

2023 Annual Report

OFFICE OF THE BRONX COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
DARCEL D. CLARK

Pursuing Justice With Integrity





Table of Contents

A Message from Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark 1

Justice Never Expires 2

Overview of Crime in the Bronx. 4

Trial Division. 6

Special Victims Division 10

Investigations Division 17

Strategic Innovations Division 22

General Counsel Division 25

Administration Division 27

Operations and Budget Division 29

In the Community 30

Executive Staff 33

Legal Managers 33

Administrative Managers 33

BXDA Family 34

The Beautiful Bronx 36

A Message from Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark

I am honored and humbled to have been reelected to a third term as your District Attorney. It capped a year of many challenges and triumphs in our Office's service to the people of the Bronx, as evidenced in the 2023 Annual Report.

We accomplished several "firsts" last year as we pursued justice with integrity. We employed New York's first use of Investigative Genetic Genealogy to solve two "cold cases," indicting a man for raping two women more than 20 years ago. We brought the first case in the Bronx charging Manslaughter and Criminally Negligent Homicide in a building construction fatality. Our first group of participants in the innovative Bronx Osborne Gun Accountability and Prevention (BOGAP) initiative graduated after completing the rigorous gun diversion program. We held our first Youth Summit, which drew dozens of teens and young adults who want to make a difference.

We continued to work with our law enforcement and community partners to address the seemingly intractable gun violence in our communities, by indicting gangs, prosecuting 1,200 firearm possession arrests, holding awareness events and marches, and continuing to expand and hone services for victims.

Last year saw 92 fewer shootings, so we continue the downward trend, yet 375 people were shot—30 of those were 17 years old or younger—which is intolerable.

Our community suffered 121 homicides, down from 131 in 2022, but still such a terrible toll.

We continued to address fraud, retail theft and auto crimes that plague Bronxites. The Investigations Division prosecuted deed fraud and immigrant fraud.

The General Crimes Bureau made retail theft a priority in 2023 and assembled a task force of eight designated Assistant District Attorneys to prosecute priority offenders.



Our Detective Investigators worked with NYPD and recovered 264 stolen vehicles estimated by the National Automobile Dealer Association to exceed \$7 million in value.

Our annual Child Safety Fair, 5K to End Domestic Violence, and Crime Victims' Tribute provided uplifting experiences and inspiring resilience.

I enthusiastically look ahead to another four years of serving you, another opportunity to ensure safety and fairness in our wonderful Bronx.

Darcel D. Clark

Darcel D. Clark
Bronx District Attorney

New York Law Journal



Justice Never Expires



Giving a rape victim the news that she has been waiting to hear for 22 years: her attacker has been arrested.

Vacating the wrongful murder conviction of a man who spent 26 years in prison due to his lawyer overlooking key evidence.

Convicting a man who fatally stabbed his wife in front of their 9-year-old boy back in 2010, with the help of the now 22-year-old son's testimony.

Whether it is prosecuting a violent crime or clearing a person's name so they can better their life, our dedicated and compassionate attorneys are determined to attain justice for victims and fairness for defendants, no matter how long it takes.



On December 14, 2023 Jancys Santiago, 48, of Florida, was arraigned on separate indictments for raping a woman in the Bronx and a woman in Manhattan, two decades ago. New DNA technology—Investigative Genetic Genealogy—led to the suspect in the brutal sex assaults.

District Attorney Clark said:

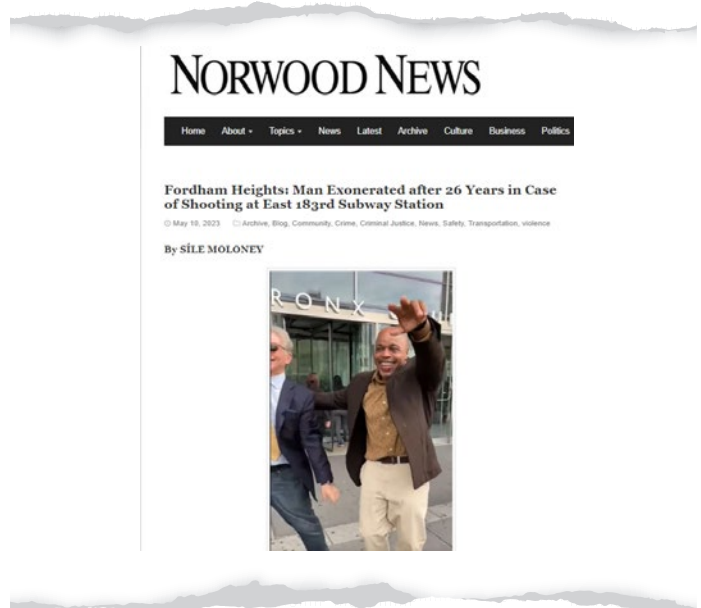
“ [The technology] will help solve all sorts of cold cases, not limited to murders, and hold perpetrators accountable. ”

Justice Never Expires

On July 10, 2023, Hector Ramirez, 42, was sentenced to 18 years in prison after a jury found him guilty of first-degree Manslaughter for fatally stabbing his wife, Ella Zamora, in front of their 9-year-old son in 2010. Zamora died from a stab wound to the chest at the hospital. The defendant had fled the state for several years and was apprehended in Las Vegas in 2022. The son compellingly testified at trial at the age of 22.



On May 10, 2023, a Bronx judge vacated the Attempted Murder conviction of Norberto Peets who served 26 years in prison, after investigations by the Conviction Integrity Bureau and the Innocence Project found that he had been wrongfully convicted due to ineffective defense counsel. Peets was found guilty of shooting two people on September 29, 1996, in the University Heights section. Reinvestigations found that Peets' trial attorney had not adequately investigated his case, overlooking key evidence that pointed to an alternate suspect and discredited the eyewitness testimony that had convicted him.



On February 3, 2023, Christopher Gonzalez, 41, of Naples, Florida, was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison for the rape and strangulation murder of Dora Del Valle in a Van Nest apartment in 2000. The case was solved in 2017 when DNA and a fingerprint from the crime scene were matched to him. Del Valle, 19, was strangled with a telephone cord. The DNA hit also matched the defendant to a 2005 cold case murder in Westchester County.



Overview of Crime in the Bronx

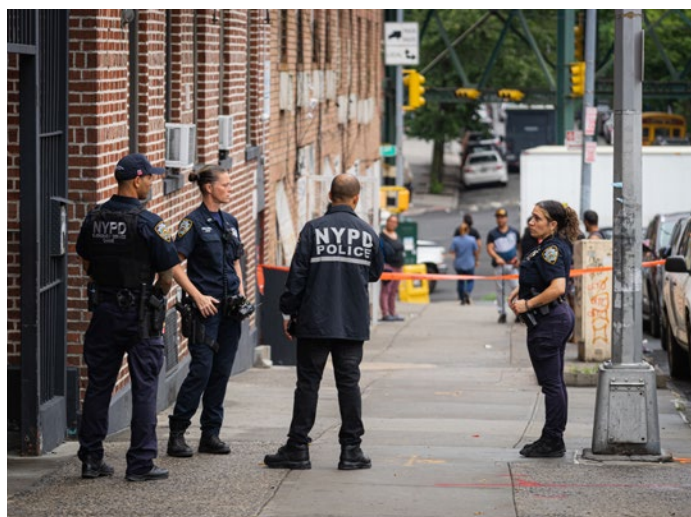
The Bronx experienced decreases in all the major crimes except **Felony Assaults (up 10%)** and **Grand Larceny Auto (up 27%)**. It remained a setting for gun violence, with 375 people shot.

Our community suffered 121 homicides, compared to 131 in 2022. Overall, crime complaints decreased by six percent.

