. A search warrant was executed inside the defendant's Norwood home. Investigators recovered six completed assault-style rifles, none with serial numbers, as well as firearm components capable of being constructed into at least two other assault-style rifles. Numerous imitation pistols, unfinished receivers, and a work bench and tools for the construction of firearms were also found. The defendant purchased the weapons' parts online.

Operation Chopping Block

Dereck Velasquez, 29, aka "Chop," and Eric Colvin, 26, were indicted on 242 counts including Criminal Sale of a Firearm, Criminal Possession of a Weapon and additional charges for selling 33 firearms to an undercover officer between September 28, 2021 and February 1, 2022. The four-month investigation dubbed "Operation Chopping Block," found the defendants allegedly sold to the officer 33 firearms, 25 semi-automatic pistols, five revolvers, three assault weapons as well as 15 large capacity ammunition feeding devices, and approximately 80 grams of cocaine. Two of the guns have been connected to shootings in the Bronx and Manhattan. Many of the weapons were already loaded and were sold on the streets in broad daylight. The investigation was conducted by the Bronx District Attorney's Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau and the NYPD's DEA Firearms Task Force of the NYPD's Firearms Suppression Section, with U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's New York Division and Homeland Security Investigations New York.



Twenty-Three Alleged River Park Towers Gang Members Charged

Twenty-three alleged River Park Towers gang members were charged in three indictments with Conspiracy to Commit Murder, Attempted Murder, Attempted Assault, Criminal Possession of a Weapon and numerous other charges related to multiple shootings in and around the River Park Towers complex in the Highbridge neighborhood of the Bronx between January 2, 2020 and March 16, 2022. They committed shocking acts of violence on social media for views, including the killing of a pigeon on Facebook Live.



District Attorney Clark said:

“ These defendants allegedly engaged in gun violence, committing six shootings, one which injured a rival gang member. They allegedly fired wildly on the streets without regard for the lives of anyone else. They allegedly possessed a gun used in shootings that they posed with on social media and rapped about the violence. I thank the NYPD for their partnership in this investigation. We are doing all we can to battle the gun scourge, but more must be done to deviate young people from a life of gangs and senseless violence. ”

Economic Crimes Bureau

This Bureau investigates and prosecutes financial frauds targeting our Bronx immigrant community, and includes the Civilian Complaint Unit, which takes complaints from the public for possible investigations.

In 2022, CCU received **517 complaints**.

CASES OF NOTE:

Stephanie Antonio, 27, pleaded guilty to Grand Larceny on

September 23, 2022 for stealing \$27,600 in deposits for rent-stabilized apartments she did not deliver. A judge ordered the defendant to pay the money back or face one to-three years in prison. Between May 17, 2019 and September 30, 2019, Antonio told victims she was an employee of a property management company and that she was a licensed realtor. She was briefly employed by a property management company as a photographer and used that position to gain access to keys for apartments. The victims gave her \$2,200-\$4,000 deposits for apartments they did not get. Antonio also intimidated victims by threatening to call U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and have them deported.

Maria Garcia, 75, of Seffner, Florida, and her daughter,

Mara Garcia, 39, of Doral, Florida, were indicted on May 26, 2022, on Grand Larceny, Petit Larceny, Criminal Tax Fraud, and additional charges for swindling a 92-year-old woman out of \$840,000 from selling her Soundview home and withdrawing from her bank accounts without her knowledge. The investigation found that the victim unknowingly signed numerous documents and multiple powers of attorney enabling the defendants to allegedly access, control and open bank accounts and other financial

instruments, unbeknownst to the victim. The defendants allegedly used the money to pay for personal expenses. Mara Garcia allegedly paid off a \$18,000 dollar credit card bill and took a European vacation. Maria Garcia allegedly paid off a refinance on her home for approximately \$102,000. The defendants allegedly never paid taxes on money received from selling the stolen property.

