



BROOKLYN DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

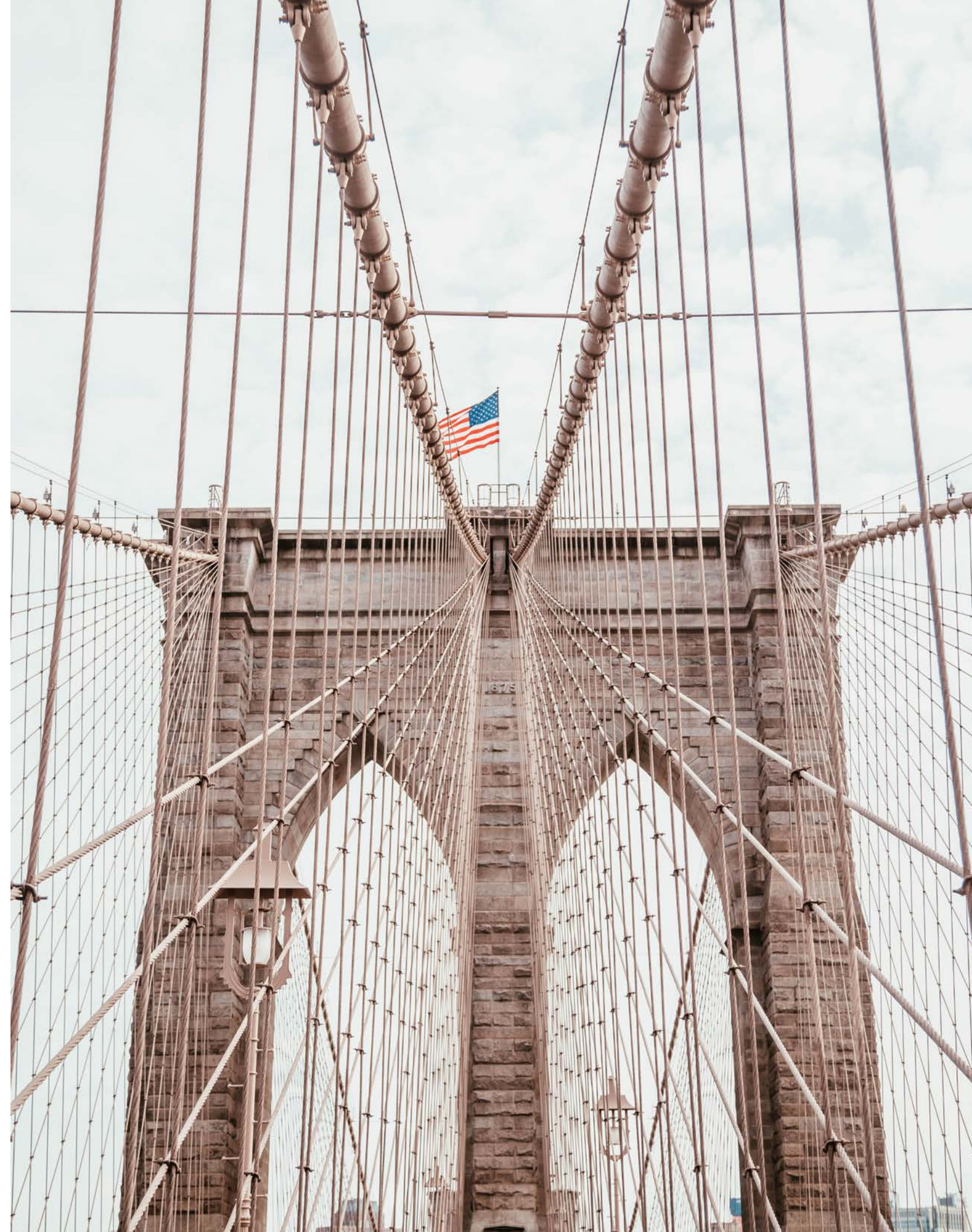
REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

Keeping Brooklyn safe and strengthening community trust by ensuring fairness and equal justice for all.



Brooklyn District Attorney's Office
350 Jay Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201
www.brooklynda.org

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Message from DA Gonzalez



Dear Brooklyn Neighbor,

I joined the Brooklyn DA's Office in 1995, returning home from law school to a city in crisis. Gun violence gripped neighborhoods like the one where I grew up, and the progress we made to become America's safest big city, reaching the lowest levels of gun violence ever recorded during my first term as DA, was a point of great pride.

Unfortunately, the hardships of the pandemic and a national uptick in shootings and gun-related homicides did not spare us in Brooklyn, with a significant spike in gun crime in 2020. Together with our partners, we met this challenge head-on with a multi-faceted and collaborative approach to supercharge our fight against gun violence with targeted enforcement and community-led programs to enhance public safety. We dedicated unprecedented resources, technology, and personnel to focus with surgical precision on the drivers of crime. We partnered with the NYPD on five major gang takedowns and worked with the impacted

communities to help them heal. We released our STOP VIOLENCE report, detailing a comprehensive plan to reduce gun violence in Brooklyn and as the result of this collaborative and multifaceted approach, homicides and shootings declined significantly in 2021 and 2022.