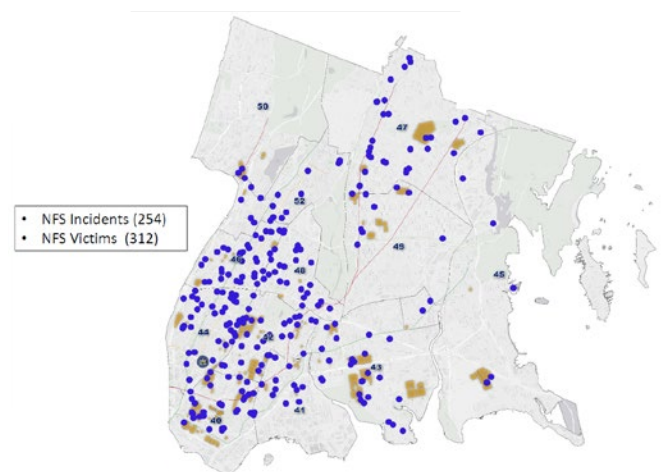
Index Crime Report

	Bronx County			City-Wide		
	2023	2022	% change	2023	2022	% change
Murder	121	131	-8%	391	438	-11%
UCR Rape	651	653	0%	2,422	2,587	-6%
Robbery	4,988	5,163	-3%	16,910	17,411	-3%
Felony Assault	8,260	7,508	10%	27,876	26,061	7%
Burglary	2,890	2,892	0%	13,773	15,745	-13%
Grand Larceny	8,118	8,061	1%	50,586	51,566	-2%
Grand Larceny Auto	5,107	4,008	27%	15,795	13,750	15%
Total	29,844	28,148		126,786	126,588	

Data from NYPD CompStat and CSB



2023 Bronx Non-Fatal Shootings



Data from NYPD CompStat and CSB

2023 Bronx Demographics Statistics

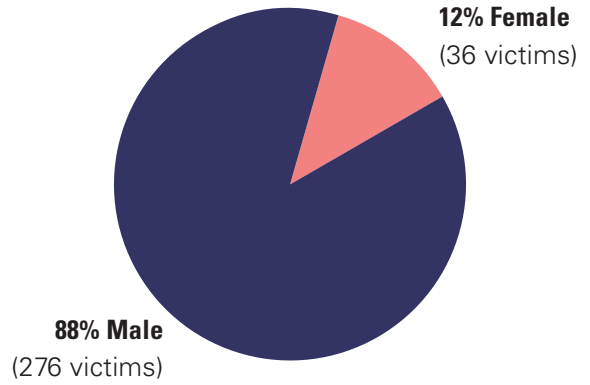
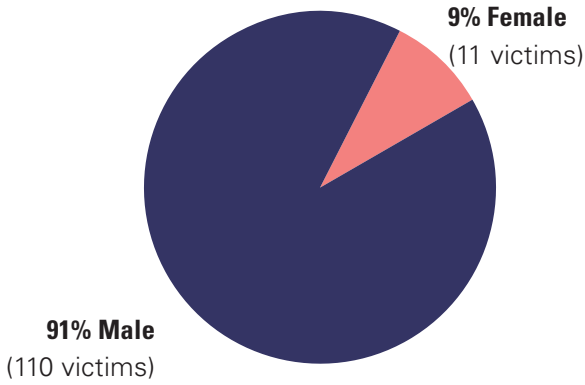
2023 Homicides

118 Homicide Incidents
121 Homicide Victims

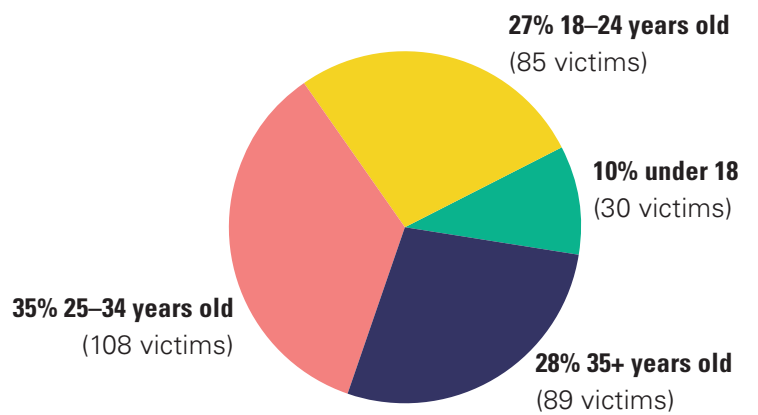
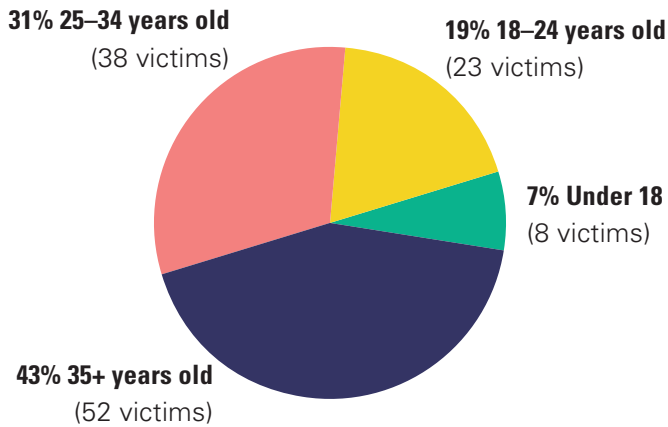
2023 Non-Fatal Shootings (NFS)

254 NFS Incidents
312 NFS Victims

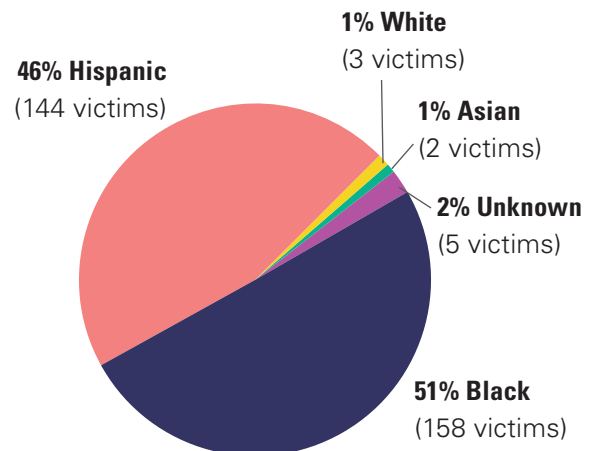
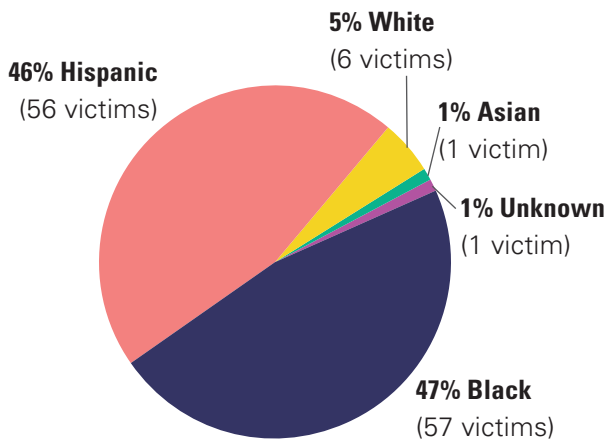
Gender



Age



Race



Trial Division

In 2023, the Trial Division indicted 1,971 cases and charged 4,475 misdemeanors. The Trial Division handled nearly 15,000 new cases including 2,400 violent felonies. The number of trials increased by approximately 20% in 2023 with the Homicide Bureau bringing 38 cases against 40 defendants to verdict, obtaining 105 guilty pleas. For the General Crimes Bureau, nearly a third of its cases were assaults or assault related.

Trial Division Trials for 2023

BUREAU	HOMICIDE	GCB	TB30	TB40	TB50	TB60	TOTAL
Trials	38	8	3	5	8	15	77

Homicide Bureau

CASES OF NOTE:

Jose Gonzalez, 31, was sentenced on April 26, 2023, to life in prison without parole for killing FDNY Emergency Medical Technician Yadira Arroyo by running her over her with her ambulance in March 2017. Gonzalez stole a backpack from a young man who flagged down Arroyo and when the mother of five got out of the vehicle and approached the defendant he jumped into the driver’s seat and hit her, pinning her under the vehicle. Gonzalez was convicted by a jury of first-degree Murder. District Attorney Clark said, “The sentence closed a long and difficult chapter for the victim’s family and her FDNY colleagues, who have waited for justice for six years.”



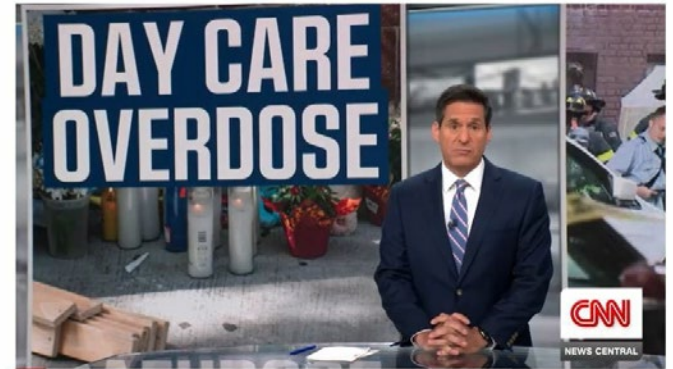
Bronx Daycare Provider, Her Husband and His Cousin Indicted for Murder, Manslaughter in Fentanyl Poison

Grei Mendez, 36, Felix Herrera Garcia, 34, and Carlisto Brito, 41 were indicted for second-degree Murder, first-degree Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, second-degree Manslaughter, four counts of first-degree Assault, five counts of second-degree Assault, second, third and fourth-degree Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance and four counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child. On September 15, 2023, four children were exposed to fentanyl stored at a daycare center in Mendez' home, resulting in the death of 22-month-old Nicholas Domenici and the hospitalization of an 8-month-old girl, her 2-year-old brother and another 2-year-old boy.