Carmen Soto, 77, AKA Gloria Sanchez, AKA Carmen

Maldonado, was sentenced on June 21, 2022 to five years' probation after pleading guilty to second-degree Grand Larceny. The defendant collected Social Security and Human Resources Administration benefits for decades, using multiple fake identities to claim benefits, stealing nearly \$655,000. The defendant was caught after she attempted to renew her driver's license, and the Department of Motor Vehicles' facial recognition software determined the defendant had multiple identities.



Strategic Innovations Division

Crime Strategies Bureau

Through innovative technologies, data science, and other information sharing techniques, this Bureau implements strategies to reduce crime in the Bronx. CSB partners with law enforcement partners and community members to analyze violent crime trends and hold violent crime briefings.

COMBATING RETAIL THEFT

CSB launched a Retail Theft Initiative in 2022, which included numerous meetings with retail organizations, and presentations at community meetings. The Bureau also collaborated with the NYPD on handling arrests of 57 Bronx priority retail theft offenders. CSB worked with the Community Justice Bureau and the Trial Division to determine the just outcomes for the priority recidivists, resulting in 30% incarceration and 11% diversion outcomes.

On December 16, 2022, District Attorney Clark, along with the NYPD, NYC District Attorney Offices, the Office of the Attorney General and mental health and social service providers, and retail industry leaders, attended a summit held by NYC Mayor Eric Adams that focused on ways to prevent retail theft. The discussion included ways technology can be used to curb retail theft, surveillance, physical security, enhancing relationships with law enforcement, and diversion programs.

District Attorney Darcel Clark said, "Retail stores in the Bronx are being devastated by theft, which brings the threat of violence to store employees and leads to businesses closing and the loss of jobs. This summit was a concrete start to collaboration among all the stakeholders to solve this problem, which affects the community in multiple ways."

5K RUN/WALK/ROLL AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

CSB, along with the Bronx DA's Community Engagement

Unit organized the first-ever Bronx DA's 5K Run/Walk/Roll Against Gun Violence on June 4, 2022. More than 300 people attended the event, which was held during National Gun Violence Awareness Month.



Community Justice Bureau

This Bureau works with court and community

stakeholders to provide treatment opportunities, and coordinates with prosecutors to facilitate dispositions. Alternatives to incarceration programs are offered when appropriate and consistent with community safety. This includes the Project Reset: Bronx Community Justice program, which diverts individuals charged with low-level crimes from the criminal justice system, and the Heroin Overdose Prevention Education (HOPE) Program, a pre-arraignment program for individuals arrested for misdemeanor drug possession desk appearance ticket (DAT).



CJB in 2022: Cases Completed

Project Reset	185
HOPE	116
BOGAP	12

BOGAP

A dozen cases were completed through the Bronx

Osborne Gun Accountability & Prevention (BOGAP) Program in 2022. BOGAP is a first-of-its-kind program of the Bronx DA's Office and the Osborne Association for those with no previous violent felony convictions who are arrested for possessing a gun. Participants pleaded guilty to a felony charge and completed a year-long program, which included job training, therapy, mentoring, and conflict resolution. After the program was completed, the felony charge was dismissed and participants were sentenced to a conditional discharge on a misdemeanor. Through BOGAP, participants must remain arrest free for 90 days upon graduation, and if successful, they avoid the alternative of at least two years in prison.

BRONX MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

On June 23, 2022, the Bronx DA's Office held the first Bronx Mental Health and Criminal Justice Summit, gathering representatives from state and city agencies, the courts, prosecution, defense, corrections, and mental health experts and boots-on-the-ground providers of crisis care to find solutions to the emergency in our Bronx communities. There were panel discussions on community outreach and crisis care, crisis response, hearings, detention, and courts, and a prosecutor's perspective. The event, hosted at the Bronx Zoo, was held in partnership with Montefiore Medical Center.

District Attorney Clark said:

“ I declare this summit a success. This is the start of effective partnerships. This will be continued. I am not going to wait for the city to come up with a solution. We will continue to collaborate with all the organizations who took part in this summit, to come up with long-term beneficial solutions to keep the Bronx safe. ”



District Attorney Clark addressed the participants: “Each of us, from our own perspectives, has seen this heartbreaking situation unfolding in our beloved borough, not in terms of statistics but in the human beings we encounter.