As we continue to reduce violence, we remain firmly grounded in our values and deeply committed to fairness. As you will see in this report, we made substantial progress on each of the goals detailed in our Justice 2020 plan to ensure fairness and transparency, and my commitment to innovate and ensure that the Brooklyn DA's office remains a leader in our field has never been stronger.

The past few years have seen many challenges and changes in our practice, our city, and how we live. Despite the hardships of the pandemic, I am proud that our office never shut down—we remained open and available to help victims and the communities we serve, and I am incredibly proud of the skill, dedication, and compassion of the more than 1,200 attorneys, investigators and staff that make up the Brooklyn DA's office.

There is still much more work to do, and I have great confidence that our team will rise to the challenge. It is my great honor to serve as your District Attorney and, working together, I look forward to great progress in the years ahead.

Eric Gonzalez
Eric Gonzalez



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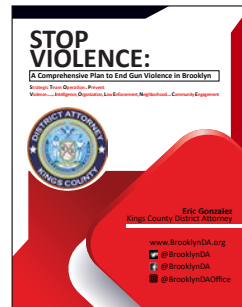
2022 Highlights

MURDERS & SHOOTINGS CONTINUE TO FALL



Since 2020, shootings in Brooklyn have declined by 31% and murders are down 25%

STOP VIOLENCE INITIATIVE SURGES ESSENTIAL RESOURCES



Strategic Team Operation to Prevent Violence through Intelligence, Organization, Law Enforcement, Neighborhood and Community Engagement (STOP VIOLENCE) Initiative invests unprecedented resources in intelligence sharing, technology, personnel, and violence prevention to supercharge our public safety efforts.

Led Five Major Gang Takedowns Since 2021



Working with our NYPD partners, we charged 82 individuals allegedly from violent gangs, striking a heavy blow to organizations that have terrorized Brooklyn communities.

Invested
\$5.1 million



in innovative community
violence intervention
programs.



Sponsored more than 100 food and PPE drives during the COVID 19 pandemic and participated in more than 120 community events in 2022.

2020 Justice

DELIVERED ON JUSTICE 2020

The Brooklyn DA's office made substantial progress on all 22 recommendations detailed in the Justice 2020 report, focusing on fairness and justice in all we do.

About the Office



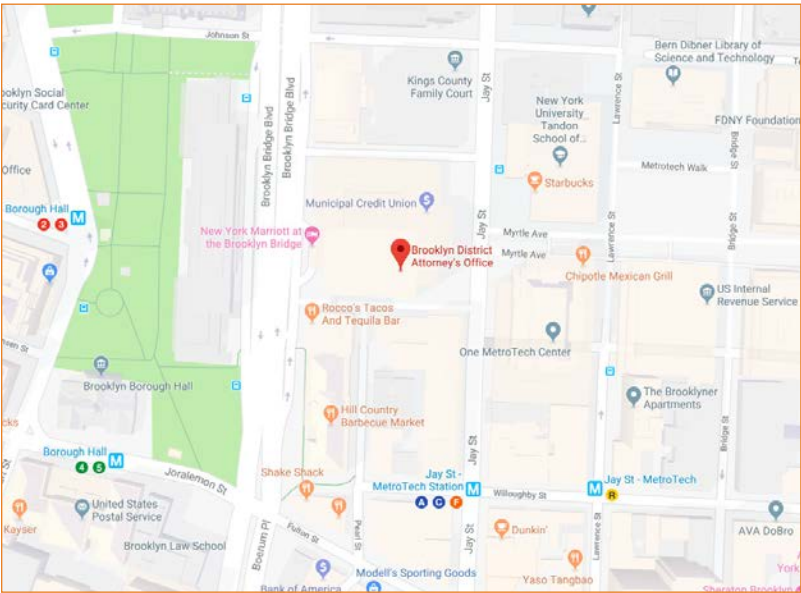
The District Attorney is Brooklyn’s chief law enforcement official. With more than 2.8 million residents, Kings County is the most populous county in New York State and taken separately, the fourth-largest municipality in the country. One of the largest prosecutorial agencies in the nation, the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office investigates and prosecutes crime, helps victims, and implements crime prevention strategies to improve public safety and the quality of life. Our staff of more than 1,200 employees is deeply committed to serving with integrity, compassion, and an unstinting commitment to justice worthy of the public’s trust.