Bronx day care provider and 2 others indicted on murder charges in 1-year-old's death. The boy's father gives a gut-wrenching statement

By Rob Feltzer, Jason Hanna and Holly Van, CNN
 3 minute read · Updated 12:48 PM EDT, Fri October 6, 2023



District Attorney Clark said:

“ This is a catastrophe. Our sorrow is matched only by outrage because these babies were shields to protect a narcotics operation. Nicholas’ death was entirely—excruciatingly—needless and avoidable. We will get justice for him, the other children, and their families. ”

Antonio Robinson, 56, was sentenced July 31, 2023, to 25 years to life in prison for fatally shooting his wife and stepson in their apartment in 2016. Robinson walked into his stepson’s room and shot him twice in the face. Then he went into his wife’s room and shot her multiple times. Following the shootings, the defendant attempted to start a fire in the home by opening the gas jets. He told neighbors that someone killed his wife and stepson.

Trial Bureaus

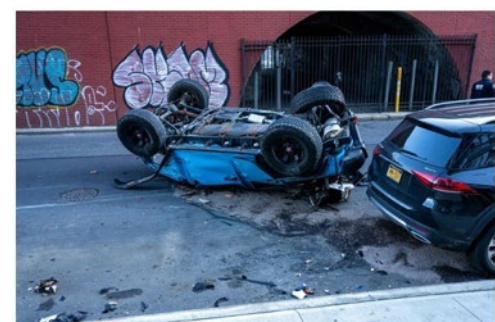
CASES OF NOTE:

Trial Bureau 30

Freddy Martinez, 24, was sentenced on April 18, 2023, to two to six years in prison for speeding while drunk on the Major Deegan Expressway and crashing into another vehicle, causing it to flip over the Expressway and land upside down on the street below, killing the driver. Martinez was driving at approximately 104 miles per hour while his blood alcohol level was twice the legal limit. The defendant pleaded guilty to second-degree Manslaughter.

1 dead, 1 arrested after crash knocks Jeep off Major Deegan Expressway in the Bronx

By ROSE ANNESE
 New York Daily News · Dec 13, 2023



The deadly wreck happened just after 4:43 a.m. in Mott Haven, near E. 135th St. The Jeep and a second car, an Audi A6, were both headed south when they collided, cops said. Theodore Parisienne/New York Daily News/TNS

1 dead, 1 arrested after crash knocks Jeep off Major Deegan Expressway in the Bronx

Trial Bureau 40

Hubert Wiggs, 39, was sentenced on May 10, 2023, to 15 years in prison and five years post-release supervision for shooting at people in front of his home on East 223rd Street in Wakefield on November 23, 2021. He shot a 13-year-old boy in the neck who was walking to school at 7:30 a.m. The defendant pleaded guilty to Attempted Murder in the second-degree. He was on parole for firearm and illegal drug convictions in 2010 and was out on bail for a 2019 gun arrest.

Prosecutor outraged over release of suspect who shot 13-year-old on way to school

Wednesday, November 24, 2021



Trial Bureau 50

Richie Torres, 44, an off-duty NYC Department of Sanitation worker, was indicted on Attempted Murder in the second degree and related charges for shooting a 16-year-old who attempted to steal Torres' idling SUV on April 4, 2023. The teen was struck in his shoulder. Torres abandoned his vehicle and fled the scene on foot after the shooting. The defendant also allegedly wounded a 25-year-old innocent bystander.



Trial Bureau 60

Twelve alleged "5zly" crew members were indicted for multiple shootings across the Bronx, many in broad daylight, and the killing of an innocent bystander, and robberies in the Bronx, Queens and Manhattan in which cab drivers, elderly people, and a parole officer were targeted. Charges included Murder, Manslaughter and Attempted Murder. According to the investigation, between February 2021 and June 2023, the alleged members of the "5zly" crew of the Blood Hound Brims allegedly carried out multiple shootings against rival gang members. The incidents included the homicide of Ariel Santos, an innocent bystander, 10 non-fatal shootings, 11 robberies, and one gun possession. The defendants are between the ages of 16 and 22.



Bronx DA: 12 alleged gang members indicted for multiple shootings, robberies

District Attorney Clark said:

“ These defendants terrorized the people of the Bronx...sending Bronxites, including mothers with children, running for cover. ”



Vehicular Crimes Unit

Mom warned driver with suspended license accused of mowing down Bronx religious leader while high to stay off road



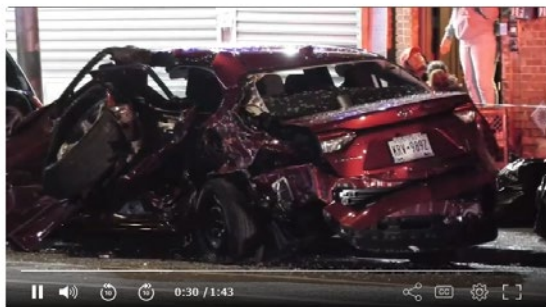
The NYPD Highway Patrol investigates after a pedestrian was fatally struck by a car on Castle Hill Avenue near Turnbull Avenue in the Bronx Sept. 25. (Gardiner Anderson for New York Daily News)

Victor Ramos, 28, was indicted for Vehicular Manslaughter and other related charges after striking a man in the Castle Hill neighborhood with his Infinity sedan on September 25, 2023. The defendant was driving nearly double the 25mph speed limit with a suspended license when he crashed into Mohamed Rahman near Castle Hill and Turnbull Avenues. The defendant admitted to investigators that he smoked marijuana within the last hour. The 67-year-old victim was a father of six children.

Robert Johnson, 43, of Mount Vernon, NY, was sentenced to 5-10 years in prison after pleading guilty to second-degree Manslaughter for running over a Bronx woman with his pickup truck in the Soundview section of the Bronx. The defendant was driving his 2012 Dodge Ram at 90-95 miles per hour in the vicinity of East 174th Street and Bronx River Avenue, when he fatally struck Carina Lopez, 31, who had just parked her car in the area.

NYPD: Driver who killed woman, hit 13 cars in the Bronx was speeding, on coke

Thursday, September 30, 2021



Woman killed while exiting car; Driver hit at least 10 vehicles; PD: A woman exiting her vehicle in the Bronx was fatally struck by a car that police say slammed into at least 10 parked vehicles Tuesday night.

General Crimes Bureau

Retail Theft was a priority in 2023. A task force of eight designated Assistant District Attorneys was assembled to prosecute priority offenders. The General Crimes Bureau has been successful in securing dispositions in larceny recidivist cases. Particularly in cases where bail has been set, the Bureau has been able to work with the Bronx Treatment Courts and defense attorneys to craft pre-indictment pleas with substantial treatment requirements. In 2023, two Bronx Assistant District Attorneys began serving on the Mayor's Retail Theft Task Force.

Our team visited a Rite Aid Store in the Belmont section of the Bronx to meet with their loss prevention team. The store was struggling to prevent theft, and they believed people were stealing from their store to resell online or to nearby businesses. In a notable case, Raymond Rivera, 25, was indicted for a string of thefts at a Target store located at 215 East Fordham Road between January and February 2023. He pleaded guilty to Petit Larceny and was sentenced to nine months in jail. The estimated value of stolen goods was nearly \$1,500.



Retail Theft Meeting with RiteAid

Special Victims Division

The Special Victims Division (SVD) handles cases affecting our most vulnerable victims—children, elderly, and the exploited. The Division delivers a thorough victim-centered and trauma-informed approach to prosecution.

Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau (CASC)

The Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau started 17 felony jury trials. CASC jointly investigated 2,221 reports of child abuse, with NYPD and ACS, approximately 120 more than 2022.

CASC in 2023

Child Fatalities Investigated:	22
Cases Investigated:	2006
Arrests:	1161
Child Homicide Arrests & Indictments:	4
Child Physical Abuse/Endangering Cases:	424
Child Sexual Abuse Cases:	192
Adult Sex Crimes Cases:	192

CASES OF NOTE:

Christopher Martinez, 20, of the Bronx was sentenced

to 20 years in prison and 20 years post release supervision for raping a woman at knifepoint. On May 31, 2022, the defendant waited near the victim’s home in Mott Haven after she dropped one of her sons off at school. Martinez approached her and robbed her at knifepoint then took her to Saint Mary’s Park where he raped her. The defendant pleaded guilty on November 6, 2023 to first-degree Rape and first-degree Criminal Sexual Act.