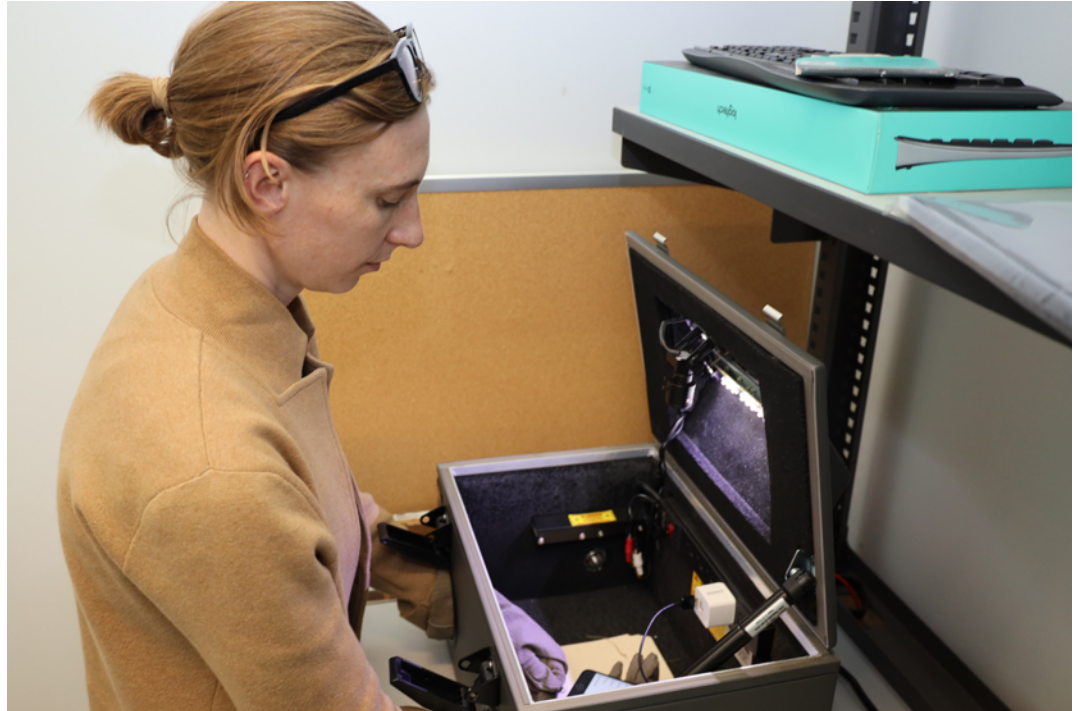
I want to see a criminal justice system in the Bronx that provides treatment and services to people with mental health disorders and collaborates with community partners and clinicians to provide mental health services BEFORE they enter the criminal justice system.”

Technical Investigations Bureau

DIGITAL FORENSIC LAB

The Digital Forensic Lab


handles forensic examinations of electronic devices and provides legal and technical support to Assistant District Attorneys. In 2022, the Lab received 182 devices for examination—144 were cell phones. The Lab also includes the Cell Site Analysis Unit, which analyzed cell site data for 60 cases in 2022.



VIDEO UNIT

The Video Unit retrieves surveillance video, takes

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

 **Video Unit in 2022:**

- Requests for Surveillance retrievals: 177
- Recordings of Witness Statements: 46
- Crime Scene Recordings: 22
- Recordings for Felony Case Statements: 41

BODY-WORN CAMERA UNIT

In 2022, the Body-Worn Camera Unit handled 213,207

videos shared by the NYPD, an increase from 175,728 handled in 2021. The NYPD has shared more than 616,000 videos with BXDA since the body-worn camera program was created in 2018.



Forensic Science Unit

This Unit handles the forensic investigation and

litigation in criminal prosecutions, conviction integrity reviews and cold cases. In 2022, the Unit received a \$500,000 grant from Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance. The grant will be used to prosecute cold cases using DNA for fiscal years 2022-2025. It will provide funds for the use of Investigative Genealogy, which could help solve dozens of difficult cold cases, and provide closure to victims and their families, while holding perpetrators accountable.