530
Attorneys & Legal
Staff Members

672
investigators,
paralegals,
forensic and
financial
analysts, social
workers + other
staff

KEY CONTACTS

If you or someone you know is the victim of a crime or has information about a crime, please visit, write or call:



The District Attorney’s Action Center
350 Jay Street 16th Floor
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Action Center Hotline:
(718) 250-2340
(In case of an emergency, call 911)

MTA Subway Stations:
Jay Street/Metro Tech – A, C, F or R
Borough Hall – 2, 3, 4 or 5

Hours of Operation:
Monday through Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Walk-ins are welcome between 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

HOTLINES

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Action Center Hotline: | (718) 250-2340 |
| Victim Services Unit: | (718) 250-3820 |
| Public Integrity Unit: | (718) 250-2747 |
| Domestic Violence Bureau: | (718) 250-3300 |
| Brooklyn Family Justice Center: | (718) 250-5111 |
| Elder Abuse Unit: | (718) 250-5299 |
| Immigrant Affairs Unit: | (718) 250-3333 |
| Labor Fraud Unit: | (718) 250-3770 |
| Human Trafficking Unit: | (718) 250-2770 |
| Teen Dating Violence Program: | (718) 250-3321 |
| Hate Crimes Bureau: | (718) 250-4949 |
| Red Hook Community Justice Center: | (718) 923-8200 |
| Re-Entry Bureau: | (718) 250-3281 |

***IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911**

Executive Leadership



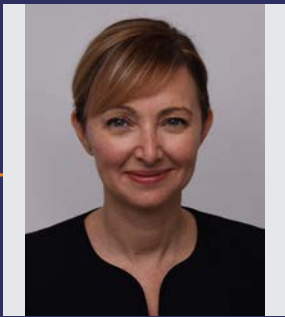
A deep commitment to justice and fairness drives Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez as he leads one of the nation’s largest, most diverse, and innovative prosecutors’ offices. A Brooklyn native and career prosecutor, DA Gonzalez made history in 2017 when he became New York’s first Latino District Attorney. He was re-elected in 2021.

Under his leadership, the Brooklyn District Attorney’s office has enacted sweeping reforms to improve equity, responsiveness, efficiency, and effectiveness, while engaging communities in unprecedented ways to maintain the trust and confidence of Brooklyn’s 2.8 million residents.

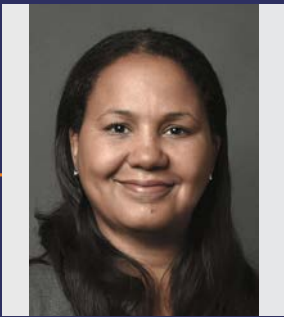
With more than 25 years of experience as a prosecutor, DA Gonzalez has personally tried a broad range of crimes, from homicides and sex crimes to fraud and bias-motivated violence. Guided by his extensive experience working with victims and those accused of crimes, and informed by social science and data, he has built a culture of innovation, embracing groundbreaking new initiatives to improve public safety and strengthen community trust. This approach seeks to reduce prosecutors’ reliance on incarceration while seeking accountability, preventing recidivism, and addressing the root causes of crime.



Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez



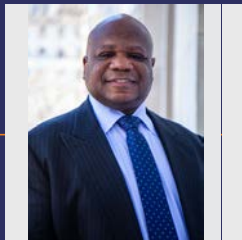
Nancy Hoppock
Chief Assistant



Maritza Mejia-Ming
Confidential Executive ADA



Nicole Chavis
Chief of Staff



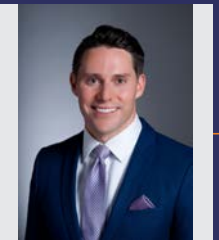
Joseph P. Alexis
Chief of Trials



Kevin Aulbach
Executive ADA
Strategic Enforcement



Richard Boye
Deputy Chief of Trials



John Byrne
Special Counsel



Osvaldo Cruz
Chief Financial Officer



Janet Gleeson
Chief of Court Operations



Renee V. Gregory
Chief Diversity Officer



Jill Harris
Chief of Policy & Strategy



Melinda Alexis-Hayes
Special Counsel
for Public Engagement



Michelle Kaminsky
Executive ADA
Gender-Based
Violence Division



David Z. Klestzick
Deputy Chief of Trials



Patricia McNeill
Chief of Investigations



Gregory Mitchel
Chief of Administration
and Compliance



Diem Tran
Deputy General Counsel



Xin "Sunny" Wang
Chief Information Officer



Fran Weiner
Executive ADA
Legal Recruitment
and Training



| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| Action Center Director Anthony R. Barosy | Construction & Labor Frauds Unit Unit Chief Francis Longobardi | Forensic Science Unit Unit Chief Rachel Singer | Investigators Chief Investigator John Tennant | Procurement Deputy Director Oli Rodriguez | Special Victims Bureau Bureau Chief Miss Gregory |
| Alternatives to Incarceration Bureau Chief David Heslin | Conviction Review Unit Unit Chief Charles Linehan | Frauds Bureau Chief Gregory Pavlides | Law Enforcement Accountability Bureau Chief Aaron Nottage | Property Release Unit Supervisor Cassandra Allen | Strategic Operations Director Julian Fox Spector |
| Appeals Bureau Chief Leonard Joblove | Crime Strategies Unit Unit Chief Edward Carroll | Grand Jury Bureau Chief Kerry Puckhaber | Law Enforcement Transparency Unit Unit Chief Dmitriy Povazhuk | Public Information Director of Communications Oren Yaniv | Street Safety Bureau Bureau Chief Jennifer Nocella |
| Arraignments Unit Deputy Unit Chief Tziyonah M. Langsam | Criminal Court Unit Unit Chief Joseb "Joe" Gim | Grand Jury Reporters Manager Jeffrey Fulds | Legal Hiring & Recruitment Director Willie Mays Jones | Public Integrity Bureau Chief Laura Neubauer | Trial Bureau Blue Bureau Chief Kin Wang Ng |
| Asset Forfeiture & Crimes Against Revenue Deputy Bureau Chief Diana Villanueva | Desk Appearance Ticket Unit Supervisor Sofia G. Aitken | Graphics Unit Manager Norberto Mendez | Mental Health Court Unit Chief David Kelly | Real Estate Fraud Unit Unit Chief Richard Farrell | Trial Bureau Green Bureau Chief Frank Degaetano |
| Body Worn Camera Unit Supervisors Ashmore Fortune Dolores Tharp | Digital Evidence Lab Unit Chief Jingu Chong | Gun Violence Suppression Bureau Chief Patrick O'Connor | Multimedia Services Unit Manager Robert Rubenstein | Red Hook Community Center Bureau Chief Glenn Singer | Trial Bureau Grey Bureau Chief Robert Walsh |
| Bureau of Litigation Technology Bureau Chief Sara Kurtzberg | DVSJA/START Unit Unit Chief Lisa Perlman | Hate Crimes Bureau Chief Kelli Muse | New Demeanor Justice & Pre-Arraignment Project Deputy Unit Chief Taryen O'Brien | Community Resources & Re-Entry Bureau Bureau Chief Maria Abadia | Trial Bureau Orange Bureau Chief Danielle Eaddy |
| Case Management Services Director Artemis Ahmetaj | Domestic Violence Bureau Chief Kori Medow | Homicide Bureau Chief Leila Rosini | Office Services Director Jose Gil | School Advocacy & Young Adult Court Bureau Chief Johanne Macajoux | Trial Bureau Red Bureau Chief Karla Watson |
| Child Abuse Investigation Unit Unit Chief Kelly Casey | ECAB Bureau Chief Cary Fischer | HR/Employee Services Chief Tia-Renee Franklin | Organized Crime and Racketeering Unit Unit Chief Christopher Blank | Senior Executive for Law Enforcement Gregory Thomas | Violent Criminal Enterprises Bureau Chief Alfred Deingeniis |
| Civil Litigation Unit /FOIL Unit Unit Chief John Carroll | Elder Abuse Unit Unit Chief Michelle Weber | Human Trafficking Unit Unit Chief David Weiss | Parole, Clemency & Sealing Unit Unit Chief Claibourne Henry | Special Counsel Justin Kramer | Youth Empowerment & Community Solutions Division Chief Grace Jeannie Melendez |
| COMALERT Program Administrator Nia Garcia | EEO EEO Coordinator Cynthia Aker | Immigrant Affairs Unit Unit Chief Gloria Rios | Pre-Indictment Diversion Unit Deputy Unit Chief Christopher Myco | Special Counsel for Immigrant Affairs David Satnarine | Youth Investment Initiatives Program Coordinator Felicia Harris |
| Command Center Supervising Detective Investigator Wesley Phillips | Firearm Prosecution Unit Unit Chief Caryn Teitelman | Intergovernmental Affairs Deputy Director Anayeli Brittain | Post-Conviction Justice Bureau Deputy Bureau Chief Eric A. Sonnenschein | Special Investigations Chief Christine Maloney | |

In 2022, we were proud to hire Brooklyn's largest and one of the most diverse classes of new prosecutors. Together, they participated in an intensive five-week legal training program. We are excited for these bright new lawyers to join our team working for the people of Brooklyn.



68 New ADAs



24 Law Schools in
11 States and D.C.

We Are Hiring!



Scan the QR Code apply

Training for Success

Ensuring that the nation’s fourth-largest prosecutor’s office recruits and trains the highest quality legal staff and reflects the diversity of the communities we serve is a year-round effort. Members of our Legal Hiring Unit and executives are constantly interviewing candidates to join us keeping Brooklyn safe while ensuring fundamental fairness in the criminal justice system.