Keishawn Gordon, 26, of the Bronx pleaded guilty to first-

degree Manslaughter on October 12, 2023 and was sentenced to 16 years in prison and 5 years post release supervision for fatally beating his girlfriend’s one-year-old son, Legacy Beauford, in 2021. While Gordon was babysitting Legacy, he violently squeezed the baby, threw him up in the air, and struck him in the face because the child would not stop crying. The defendant also violated the child with a toothbrush.

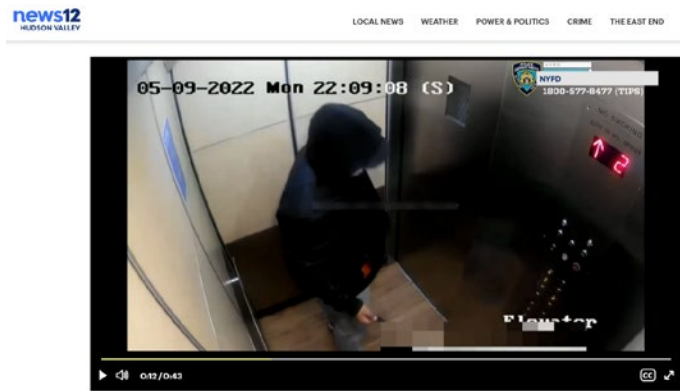
Infant with visible bruises found dead in NYC home

By Larry Celona and Kenneth Garger
Published Sep. 10, 2021 | Updated Sep. 11, 2021, 7:01 p.m. ET



Keishawn Gordon is accused of brutally assaulting and sexually abusing 1-year-old Legacy Beauford

Ramon Rotestan, 47, was sentenced to an indeterminate sentence of 16 years to life in prison for a sex attack on a woman in an elevator in a Pelham Bay building. On May 9, 2022, the defendant followed the victim into the elevator, took her money at knifepoint and sexually assaulted her. The incident was captured on surveillance video. The defendant, who had been released from prison 39 days prior to the attack, was arrested three days later. He pleaded guilty to Attempted Rape in the first degree and Attempted Robbery in the first degree.



Bronx DA: Man sentenced to 16 years to life in prison for rape
 Authorities say Ramon Rotestan, 47, followed a 40-year-old mother into an elevator inside a Parkchester apartment on the night of May 9, 2022.

Alberto Hernandez, 64, was sentenced to 15 years in prison and 10 years post release supervision after a jury found him guilty of first-degree Course of Sexual Assault Against a Child and Endangering the Welfare of a Child for sexually assaulting a girl, from the age of five until she was 11 years old at a daycare center run by his wife.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendant's heinous acts caused irreversible harm to a little girl who will now suffer for a lifetime. The defendant used his wife's home daycare business to gain access to the child. No one should ever have to endure such violence."



Damion Comager, 23, was indicted on second-degree Murder, first-degree Manslaughter, second-degree Manslaughter, Tampering with Physical Evidence, Concealment of a Human Corpse and second-degree Obstructing Governmental Administration for allegedly shaking his three-month-old daughter, Genevieve Comager, causing her death and attempting to cover it up. Comager and the baby's mother allegedly put the baby's body in bags and left her in a wooded area, near 161st Street and the Major Deegan Expressway. The parents told ACS that they had relocated to Louisiana. The parents were arrested on May 29, 2023 when the infant's grandfather called police after Comager admitted to him that he had killed the infant.



6th Annual Child Safety Fair

The Bronx District Attorney's Office hosted the 6th Annual Child Safety Fair on April 15, 2023, in the Baychester Community Center. Children ages 3 to 13 and their families learned about safety from leading experts and participated in fun activities. Some of the issues discussed included bicycle safety, bullying prevention, tips on staying safe while on the internet, safe sleeping for infants, and safe and unsafe touching. Participants were able to obtain a free NYS Safe Child Identification Card that can be used by the NYS AMBER Alert and Missing Child Alert programs. In addition, the fair allowed families to enjoy food, music, fun activities, and raffles. Fair participants utilized a "learn and play" model to educate children on safety. The Office partnered with the students of P.S. 9 Ryer Avenue Elementary School to create a Child Safety calendar.



Domestic Violence Bureau

This Bureau focuses on cases involving Intimate Partner Violence, which are handled in a dedicated Domestic Violence Trial Part. Victims engage with Early Victim Engagement advocates from the initial stages of their case.

In 2023, DV along with Crime victims Assistance Bureau, as well as the Family Justice Center, NYPD, and medical experts, participated in a training titled, "Responding to Non-Fatal Strangulation: Multidisciplinary Training on Best Practices," at Lehman College.

Domestic Violence Numbers for 2023	
DV Homicides	5
DV Cases (approximately)	5,213
Pre-Arrest Sexual Assault	48
Pre-Arrest Unlawful Dissemination (of Pictures/Videos)	7
Completed trials	7

CASES OF NOTE:

Jean Carlo Jimenez, 33, was sentenced to 63 years to life in prison for a stabbing spree which left his father and ex-girlfriend dead and his brother with catastrophic wounds. On March 1, 2020, Jimenez stabbed his brother Ramon Emilio Jimenez Jr., 38, and father, Ramon Emilio Jimenez Sr., 60, numerous times during a dispute. He later went home to his former girlfriend, Mercy Capacette, 29, and stabbed her 47 times. Ramon Jr. came to court to testify and the defendant was convicted by a jury.

Kelvin Diaz, 33, was sentenced to 20 years in prison and five years post release supervision on March 7, 2023, for fatally beating then stabbing his girlfriend Onelfy Then-Cordero, 29, multiple times in the face after an argument. The defendant pleaded guilty to first-degree Manslaughter on February 16, 2023.

Herman Brightman, AKA Nazir, 30, of Central Islip indicted

for sexually abusing, choking, and holding against her will a former intimate partner he met on the Hinge dating app. On September 28, 2023, inside the victim's apartment in the Parkchester section, they engaged in a dispute and the defendant repeatedly struck and strangled her. The defendant prevented her from leaving the apartment, subjecting her to physical and sexual abuse.

DAILY NEWS New York Times | Knife-wielding Hinge dating app serial attacker...

Knife-wielding Hinge dating app serial attacker threatened to 'carve up' NYC victims: DA (EXCLUSIVE)
Serial attacker targeted women, held without bail



Herman Brightman, an accused serial attacker who met his victims on a dating app, is behind bars.

Terrence Colson, 38, of Queens, was indicted for Attempted Murder and other charges for stabbing his ex-girlfriend and their 9-year-old daughter, as well as assaulting their 14-year-old daughter.

On June 26, 2023, the defendant allegedly cut Amelia Holmes in the chest with a kitchen knife at her residence. When two of their daughters, ages 14 and 9, attempted to stop him from stabbing their mother, the defendant allegedly struck the 14-year-old in the face with the knife handle and punched her. Colson allegedly stabbed the 9-year-old in her leg. He then allegedly slashed Holmes' hands, stabbed her in the head and punched her about the body.



6th Annual 5K Run/Walk/Roll to End Domestic Violence

The Bronx District Attorney's Office, with sponsorship from the New York Yankees and the Bronx Borough President's Office, held its sixth annual 5K Run/Walk/Roll to raise awareness and prevent domestic violence on Saturday, October 7, 2023. Despite the pouring rain, this free event garnered more than 500 registered participants all of whom received medals upon completing the race. Taking place during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, survivors shared stories of courage and healing. Various community organizations and elected officials participated by sharing and distributing resources with attendees.



U-VISA UNIT

Certifiers designated by DA Clark represent each of the Office's Divisions that receive U-Visa requests. U nonimmigrant status visas are for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity. In 2023, there were 169 certification requests and 133 were completed.

Crime Victims Assistance Bureau

Our Crime Victims Assistance Bureau is the linchpin of the Special Victims Division, with services such as therapy and counseling for victims of crime and their families. CVAB approaches client support with a "trauma has no timeline" model, rendering care within the first 24 hours and for months or years post-crime.



CVAB 2023: Victim/Survivor Care

- 5,890 new clients
- Delivered follow-up care and emotional support to approximately 44,442 established clients
- Processed over 30,738 unique services to crime victims and witnesses

Crime Victims Assistance Bureau Annual Programs

Tree of Angels

Every December since 2010, family and friends of homicide victims gather at our CVAB satellite office for the lighting of the "Tree of Angels." Loved ones of those lost to homicide engage in a day filled with support, counseling, advocacy, and commemoration. Homicide survivors can make, bring, or place previously made ornaments in honor of their loved ones on the holiday tree.



National Crime Victims' Rights Week Tribute

In honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week in April, crime victims and their families gathered at the Bronx Zoo to pay tribute to victims and survivors of crime. Many of those survivors have maintained connections with our office for years. The theme for National Crime Victims' Rights Week was "Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change."



Operation Gift Giving

In 2023, BXDA staff raised over \$10,000, to buy gifts for 17 families, including over 30 children. They received a gift card ranging from \$400-\$600. The families were invited to our offices to receive their gifts and meet Santa.