FSU Highlights from 2022:

- Received 2,343 DNA reports, including 624 requests for DNA on guns.
- Processed 2,082 requests for testing at the NYPD Lab. Among those requests 879 were firearm cases and 1,219 were controlled substance testing.
- The Unit handled 22 "new" cold cases evaluated for potential leads.
- Submitted 4 cases (total of 6 victims) for Investigative Genealogy

Strategic Planning and Analytics Unit

The Unit is responsible for data analytics of Bronx

prosecutions. In 2022, the Unit produced reports and evaluations of the BOGAP program, discovery reforms and case dispositions, arrest filings, charging decisions, gun case trends, and other topics.

The Unit obtained nearly \$4 million in grants for the Office, and competitive federal awards in the amount of \$1.5 million. The Unit also obtained from the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance a \$500,000 award for the Forensic Science Unit. Additionally, the Unit secured a \$1 million award for the Special Victims Division from the Department of Justice and increased the New York State Office of Victim Services grant to more than \$850,000.

CASE OF NOTE:

On September 8, 2022, Gregory Fleetwood, 66, was

indicted on second-degree Murder for the 1996 death of a pregnant mother, Jasmine Porter. The defendant allegedly choked Porter, 36, to death in her apartment. Her five-year-old son was in the home and was alone with her body for two days before it was discovered. DNA was recovered from under the victim's fingernails at the time. A recent investigation matched that evidence with Fleetwood's DNA, using technology that wasn't available in 1996.

NEW YORK POST

Bronx man Gregory Fleetwood charged with murder in 1996 cold case of strangled woman

By Tina Moore, Larry Colina and David Prosser

August 8, 2022 | 8:54pm | Updated



District Attorney Clark said:

“Forensic experts were able to match the DNA from the defendant with the victim who was strangled and killed in her home with her 5-year-old son present. Investigators never gave up on getting justice for her, and her alleged killer is now being held accountable.”

Information Technology Bureau

IT maintains and oversees the computer and

telecommunication systems across all Bronx DA Offices. IT provides both on-site and remote support of all technical issues ensuring the Office's ability to process cases in a timely manner. In 2022, the Department handled more than 8,000 requests from Staff. IT also developed, maintained and modernized internal applications, including programs to extract NYPD discovery and video footage.

In the Community

Community Engagement Unit

This Unit fosters strong relations between the Office and Bronx residents through programs and events.

In 2022, the Unit facilitated workshops and meetings in the community on various topics and issues, including crime stats, elder abuse, domestic violence, human trafficking, and crime victims assistance. In 2022, the Unit organized National Night Out events and several anti-gun violence events.



Bronx DA Staff at 2022 National Night Out event

Bronx Fashion Week

The Office, in collaboration with Bronx Fashion Week, hosted a “Prom Shop” for Bronx high school students. Bronx DA Staff and residents donated 400 dresses and dozens of suits, as well as fancy shoes and handbags for the students.



Saturday Night Lights


The Unit handles the Saturday Night Lights Program, which offers youths several free indoor sports, including basketball, soccer and volleyball, as well as dance, martial arts, and other activities. The program is held in multiple Bronx neighborhoods to give youths a place to play safely on Saturday nights.



General Counsel Division

Appeals Bureau

The Appeals Bureau handles all post-conviction litigation for the Office, and provides guidance and support in the areas of criminal justice and discovery reform. The Bureau responds to direct appeals from criminal convictions, appeals adverse trial court decisions, handles motion practice, answers petitions for writs of habeas corpus and addresses retention orders for those found not guilty due to mental health. In 2022, The Bureau responded to 150 direct appeals in the First Department, including appeals in the Appellate Division from Supreme Court convictions and appeals in the Appellate Term from Criminal Court convictions. The Bureau handles over 500 motions, and various other applications annually.