Each new ADA participates in a comprehensive training and professional development program and continuing legal education throughout their career. Our Legal Training Unit has a well-deserved reputation for innovative, exceptional quality programming, and colleagues around the country often look to us for inspiration, guidance, and technical assistance.



Executive ADA for Legal Recruitment and Training Fran Weiner leads a training session for new prosecutors



The Brooklyn DA's Office has a unified, strategic approach that tackles recruitment, training, and retention as an integrated process spanning a prosecutor's entire career

The Brooklyn DA's Office is committed to improving cultural competency in our work while also promoting an inclusive environment for all employees. To this end, we sponsor resource groups dedicated to fostering a sense of belonging for colleagues of all backgrounds and identities, enhancing awareness and affording opportunities for networking, mentorship, training, and support. Groups include the AAPI Affinity Organization, Jewish Affinity Organization, PRIDE for the People, the Kenneth Thompson Black Affinity Collective, and the Eric Gonzalez Alliance for Justice.

“I’m proud that our team reflects the diversity of the borough we serve. Building and maintaining cultural competency with every member of our staff is an ongoing priority.”

– Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez



A Second Term of Innovation

Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez was sworn in for a second term on January 3, 2022, by the Hon. Nancy Sunshine with his wife by his side.

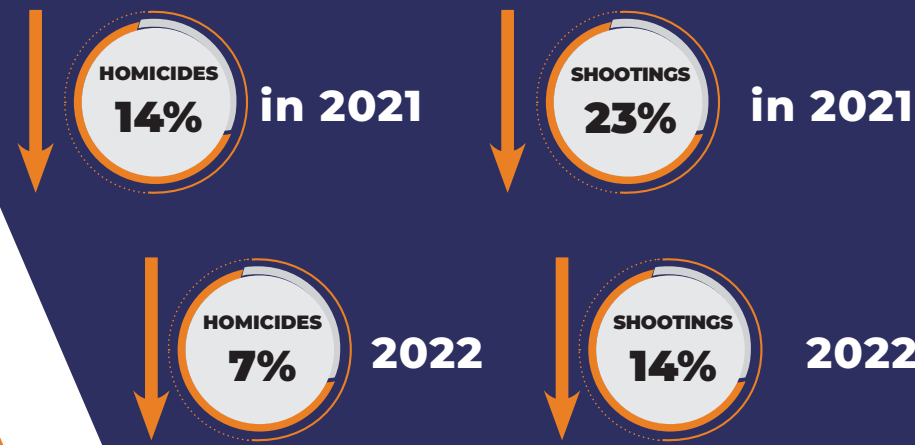


Fewer Murders & Shootings



After reaching record-lows in 2019, homicides and shootings in Brooklyn rose significantly in 2020, mirroring a national trend. Since the 2020 peak, shootings in Brooklyn have declined by 31% while murders are down 25%.

In 2022, homicides in in Coney Island, East Flatbush, Midwood, Bushwick and Fort Greene declined by 50% or more. Shootings declined by 42% in Bedford-Stuyvesant, 18% in Brownsville and 14% in Crown Heights, while East New York had a 12% increase.



While we must do better, this encouraging progress offers strong evidence that data-backed strategies—focusing law enforcement resources on crime drivers, working to match needs with supportive services, and engaging communities—are working.

“We have committed unprecedented resources to the fight against gun violence in Brooklyn, and the continuing progress we’re seeing is the direct result of our strategic, collaborative, and intelligence-driven approach.”

– Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez



Gun Prosecutions

1,597 in 2021

1,260 in 2022

\$12.6 million

Unprecedented strategic investments to fight gun violence.

Gang Takedowns



The Brooklyn DA's office led several major gang takedowns that immediately reduced violence in the surrounding neighborhoods. We also engaged in broad community outreach to the impacted communities after each enforcement action to help explain our work, to offer support, and to deter future violence.

“Gang violence terrorizes communities. We will never allow this type of criminal activity to go unimpeded and will work closely with the NYPD to build strong cases that will ensure that those who cause harm are held accountable, and our communities are kept safe.”


– Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez



Fifteen Alleged 900 Gang Members Charged in 77-Count Indictment That Includes Two Murders and Nine Shootings

Defendants Charged with Conspiracy to Commit Murder and Possess Guns In Effort to Maintain Territorial Dominance in Bedford-Stuyvesant; Four Additional Alleged Gang Members Charged in Separate Indictment