Human Trafficking Unit



Human Trafficking Unit 2023:

- Opened 55 investigations into human trafficking
- 11 arrests for promoting prostitution-related offenses, including sex trafficking, sex trafficking of a child, and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking.
- Four arrests for patronizing prostitution-related offenses, three of which involved minors.



CASE OF NOTE:

Six men—three alleged pimps, and the manager, front desk clerk and security guard at a Bronx hotel—were indicted on Enterprise Corruption, Sex Trafficking of a Child, and Promoting Prostitution, and two of the alleged pimps were also charged with Rape, for participating in an operation in the 7 Days Hotel located at 2338 Bruckner Boulevard between August, 2019 through November, 2022. The defendants Akeem Lee, 34; Marvin Flint, 32; Anthony Reyes, 31; Golam Rabbani, 27; Robert Olaguibel, 45; and Patrick Walker, 51 were variously charged in an 80-count indictment. One of the girls engaged in prostitution for the co-conspirators starting when she was 14 years old and continuing until she was 17 years old. The investigation uncovered that 16 females—seven of them underage girls—were trafficked.

NORWOOD NEWS

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UPDATE Alleged Pimps, Former Hotel Employees Charged in Child Sex Trafficking Ring

© April 6, 2023 [Archive, Blog, Crime, Criminal Justice, Latest, News, Safety](#)

By SÍLE MOLONEY



THE 7 DAYS HOTEL, located at 2338 Bruckner Boulevard in the Unionport section of The Bronx, is the alleged location of a sex trafficking operation identified by law enforcement as operating on or about August, 2019 through November 2022. It is not the first time the hotel has made news for such alleged operations.
Photo courtesy of Google Maps

Investigations Division

In 2023, the Investigations Division focused on violent crime drivers in the Bronx community and within Rikers Island Correctional Facility. The Division continued holding public servants accountable, enhancing transparency in our investigations, and strengthening the public trust in the Criminal Justice System.



2023 Investigations Opened by Bureau:

Financial Frauds:	101
Public Integrity:	43
Rikers Island Prosecution:	607
Special Investigations:	150
Violent Criminal Enterprise:	24

CASE OF NOTE:

First Bronx Case Charging Manslaughter and Criminally Negligent Homicide in a Construction Fatality

Three contractors were indicted for the death of a construction worker at a Bronx building site, with a fourth man charged with fraud in relation to the incident that allegedly resulted from blatant disregard for building safety codes and worker protections. Segundo Manuel Huerta Mayancela, an Ecuadoran immigrant, was buried under 1,000 pounds of cinder blocks and metal sheets at the site at 94 East 208th Street. The investigation found that an unqualified company allegedly used fraudulent credentials, ignored oversight requirements and built an unstable structure.



A VIEW OF the collapse that happened at 94 E. 208th St. in Norwood where one worker at the building died.
Photo by David Cruz

Financial Frauds Bureau

Identity theft and labor benefits frauds are being utilized by gangs to fuel their activities. To stem gang violence in the Bronx, this Bureau investigated and prosecuted these scams, and also prioritized prosecuting deed thefts, elder and immigration fraud.

CASES OF NOTE:

Mercedes Tiffany King, 35, was indicted on November 9, 2023, on first-degree Grand Larceny, two counts of second-degree Grand Larceny, second-degree Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, two counts of third-degree Grand Larceny, second-degree Forgery, first-degree Scheme to Defraud, first-degree Offering a False Instrument for Filing, first-degree Falsifying Business Records, second degree Falsifying Business Records, and second-degree Offering a False Instrument for Filing. The defendant allegedly claimed to be the heir of another man's estate then King was asked to return the money, but she refused. King allegedly profited \$350,000 and spent the money on an Audi Q8, Jewelry, and artwork.



News > US News

NO NAMESAKE 'Heir' to \$350k home used money from sale on a luxury car, jewelry, and art – then cops found out her true identity

Mercedes Tiffany King was held on \$300,000 bond.



Maria Garcia, 75, and Mara Garcia, 39, pleaded guilty to third-degree Grand Larceny and third-degree Criminal Tax Fraud on April 21, 2023 and were sentenced July 10, 2023, to five years of Probation and 500 hours of Community Service. As part of the plea agreement the defendants had to return \$225,000 in cash followed by an executed confession of Judgement for \$456,000. The defendants stole approximately \$840,000 from Eladia Perez, 92, who has since passed away, including \$760,000 from the sale of her house in Soundview. The victim unknowingly signed numerous documents and multiple powers of attorney enabling the defendants to access, control and open bank accounts.

Public Integrity Bureau

CASES OF NOTE:

NYC Department of Correction Officer Indicted for Evidence Tampering on Rikers

Dionisio Rosario, 33, was indicted on October 27, 2023, on Tampering with Physical Evidence, first-degree Falsifying Business Records, second-degree Falsifying Business Records, and Official Misconduct for allegedly placing a sharp object in an inmate's cell and then reporting it as recovered contraband. On April 4, 2023, Rosario, a seven-year NYC DOC officer was conducting a search inside Robert N. Davoren Center. During the search, the defendant was involved in a use of force with an inmate and was captured on video surveillance, including his own body worn camera, entering the cell of the inmate he got into the altercation with and placed a 4 1/2-inch piece of sharpened plexiglass by the sink area. The defendant allegedly made false statements about where he found the plexiglass shard.

NYC DOC Officer, Vinette Tucker-Frederick, 41, was

indicted on June 23, 2023, on 74 counts of first-degree Tampering with Public Records, 74 counts of first-degree Identity Theft, and Official Misconduct for falsifying suicide training completion for 74 officers in one of the Rikers Island jails. In 2021, a mandatory refresher course on Suicide Prevention was made available to staff via computer at their jail facility. At the Anna M. Kross Center the defendant, a control room officer with significant authority in determining officers' assignments, allegedly used some officers to take the training instead of scheduling all the staff to do it.



Brice Williams, 41, was indicted on September 25, 2023, on third-degree Grand Larceny, Defrauding the Government,

first-degree Tampering with Public Records, and first-degree Falsifying Business Records for collecting at least \$14,000 in fraudulent payments in his role as a NYC Department of Correction Captain. Williams allegedly lied about his work hours to make more money, falsely stating that he worked full shifts and overtime during an ongoing staffing crisis at Rikers Island.

Special Investigations Bureau

In 2023, SIB saw an increase in narcotics related offenses. A third of those cases were misdemeanors and 67% were felonies. There were 106 pleas to misdemeanors and 120 open felonies. SIB Assistant District Attorneys on average had a caseload of 70 cases.

CASES OF NOTE:

Miguelange Lopez, 29, and Adell Batista, 23, were

indicted on second-degree Conspiracy, first-degree Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, Criminal Possession of a Firearm, and related charges for operating a fentanyl mill in the Bronx that supplied traffickers in the metropolitan area. The defendants imported fentanyl through Pennsylvania and Connecticut and packaged it. Investigators found approximately 8,500 glassine envelopes of fentanyl, packaging materials, and a loaded handgun inside the defendants' apartment. Approximately 20,000 glassines of fentanyl were recovered with an estimated street value of \$300,000.



Edgardo Rivera, 49, and Francisco Edua-Robles, 38, were indicted on second-degree Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, second-degree Conspiracy, and related charges for selling thousands of fentanyl doses to an undercover detective. Undercover officers made 15 purchases of what was believed to be heroin from both defendants. The defendants were subsequently arrested and approximately 1,000 glassines of fentanyl were recovered from the vehicle. In total, about 5,000 glassines of fentanyl were recovered, valued at \$50,000.

Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau

CASES OF NOTE:

Marvens Thomas, 30, was indicted on second-degree

Arson, third-degree Arson, second-degree Assault, second-degree Criminal Mischief, fourth-degree Arson, third-degree Criminal Mischief, fifth-degree Arson, Obstructing Governmental Administration, Obstructing Firefighting Operations, third-degree Assault, and second-degree Reckless Endangerment. The defendant, awaiting trial at Rikers Island for a Bronx stabbing and an Attempted Murder of a Correction Officer, allegedly started a fire in his cell at Rikers Island that injured 12 detainees and Correction Officers with smoke inhalation.



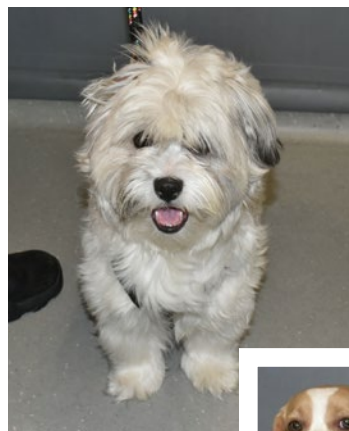
Dennis Applewhite, 29, was sentenced April 5, 2023 to 10 years in prison after pleading guilty to Attempted Assault in the first degree for stabbing a NYC DOC Officer. The defendant went up to the 28-year-old Correction Officer inside the Protective Custody Unit at the Anna M. Kross Center and stabbed him in the back of the head 12 times with an eight-inch piece of sharpened metal. The victim suffered lacerations to his head and a puncture wound to the right side of his neck.