 **Appeals Bureau
2022 Numbers:**

- The Appeals Bureau had an overall success rate of 93.5% in state and federal courts in 2022, prevailing in 232 out of 248 cases it litigated.
- Successfully defended 14 out of 15 writs of habeas corpus litigated in the federal courts.
- Negotiated consent resolutions in 18 mental hygiene matters.



CASE OF NOTE:

On July 21, 2022, the New York State Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction of Darrell Hemphill for the fatal shooting of two-year old David Pacheco on Easter Sunday, 2006. The conviction had been overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in January 2022 after it determined that telling jurors in Hemphill’s trial about statements made by another man who was not called as a witness to testify violated Hemphill’s Sixth Amendment right to confront a witness against him. The case went back to the New York State Court of Appeals to determine whether this error was harmless or whether it affected the jury’s verdict to such a degree that a new trial was necessary. The Court determined that the evidence of the defendant’s guilt was overwhelming and that there was no reasonable possibility that statements made by the other man contributed to the jury’s verdict.



Hemphill, right, was accused of shooting and killing 2-year-old David Pacheco Jr. with a stray bullet.
Robert Kalfus/Freelance/NY Post

Civil Litigation Bureau

ASSET FORFEITURE UNIT

The Asset Forfeiture Unit ensures that defendants do not profit from criminal activities, further deterring criminal activity. The Unit participates in a federal forfeiture program and receives an equitable share of seizures made by federal law enforcement agencies with assistance from our Office. The proceeds obtained fund treatment and educational programs sponsored by the New York State Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), to supplement law enforcement revenue for all District Attorney's Offices and Police Departments and provides restitution to victims.



Asset Forfeiture Unit 2022 Highlights:

- Reviewed over 2,107 drug-related arrests for possible forfeiture and opened 117 new forfeiture cases.
- Recovered and distributed \$352,948.04 in forfeited assets pursuant to actions commenced under CPLR Article 13-A.
- Submitted 157 equitable sharing requests to the Drug Enforcement Administration and received \$191,568.43.
- Received \$45,279.62, resulting from 14 equitable sharing requests, as a result of the Office's participation in the El Dorado Task Force.

EXTRADITION AND RENDITION UNIT FOIL UNIT



In 2022 the Unit:

- Received 224 extradition notifications
- Received 199 rendition notifications
- 136 fugitives were physically returned to their wanting jurisdictions

The Unit received approximately 839 FOIL requests from attorneys, journalists, and members of the public, an increase of 33.3% over 2021.

SUBPOENA COMPLIANCE UNIT (SCU)

The Unit received over 420 document requests from the Law Department and private attorneys, as well as requests for testimony from other agencies in matters with civil implications.

PROPERTY RELEASE UNIT (PRU)

This Unit oversaw more than 2,100 requests for the return of seized property in 2022.

EVICITION UNIT

The Unit reviewed an average of 70-80 arrests per week for potential eviction matters and effectively removed unsafe conditions in 39 locations. Out of the 39, 20 resulted in orders to vacate premises, eight stipulations of permanent exclusion from the premises, five probationary stipulations, and six evictions after trial.

Discovery Compliance Bureau

The Bureau maintains the Office's databases of law enforcement accountability materials, and is responsible for broader discovery compliance issues. In 2022, the Bureau received more than 34,000 requests for information on officers. Additionally, the Bureau requested thousands of "underlying documents" from the NYPD and CCRB related to disciplinary findings for testifying officers.

Litigation Training Bureau

The Bureau administered 61 programs for Assistant District Attorneys, including 50 standalone lectures and 11 in-house extended trainings.

The Bureau produced 65 hours of standalone CLE trainings on topics including violence reduction, wellness, supervisor training, ethics, alternatives to incarceration, mental health, and diversity.



A class of 49 new Assistant District Attorneys underwent an intensive three-month instruction that included lectures, hours of observations, and practical workshops. The Bureau also handles the Misdemeanor Trial Training Program, Grand Jury Training and Felony Trial Training.