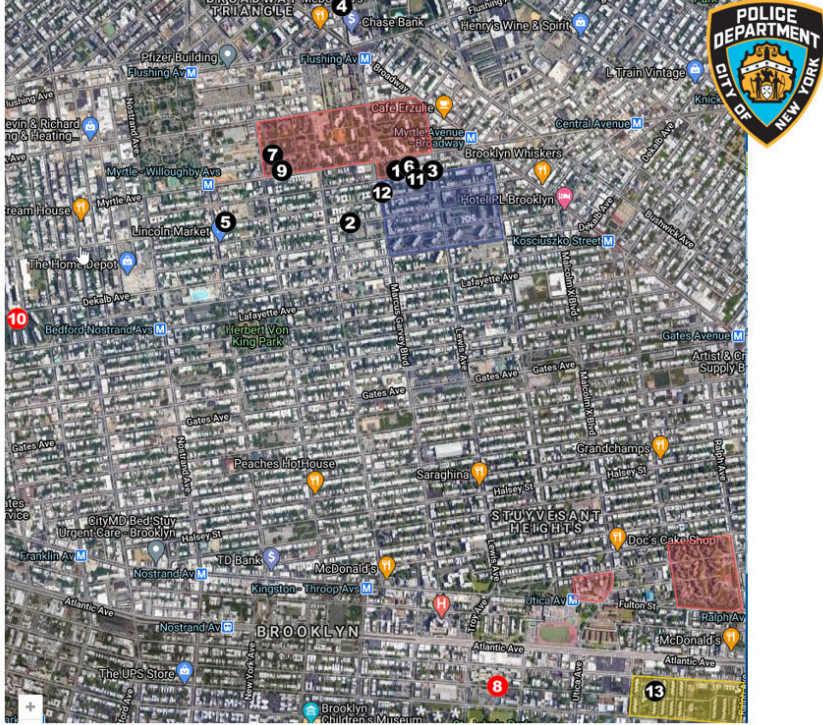
In January 2021, DA Gonzalez announced a takedown of the 900s gang in Bed-Stuy. 15 alleged gang members were variously charged in a 77-count indictment with murder, conspiracy to commit murder and to possess weapons in an effort to maintain territorial dominance. Four additional alleged gang members were variously charged in a separate 11-count indictment with conspiracy to commit murder and to possess weapons. Many of these defendants were accused of recklessly opening fire in broad daylight, endangering not only their rivals but innocent passersby, including children.



Incident Map

Red: 900 Territory
Blue: Hoolie Territory
Yellow: OTB Territory

| Number | Date | Location | Incident Type |
|--------|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | April 21, 2019 | 303 Vernon Avenue | Shooting |
| 2 | May 16, 2019 | Opposite 233 Hart Street | Shooting |
| 3 | October 2, 2019 | 335 Vernon Avenue | Shooting |
| 4 | October 3, 2019 | Graham Ave and Cook St | Shooting |
| 5 | December 15, 2019 | 519 Willoughby Ave | Shooting |
| 6 | April 6, 2020 | 303 Vernon Avenue | Shooting |
| 7 | June 26, 2020 | 77 Tompkins Ave | Shooting |
| 8 | June 29, 2020 | Opposite 1620 Dean Street | Murder |
| 9 | August 16, 2020 | Tompkins Ave | Weapon Possession |
| 10 | September 8, 2020 | 456 Dekalb | Murder |
| 11 | September 30, 2020 | 300 Vernon Ave | Shooting |
| 12 | October 31, 2020 | 721 Willoughby Ave | Shooting |
| 13 | December 25, 2019 | 219 Kingsborough 2nd Walk | Shooting |



[READ THE PRESS RELEASE HERE.](#)



19
Alleged Gang Members
2
Murders
9
Shootings



District Attorney Gonzalez speaks at a vigil for one-year-old murder victim, Davell Gardner, Jr.

Two Alleged Hoolie Gang Members Charged in Murder of One-Year Old Davell Gardner in Bed-Stuy Shooting; 18 Defendants Named in 63 Count Indictment Which Includes Four Homicides and Eight Non-Fatal Shootings

Defendants Were Allegedly Engaged in Gang War with Rival 900 Street Gang, Whose Members Were Subject of Earlier Takedown in January; Seven Shooting Victims Were Innocent

In May 2021, DA Gonzalez announced a takedown of the Hoolie gang, which had been engaged in a gang war with the 900s. 18 alleged Hoolies were variously charged in a 63-count indictment with murder, conspiracy to commit murder and to possess weapons, attempted murder and related charges. Among the four homicides charged was the tragic shooting death of 22-month-old Davell Gardner at a cookout in Bed-Stuy.

[READ THE PRESS RELEASE HERE.](#)





Seventeen Alleged YPF Gang Members Charged in Two Indictments Containing Total of 188 Counts, Including Conspiracy to Commit Murder

Three Violent Gangs Allegedly Formed Alliance to Increase Numbers and Territory; Fourteen Shootings Charged During Course of Conspiracy, Including Three Murders

In January 2022, DA Gonzalez announced a takedown of the YPF, an alliance of three violent street gangs formed to expand territory and numbers across Central Brooklyn. 17 alleged members of YPF were variously charged in two indictments with conspiracy to commit murder, possess weapons and charges related to shootings that resulted in 14 victims, including four who died as a result of their injuries.