Animal Cruelty

In 2023, 111 animal cruelty cases were referred to the Office.

Jason Reyes, 50, was accused of throwing his dogs, Leo,

a Maltese, and Lily, a Beagle, down the hallway of his apartment building and kicking Lily in the head. The events were recorded on surveillance from the building and shared on social media. The defendant pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor. He relinquished ownership of the dogs, consented to a five-year ownership ban of any animal, registered with the New York City Department of Health's Animal Abuse Registry, completed 15 days of community service, and attended anger management and counseling sessions. He was allowed to withdraw his guilty plea and was sentenced to a conditional discharge.



Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau

CASES OF NOTE:

Six River Park Towers (RPT) Gang Members Sentenced to Prison for Their Role in Multiple Shootings After Terrorizing Highbridge Residents

Six defendants were sentenced in 2023 after pleading guilty

to their role in the River Park Towers Gang which carried out acts of violence in the Highbridge neighborhood. The defendants pleaded to various charges including Attempted Murder. They received sentences ranging from 6 months to 7 years in prison. They were among 23 alleged RPT members indicted in May 2022 for multiple shootings. One of the defendants, Deandre Lamar, pleaded guilty on November 2, 2023, to narcotics and firearms charges and was later sentenced to 12 years in prison and five years post release supervision. Lamar was found in possession of 17 firearms, four pounds of narcotics, and 1,100 rounds of ammunition. In another incident, they beat a pigeon to death after getting 1,000 views on social media. They used social media and music videos to boast about their crimes.



Dereck Velasquez, 30, and Eric Colvin, 26, were sentenced to prison for their roles in selling multiple firearms and

large capacity ammunition feeding devices to an undercover NYPD officer. Eric Colvin pleaded guilty to second-degree Criminal Sale of a Firearm and was sentenced to nine years in prison followed by five years of post-release supervision. Dereck Velasquez pleaded guilty to first degree Criminal Sale of a Firearm and fourth degree Conspiracy and was sentenced to 11 years in prison and five years post-release supervision. Both defendants were high-ranking members of the Forest Over Everything crew, affiliated with the Bloods, and were charged with conspiring to sell a total of 33 firearms to an undercover police officer between September 28, 2021, and February 1, 2022. According to the investigation, most of the weapons were sold in the Bronx on Tinton Avenue, East 163rd Street and other streets near the Forest Houses in the Morrisania section. Investigators traced two of the firearms to shootings in the Bronx and Manhattan through ballistics evidence found at the scenes.



Strategic Innovations Division

The Strategic Innovations Division supports the work and goals of the Office by using data driven policies and strategies to reduce and prosecute crime.

Community Justice Bureau

This Bureau works with prosecutors, the court, and defendants to provide substance abuse, mental health, and co-occurring disorder treatment options and alternatives to incarceration, when appropriate and consistent with public safety.

Project Reset: Bronx Community Justice

This program diverts individuals charged with low-level crime from the criminal justice system and allows for restorative “circle” discussions with the defendant and volunteers from the community. Typical outcomes include apologies for harm done and proactive steps to address any underlying issues that led to the defendant committing the crime.

Project Reset Completed Cases: 461

Heroin Overdose Prevention Education (HOPE)

A pre-arraignment program for individuals arrested for misdemeanor drug possession desk appearance ticket. This program offers services to defendants and individuals may participate multiple times.

HOPE Cases: 138

Veterans Treatment Court

BXDA’s Community Justice Bureau, the Court, and the James J. Peters VA Medical Center address veterans’ unique treatment needs and challenges faced following their return to civilian life. Defendants who identify as veterans are given the opportunity to receive services for substance use disorders, mental health issues, or trauma from military involvement as an alternative to incarceration. In 2023, approximately 5 veterans graduated from the Veterans Treatment Court. One of the participants who was able to effectively participate in the Veterans Treatment Court, in 2023, was a decorated combat veteran and single mother.

Bronx Osborne Gun Accountability & Prevention (BOGAP)

On January 27, 2023, the first cohort of BOGAP

participants graduated. Eleven defendants with no previous violent felony conviction who were arrested for possessing a gun pleaded guilty to a felony charge and completed a year-long program that included job training, therapy, and conflict resolution. Defendants must remain arrest free for 90 days upon graduating and the felony charge is dismissed and they are sentenced to a conditional discharge on a misdemeanor, avoiding two years in prison.



BOGAP graduation



Crime Strategies Bureau

The Bureau works with the NYPD and other agencies and community organizations to reduce crime in the Bronx. The Crime Strategies Bureau analyzes violent crime trends and uses data to improve public safety.

In 2023, the Bureau continued to work with the Investigations Division by providing Analysts to create violence timelines, review social media evidence, phone records, and analyze Rikers calls. The Crime Strategies Bureau continued its contributions to a city-wide reduction of crime through the Gun Violence Strategies Partnership.

The Bureau, focused on the increase in auto crimes, dedicating an Assistant District Attorney and an Intelligence Analyst to gathering information on Grand Larceny Auto offenders and communicating with other Bureaus and the NYPD information to support charging decisions. The Bureau coordinated meetings with NYPD Patrol Borough Bronx regarding Grand Larceny Auto arrests and investigations.

Forensic Science Unit

The Forensic Science Unit handles forensic investigation and litigation in criminal prosecutions, conviction integrity reviews and cold cases. The unit expanded in 2023 with the addition of a new Cold Case Analyst, DNA Specialist, and experienced Cold Case Assistant District Attorney. The unit is handling 19 active sexual assault cold cases.

The Unit provided 2,500 OCME Certified Files to Assistant District Attorneys.



FSU Highlights from 2023:

- Processed 1,869 requests for testing, including 1,076 firearm cases
- Total Case Requests to NYPD Lab: 2,296 (up 10% over past two years)

Technical Investigation Bureau

Digital Forensic Lab

This unit handles forensic examination of electronic devices and provides legal and technical support to Assistant District Attorneys. It remains the only accredited digital forensic lab in a prosecutor's office in New York State. The Lab also launched the Cellebrite Pathfinder review platform allowing phone extractions, and call detail records to be analyzed together. In 2023, the Lab saw an increase of 29.7% in forensic examinations compared to 2022. The Lab received 193 devices for examination, 143 of which were cell phones. The Cell Site Analysis Unit analyzed data for 73 cases in 2023.



Body-Worn Camera Unit

In 2023, the Unit processed 265,000 body worn camera videos shared by the NYPD and provided support by helping Assistant District Attorneys locate missing videos. The Unit trained NYPD officers on the correct procedure to share footage.

Hours of Footage Shared by NYPD: 97,688



Video Unit

The Unit made numerous compilations using multiple video sources to help juries better understand a timeline of events. The Unit started utilizing a camera which takes 360-degree panoramic photographs like Google Streetview and helps put jurors “at the scene.”



Video Unit in 2023:

Requests for Surveillance Retrievals:	162
Recordings of Witness Statements:	24
Crime Scene Recordings:	24
Recordings for Felony Case Statements:	29

CASE OF NOTE:

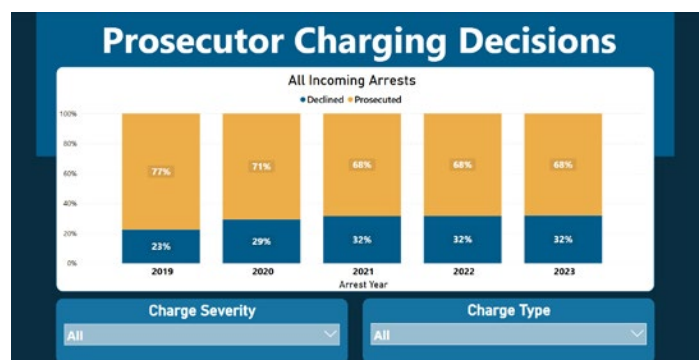
Troy George, 58, was convicted of second-degree Murder for striking Harold Bates, 29, at least 19 times with a metal bar and was sentenced to 16 years in prison on December 20, 2023. The Video Unit enhanced video surveillance and a 911 audio recording allowing the evidence to be better viewed and listened to by the jury.

Information Technology Bureau

The Information Technology Bureau maintains and oversees the computer and telecommunication systems across all BXDA offices. IT procured 1,333 new desktops and updated software in 2023. The Bureau responded to 11,380 requests from staff and upgraded technology across the office. IT implemented a mobile device management data protection program for nearly 600 employee laptops and continued to conduct training sessions, increased cyber security, and reviewed and updated applications. The application development team worked to develop the first 46 BXDA-specific auto-populating legal document templates with secure access for all staff.