Professional Staff Training and Development Bureau

This Bureau keeps Professional Staff up to date through training and workshops. Professional Staff, which includes Trial Preparation Assistants, Legal Writers, DAT Writers and Case Discovery Analysts, are trained on various topics, including discovery compliance and Giglio. In 2022, the Bureau held six orientations for 140 new Professional Staff. Additionally, the Bureau received 70 applications for CPL 160.59 sealing motions.

Conviction Integrity Bureau

In 2022, the Bureau continued its work investigating wrongful convictions, reviewing and assessing clemency applications, and Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act (DVSJA) motions. In 2022, it closed out four long-term wrongful conviction investigations, reviewed five DVSJA motions and reviewed three clemency cases.



The Bureau continued the audit of 600 cases connected to former NYPD Detective Joseph, who worked as an undercover narcotics detective in the Bronx from 2011-2015. Franco was fired in May 2020 after a departmental trial and was indicted by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office in 2019. Charges were ultimately dismissed but Franco's credibility had been compromised. On January 20, 2022, the Bureau dismissed 133 felony cases which depended on Franco's sworn statements and testimony in the Grand Jury. In December 2022, 76 additional convictions were vacated.

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC INFORMATION

This office handles all external and internal communications, coordinates media interviews, and plans and executes press conferences for the Office. The team responds to thousands of requests each year from the media, government agencies, and the general public for court documents and other information. The office produces videos, photographs, press releases, statements, reports and other materials. It manages the Office's social media accounts and official website.

Administration Division

Detective Investigators/ Witness Notification Unit

This Unit includes 39 Detectives, five Lieutenants, a Chief and Deputy Chief. In 2022, BXDA Detective Investigators conducted 1,031 investigations, located hundreds of witnesses, effected 31 arrests, executed warrants, and extradited defendants from other states.

DIs assigned to the Office's Witness Security Program coordinated the protection, security, and relocation of many witnesses. The Unit also assessed threats with the Crime Victims Assistance Bureau.



In 2022 BXDA Detective Investigators:

- Partnered with Bronx precincts to combat auto thefts by conducting "bait car" operations with the NYPD. In 2022, 219 vehicles were recovered, estimated by the National Automobile Dealer Association to exceed \$5.9 million in value.
- Partnered with the Homeland Security El Dorado Task Force in investigations on major drug trafficking and money laundering.
- DIs investigated an array of cases, ranging from homicides, narcotics, gang activity, Rikers Island incidents, grand larcenies, housing rent scams, tax fraud, and more. The Unit enhanced 31 homicide investigations, 465 assaults, 67 special victim's cases, 53 cases in which a weapon was used, 38 robbery cases, 25 rape cases, and 20 cases of sexual abuse.

Curbing Catalytic Converter Thefts

On October 21, 2022, the Office and the NYPD teamed up to combat catalytic converter thefts in the Bronx by providing free serial number etches for cars to deter thieves. The serial number allows police to identify the vehicle the catalytic converter belongs to. In total, 357 people participated in the event held in Orchard Beach.



Human Resources

HR recruits managerial, administrative, and clerical personnel. In 2022, the Unit processed 132 Professional Staff candidates and 75 Legal Staff candidates.

Recruitment

This Bureau oversees the hiring of Assistant District Attorneys, Professional Staff, and interns. Among those hired in 2022, was a new class of 49 Assistant District Attorneys and 52 summer interns.

Equal Employment Opportunity Office

The Bronx DA's Office is an inclusive equal opportunity employer committed to recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce and providing a work environment that is free from discrimination and harassment based upon any legally protected status or protected characteristic, including but not limited to an individual's sex, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, gender identity, or pregnancy.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

This office helps sustain a workplace culture that respects individual identities and differences. Promoting fairness, equity, and community well-being without bias or discriminatory preference is a priority for our Office. DEI organized employee resource groups among staff.