[READ THE PRESS RELEASE HERE.](#)



Thirty-Two Alleged Members of Two Rival Brownsville-Based Gangs Charged in 106 Count Indictment

19 Shootings, Two of Them Fatal, Included in Four Separate Indictments; 14 Total Victims, Several of Them Innocent Bystanders, Including 3-Year-Old Girl and 62-year-old man; 27 Firearms Recovered During Long-Term Investigation

In November 2022, DA Gonzalez announced the takedown of two rival street gangs known as WOOO and CHOO. 32 gang members were charged in four indictments related to 19 shootings that resulted in 14 victims, including two who died as a result of their injuries. Innocent bystanders, including a 3-year-old girl who was leaving daycare, were wounded in the charged shooting incidents. 27 firearms were recovered during the investigation.

[READ THE PRESS RELEASE HERE.](#)



Before the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen*, District Attorney Gonzalez warned New Yorkers in an op-ed about the potentially deadly consequences that an adverse decision could bring to New York, and he encouraged legislative leaders to prepare to act quickly to address foreseeable gaps in the law.

DAILY NEWS

A Flood of Firearms Headed Our Way

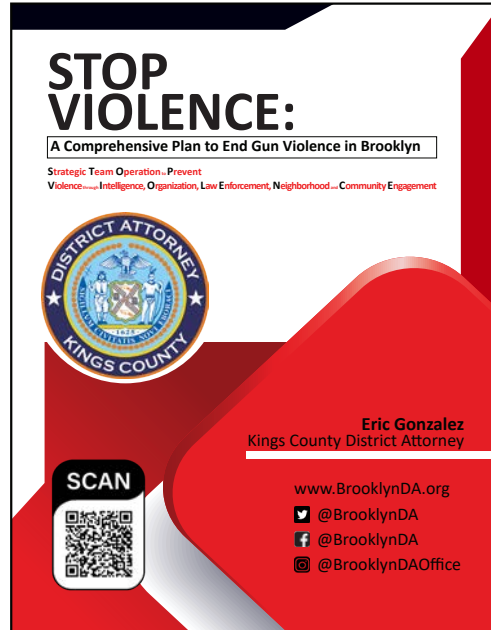
[READ THE FULL OP-ED HERE.](#)



STOP VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

In June 2022, DA Gonzalez introduced the Strategic Team Operation to Prevent Violence through Intelligence, Organization, Law Enforcement, Neighborhood and Community Engagement (STOP VIOLENCE) plan, a comprehensive crime-fighting strategy dedicating unprecedented new resources to enhance the Brooklyn DA's Office's analytics, investigative and technological capacity to prevent violence and to hold accountable those who commit gun crimes. The plan also includes significant investment in innovative gang violence prevention programs and youth engagement initiatives.

A very small number of individuals are responsible for most violent crime and by identifying those individuals and carefully targeting investigative and prosecution resources to address those drivers of crime, public safety is enhanced.



Hiring more prosecutors to focus exclusively on gun crime

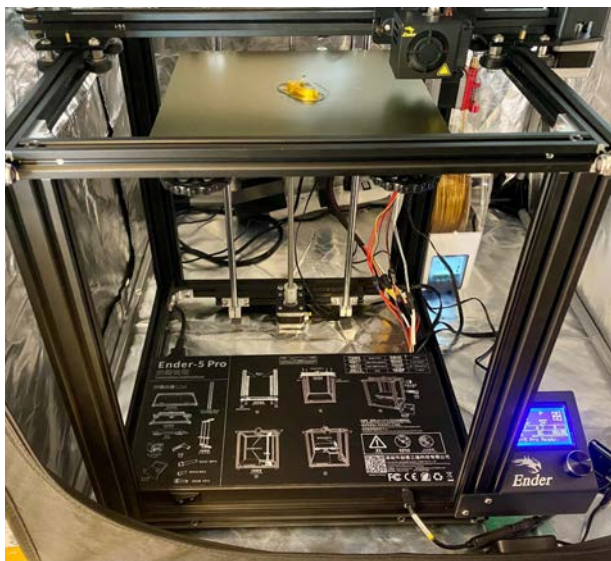
Investing \$2.7 million in a state-of-the-art Digital Evidence Lab with expert staff

Creating a new Ghost Gun Unit to focus on weapons that are sold as kits

Enhancing intelligence-sharing and resource coordination with federal, state, and local agencies

Committing over \$3M in youth and community engagement efforts

Utilizing Innovative Technology

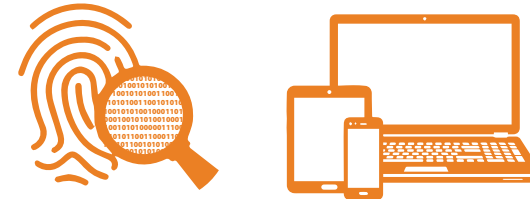


\$2.7 million in a state-of-the-art Digital Evidence Lab

Collection and analysis of digital evidence has become an increasingly important tool for solving crimes and holding offenders accountable. Video footage of a crime scene, cell phone video, footage from an officer's body camera, or data from phones or computers are often essential evidence.