Strategic Planning & Analytics Unit

This unit is responsible for the data analytics of prosecutions, including stats from arrest to disposition. It created the Office’s public data dashboard, which was launched in January 2024 on the BXDA website. The unit also manages the local, state and federal grants to the Office, and obtained 11 grants, totaling more than \$7 million. In collaboration with the Finance Unit, it obtained the \$4 million New York State Aid to Prosecution grant, and two other awards totaling \$18 million that will be managed through the Division of Criminal Justice Services’ Grants Management System in 2024.



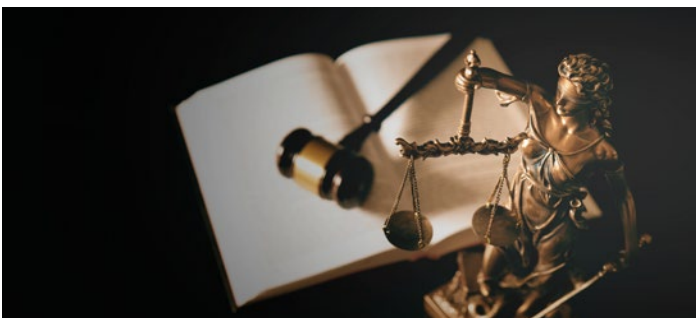
General Counsel Division



Appeals Bureau

The Appeals Bureau handles all post-conviction litigation for the Office. In 2023, it filed 229 cases with the Appellate Division—79 more than last year.

In 2023, Appeals ADAs who work to vacate judgments and/or set aside sentences were assigned approximately 35 applications seeking leave to appeal the denial of 440 motions. Their work included writs of habeas corpus, prohibition, or mandamus, applications for bail pending appeal, and applications to unseal records. Appeals ADAs also answered over 830 procedural motions.



Civil Litigation Bureau

FOIL UNIT: Freedom of Information Law

FOIL Unit reviews requests for records. In 2023, they received approximately 950 FOIL requests, 100 more than the previous year. These requests come from attorneys, incarcerated individuals, journalists, and members of the public. All told, the unit responded to three times the number of requests than in 2022.

THE SUBPOENA COMPLIANCE UNIT handles document requests from the Law Department, private attorneys, along with requests for depositions and trial testimony which may be used in civil lawsuits. The SCU received over 330 requests for documents in 2023.

THE ASSET FORFEITURE UNIT (AFU) reviewed 2,019

arrests and opened 136 new forfeiture cases. The AFU secured 22 waivers of forfeitable funds. The Unit recovered \$88,164 in forfeited assets and distributed it to the NYPD (\$36,147); the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (\$28,212), and to our Office (\$23,804).



Additionally, the AFU participates in the federal forfeiture program and received \$149,627, representing our Office's share of forfeitable assets seized by the Drug Enforcement Administration and \$9,590 in participation with the El Dorado Task Force.

THE EVICTIONS UNIT maintains a caseload of active Housing Court matters. It reviews an average of 70-80 drug-related arrests per week to determine if individuals are subject to eviction due to illegal activity.

In 2023, the PROPERTY RELEASE UNIT received 2,672 requests for the return of seized property, representing an increase of over 500 requests from the prior year.

Extradition and Rendition Unit

In 2023, this Unit received 245 rendition requests involving fugitives located in the Bronx and wanted in other jurisdictions. Unit members in coordination with the courts, returned 117 individuals to face pending charges in other jurisdictions. In 2023, the Unit received 196 requests to locate and extradite fugitives wanted in other jurisdictions.

Conviction Integrity Bureau

The Bureau investigates wrongful convictions, reviews clemency applications and Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act (DVSJA) petitions. The Bureau received 16 requests to review wrongful convictions, closing out 29 cases after determining there was no credible evidence of a wrongful conviction. Additionally, one case was closed in conjunction with a defense motion to vacate an indictment.

CASE OF NOTE:

On September 6, 2023, Bronx Supreme Court Justice Margaret Martin dismissed the last of 324 cases connected to former NYPD Detective Joseph Franco, whose termination from the force over making false statements about narcotics arrests spurred a long-term investigation by the Conviction Integrity Bureau. The Office could no longer stand by the convictions because of his credibility.

Communications/Public Information Bureau

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.

Professional Staff Training and Development Bureau

The Bureau keeps Professional Staff up to date through training workshops. Professional Staff, which includes Trial Preparation Assistants, Legal Writers, Desk Appearance Ticket (DAT) Writers and Case Discovery Analysts, are trained on various topics, including discovery compliance and Giglio issues. As part of their work in 2023, the Bureau answered 79 motions to have certain convictions sealed.



Litigation Training Bureau

In 2023, the Bureau provided 54 training programs for the staff along with 42 standalone lectures and 12 in-house extended training sessions. The Bureau produced 54 hours of standalone CLE training. Topics included Violence Reduction, Wellness, Strategic Innovations, Supervisor Training, Ethics, Alternatives to Incarceration, Mental Health, Distinguished Jurist, Beyond the Numbers and Diversity.

Discovery Compliance Bureau

The Bureau maintains the Office's databases of law enforcement accountability materials and was expanded in 2023 with responsibility for broader discovery compliance issues. It received approximately 16,887 emails requesting 40,000 individual subject officer packages ("SOPs").

Equal Employment Opportunity

In the past year, the Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO) worked to create an environment where staff can find a safe and confidential space to discuss EEO matters. The office also works to provide reasonable accommodation requests along with other workplace matters. The EEO Office ensures that the BXDA's Office follows City, State, and federal EEO laws.

Administration Division

Detective Investigators Unit

In order to enhance investigations, in 2023 Detective

Investigators were assigned to specific bureaus within the Office, including the Rikers Island Bureau. Detective Investigators (DIs) assigned to BXDA's Witness Security Program coordinated the protection, security, and relocation of witnesses vital to the success of prosecutions. Working in tandem with the Crimes Victims' Assistance Bureau, DIs also assessed threats to crime victims. The Detective Investigators participated, along with the New York City Police Department, in several narcotic and gang-related cases in which electronic eavesdropping was utilized. In total, the Detective Investigators conducted 3 long-term eavesdropping investigations.

In 2023, BXDA Detective Investigators conducted 1,172 investigations.

DIs assisted assistant district attorneys by locating missing witnesses and providing additional evidence on pending cases. The DIs effected 32 arrests, executed numerous warrants, conducted multiple court-ordered eavesdropping assignments, and extradited 24 defendants from other states.

In 2023, the Unit was assigned to manage the Civilian Complaint Unit (CCU). CCU communicates with the general public and liaises with relevant agencies to address the concerns of Bronx residents.



In 2023, Detective Investigators aided significantly in the investigations of the following notable cases

- Mechanic Indicted in Criminally Negligent Homicide in Elevator Plunge
- FDNY Firefighter Indicted for theft of Credit Cards from Deceased Patient
- NYC DOC Officer Falsifying Training Records
- Fifteen-year sentence for Sexual Abuse at Daycare Center
- Bronx Daycare Providers Indicted in Fentanyl Death of Child
- Fraud Scheme Stole the Home of a Deceased Man

The Unit partnered with NYPD to combat auto thefts in the Bronx, recovering 264 vehicles estimated by the National Automobile Dealer Association to exceed \$7,015,985 in value.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

In its second year at BXDA, DEI remained focused on engagement via employee resource groups (ERG), cultural education, CLEs, and legal recruitment. Programs and training focused on encouraging others to lead with an inclusion mindset. DEI coordinated “unity spaces” to promote dialogue about national and world events involving race and conflict. Staff training to promote inclusion included partnering with NYS and NYC agencies and community-based organizations on disability, cultural awareness, mental health, gender identity/expression, and veterans services. By the end of 2023, there were 12 ERGs and affinity groups formed. DEI aided in fostering stronger ERG and workforce engagement, cultural sensitivity, educational opportunities, and relationships with law schools.



Human Resources

In 2023, the primary objective of HR was to support all employees, so that they may fulfill the Office’s mission, vision, and goals. The Labor Relations and Discipline Unit is tasked with managing all workplace matters; the HR Wellness Team focuses on providing a safe and positive work environment by supporting the health and wellbeing of staff; the Timekeeping Unit ensures accurate tracking of employee hours; the Extended Leaves and Benefits Unit which provides support with these matters; and the Onboarding Unit ensures that all incoming employees receive orientation and foundational training.



Recruitment

In 2023, the Recruitment Team expanded its recruitment methods, including heightened on-campus interviews, guest lecturing, increased participation in career fairs, DA Clark engaging with students, and creating law school panel discussions, in collaboration with DEI. The overarching goal of law school visits and career fair participation has been to strengthen the school-to-BXDA career pipeline.