BXDA Italian-American Heritage Month event

BXDA Hispanic Heritage Month event



Operations and Budget Division

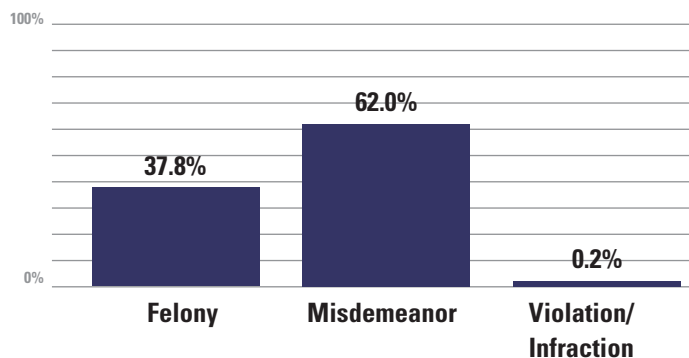


Bronx Criminal Court and Hall of Justice

DAT/Complaint Room/Arraignments

The Complaint Room/DAT Unit operates 24 hours, seven days a week. In 2022, the Office screened 34,379 NYPD arrests and prosecuted 23,794. Arrests that were not prosecuted were declined for the following reasons: declined by prosecutor, consolidated with another arrest, or deferred awaiting additional evidence or information. Defendants who were given a Desk Appearance Ticket (DAT) came to court at a later date. In 2022 7,838 arrests were DATs.

Proportion of Arraigned Cases



Grand Jury Bureau

In 2022, the Grand Jury Bureau processed on average 188 indictments per month and managed an increase of approximately 15% in indictments from 2021.



Grand Jury in 2022:

- 2,291 cases were voted
- 2,258 indictments
- 2,708 defendants indicted
- Opened 242 investigations for the obtaining of So Ordered Subpoenas Duces Tecum.

Operations

Operations is responsible for the maintenance in the BXDA building, offices in the Hall of Justice and Criminal Court, and in another building on 161st Street. Operations is in charge of the switchboard, mail delivery, moving of items and furniture, and keeps the Office in compliance with COVID-19 protocols.



Executive Staff

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

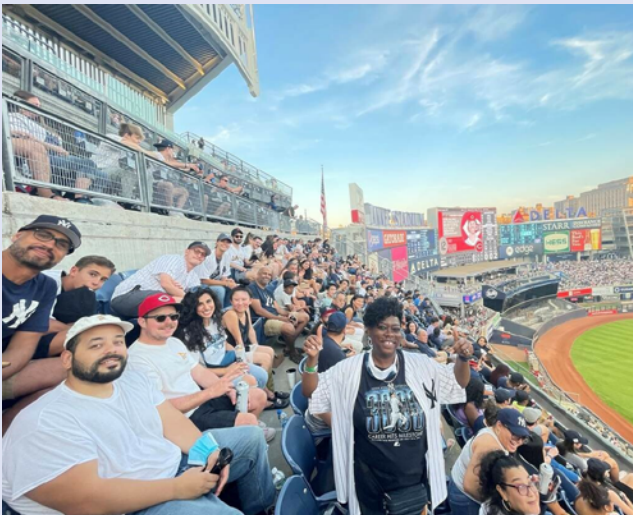
Legal Managers

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

Administrative Managers

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

BXDA Family



BXDA Staff at baseball game in Yankee Stadium



BXDA Court Reporters observe Denim Day



Staff in the 2022 5K Run/Walk/Roll Against Domestic Violence



Staff in the BXDA Annual Picnic



Staff participating in the BXDA Traveling Postcards Project to raise awareness about gender-based violence



Staff participate in the Holiday Ugly Sweater Contest/Dessert Party



Intelligence Analyst Alexandra Ragusa of the Crime Strategies Bureau receiving the Superior Impact Award from Homeland Security in May 2022



DA Clark and the Bronx DA's Office receiving the 2022 Robert S. Tucker Prize for Prosecutorial Excellence from The Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University on April 26, 2022



BXDA staff and their families at the Bronx Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk at Bay Plaza Mall



BXDA Holiday Party, December 2022



BXDA Staff at the 2022 Child Safety Fair



BXDA Executive Staff



Bronx District Attorney's Office
198 East 161 Street
bronxda.nyc.gov