Recruitment 2023:	
Legal Hires:	63
Professional Staff Hires:	136
Legal Interns:	52
College Interns:	46

Operations and Budget Division

This Division encompasses the bureaus and units that work behind the scenes and are vital to the foundation of the prosecutorial process.

Early Case Assessment Bureau/Arraignments/DAT

Formerly the Complaint Room Unit, ECAB/Arraignments/

DAT Bureau operates 24 hours, seven days a week.

In 2023, the Office screened 42,668 NYPD live arrests and Desk Appearance Tickets (DATs). Of those arrests, 29,050 were prosecuted. ECAB handled 12,581 DAT cases.

Prosecuted Arrests by Charge Class

Charge Class	Cases
Felony Total (violent/non-violent)	13,612
Misdemeanor Total	14,437
Violation/Infraction	1,001
Total	29,050

Grand Jury Bureau

This Bureau determines whether charges should be brought against the accused, in the form of indictments. The Bureau oversaw an average of 186 indictments per month, opened 275 investigations in grand jury panels, and managed defendant production with the NYC Department of Correction for all incarcerated defendants testifying in the Grand Jury, appearing in court or for attorney conferences.



Grand Jury in 2023:

Cases voted by the Grand Jury	2,266
Indictments filed	2,226
Defendants Indicted by Grand Jury	2,633

Adolescent Offender Unit

The Adolescent Offender Unit handles cases of persons 16 and 17 years of age who commit felonies (Adolescent Offenders) and cases of persons 13, 14 and 15 years of age who commit certain designated felonies (Juvenile Offenders). This Unit provides training in the Raise the Age Law, retention appearances and extraordinary circumstances motions. In addition, this Unit specifically considers the youth's age and circumstances when determining a just disposition for the charged offense. In 2023, the Unit screened 904 AO and JO matters, resulting in 135 declinations of prosecution. Of the remaining cases, 319 were transferred to Family Court, the Unit prevailed in 58 retention hearings, and 21 cases proceeded to disposition.

Finance Department

In 2023, newly funded items included \$5 million for additional staff to better comply with Discovery reforms. The Department includes the Payroll, Procurement/Purchasing, Audit & Accounting, and Audit & Compliance Units.

Operations Unit

The Operations Team is responsible for managing internal operations of fleet, the mail room, purchasing, the property release unit, preserving the Office's finished files, the relocation and moving of furniture, and ensuring compliance with office maintenance.

In the Community

Community Engagement Unit

This Unit liaises between Bronxites and the Office through programs, community-based meetings and events. The Unit facilitated community-based youth and adult workshops on gun violence, elder abuse, human trafficking, crime victims' assistance.

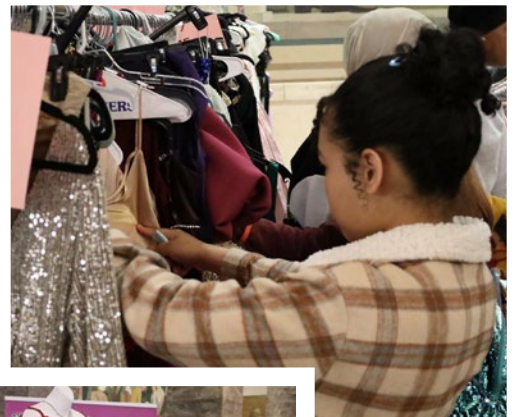
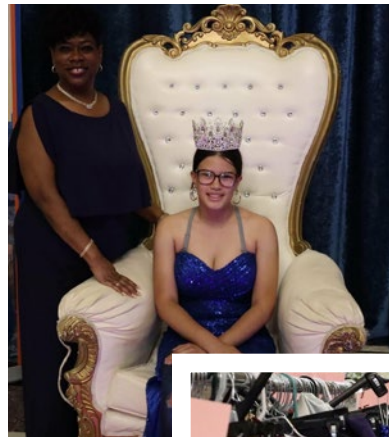
Re-entry Resource Fairs

In 2023, CEU organized re-entry resource fairs to provide support to those returning to their communities from jail or prison. There was a borough-wide event in April, and in September the Unit took the event to neighborhoods with a high rate of people who were in the criminal justice system. These fairs are part of an effort to facilitate a smooth transition, and they provide information on jobs, education, healthcare, resume writing and offer donated professional apparel for interviews.



Annual Prom Dress/Suit Giveaway

The Office in partnership with Bronx Fashion Week and the Borough President's Office collected prom dresses, suits, shoes, and accessories to donate to over 300 high school students in the borough. Students "shopped" for their prom outfits, tried them on and walked down the red carpet in style after finding the outfit that suited them most.



Youth Summit

CEU hosted its first Youth Summit in partnership with SCAN Harbor at the Reverend T. Wendell Foster Recreation Center. Approximately 50 teens and young adults, ages 12 to 24, engaged in conversation about the rise in youth violence in the Bronx and possible solutions for reducing youth-related crime. In addition to a panel discussion, they participated in a resource fair offering jobs and connection to services.



Law Day

CEU hosts approximately 30 students in 8th–12th grade interested in pursuing careers in law. Last year, Law Day participants had a roundtable discussion with DA Clark on “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration.” Youth learned from professional and legal staff about the various roles within a prosecutorial office. Students also had the opportunity to view arraignments, and hear about the case investigations through the lens of the BXDA NYPD Squad.



4th Annual Peace March Against Gun Violence

As June marks annual Gun Violence Awareness Month, the Community Engagement and the Crime Strategies Units come together to collaborate on BXDA's Anti-Gun Violence Peace March. In 2023, the march was held within the confines of the 41st Precinct, where 11-year-old Kyhara Tay and 15-year-old Josue Lopez-Ortega were senselessly killed due to gun violence. The Peace March began and ended at the Police Athletic League's New South Bronx Center. The march included a resource fair.





Women's History Month at Preston High School



Gun Violence Awareness March



National Night Out



Soundview Family Day



Bangladeshi American Cultural Association Street Fair



47th Precinct Community Council Meeting

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
Gina Mignola	Deputy General Counsel
Beverly Ma	Deputy Chief of Staff
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

Legal Managers

Appeals	Yael Levy	Human Trafficking	Stephen Knoepfler
Asset Forfeiture	Lisa Waller	Litigation Training	Justin Braun
Child Abuse/Sex Crimes	Mimi Mairs	Professional Responsibility	Krishna O'Neal
Civil Litigation	Beverly Ma	Public Integrity	Omer Wiczzyk
Community Justice	John Valley	Recruitment	Latoya Jeffers
Conviction Integrity	Risa Gerson	Rikers Island Prosecution	Francis Alberts
Crime Strategies	Jordan Jackson	Special Investigations & Narcotics Investigation	Craig Cecchini
Discovery Compliance	Seyi Collins Jemmott	Technical Investigation	Peter Kennedy
Domestic Violence	Agata DiGiovanni	Trial Bureau 30	Julie DeLeon
Early Case Assessment & Arraignments	Rene Aponte	Trial Bureau 40	Aaron Kaplan
Financial Frauds	Herman Wun	Trial Bureau 50	Lawrence Piergrossi
General Crimes	Jennifer Cruz	Trial Bureau 60	Susanna Imbo
Grand Jury	Diane Gatto	Vehicular Crimes	Jeffrey Kimelman
Homicide	Christine Scaccia	Violent Criminal Enterprise	Newton Mendys

Administrative Managers

Frank Chiara	Chief of Detective Investigators
Darlene Martinez	Chief Human Resources Officer
Barbara Robles-Gonzalez	Director of Litigation Training
Sony Varughese	Chief of Information Technology
Marques Johnson	Director of Operations
Jeannette Rucker	Chief of Professional Staff Training and Development
Marilex Santana-Tavarez	Director of Community Engagement
Cindy Redcross-Aguam	Chief of Strategic Planning & Analytics
Sophia Morris	Deputy Chief of Crime Victims Assistance
Kim Hernandez	Equal Employment Opportunity Officer

BXDA Family



Wear Blue Day, Human Trafficking Awareness Month



Ugly Sweater Contest & Dessert Party



Throgs Neck St. Patrick's Day Parade



Holiday Party



Operations Team



NYC Pride March



Yankees Game



Staff Picnic



Child Safety Fair



Domestic Violence 5K Run/Walk/Roll



Gun Violence Awareness Day



Veterans Day Appreciation

The Beautiful Bronx



City Island



New York Botanical Garden



Bronx Zoo



161st Street Subway Station



Edgar Allen Poe Cottage



Aerial View of the Bronx



Orchard Beach



Bronx Fruit Stand



Little Italy



Children Playing



Community Event



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

Photo: Corridor of Criminal Justice