To address the rapidly growing need for extraction of digital evidence, District Attorney Gonzalez established a state-of-the-art Digital Evidence Lab (DEL). The DEL is the first end-to-end solution for digital forensics that provides support for law enforcement, analysis, and legal functions at all stages of the criminal justice system in one comprehensive unit. The DEL team includes experts in digital forensics, dedicated analysts with deep knowledge of violent criminal enterprises, detective investigators with years of experience, and assistant district attorneys who guide the trial teams as to the most effective use of digital evidence.

Using cutting-edge extraction and analytical tools including Magnet Axion, DVR Examiner, Cellebrite Premium, 3-D Printing, ShotSpotter and other technologies to gather critical evidence, DEL's work has already led to convictions on cases ranging from homicides to human trafficking and played a key role in several exonerations. By investing in new technology and expert staff, we have significantly enhanced our ability to extract, store, and analyze critical digital evidence and intelligence, and increased our storage capacity by nearly 185 times in just two years.



294

digital forensic examinations of more than **500** individual digital devices



27

field requests executed with KCDA Detective Investigators and NYPD

Testimony in **129** grand jury cases



Testimony in **38** trials in 2022 resulting in **34** convictions for a **92%** conviction rate.



Evidence used to support **35** felony convictions



DEL work has led to **4** exonerations

Exonerations by Digital Evidence

- DEL analysts discovered video showing a defendant accused of possessing a gun in a nightclub had only briefly handled the bag from which the gun was recovered – another person had handed the defendant the bag to place on a chair.
- In a sexual assault case in which the victim claimed they had no relationship whatsoever with the defendant, DEL analysts discovered Facebook messages showing extensive communications between them, including indications that the charged sexual conduct was consensual.
- DEL analysts conducting social media investigation and video analysis showed that a defendant had been wrongfully identified in the robbery of a truck driver. DEL casework led to the correct identification and prosecution of the actual robber.
- In a homicide investigation, DEL analysts discovered phone and internet activity showing that decedent was still alive after video surveillance showed the suspect leaving the scene. DEL analysts recovered a photo of the body from an indicted defendant's phone.



Taking On Ghost Guns

Ghost guns are untraceable weapons that have no serial number because they are assembled from kits or made using 3D printing technology.



The availability of gun kits online and 3D printing technology have made ghost guns readily accessible nationwide to anyone, including those who cannot pass a background check or who are otherwise precluded from gun ownership. Domestic abusers, the mentally ill, and even children have obtained the parts necessary to assemble an operable weapon with just a few clicks. Every bit as lethal as traditionally manufactured firearms, more than 25,000 ghost guns were recovered by federal, state, and local law enforcement between 2016 and 2021, according to the *New York Times*.

“The surge in ghost guns in our neighborhoods is a major contributor to the violence plaguing our communities and my office is working tirelessly to stop their proliferation in Brooklyn.”

– Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez

The ease with which these guns kits can be purchased, assembled or 3D printed is shocking, so DA Gonzalez created a new Ghost Gun Unit to focus exclusively on these dangerous and illegal weapons. New state laws will help, and our investigations are aided by advanced technologies, dark web analytics, and other complex investigative techniques to identify, charge and prosecute those who purchase illegal gun kits, who sell these untraceable weapons, and who possess them. Brooklyn prosecutors, investigators, and analysts will also continue to partner with the USPS Postal Inspectors, and major shippers and couriers to intercept these kits and weapons before they can do harm.

Justice 2020: Promises Kept

In January 2018, District Attorney Gonzalez, announced his Justice 2020 initiative to transform the office into an innovative national leader increasing public safety and strengthening community trust by ensuring fairness and equal justice for all. In 2019, DA Gonzalez announced the Justice 2020 Action Plan, which included 17 recommendations developed in collaboration with reform experts, defense attorneys, service providers, law enforcement leaders, formerly incarcerated individuals, clergy and community members.



| REPORT CARD | |
|--|--------|
| RECOMMENDATION | STATUS |
| Change the office culture so that ADAs consider non-jail resolutions at every juncture of a case. | ✓ |
| Offer pre-plea alternatives for all drug possession charges and reduce barriers to participation in alternative programs. | ✓ |
| Seal or expunge marijuana convictions. | ✓ |
| Consider recommending parole when the minimum sentence is complete. | ✓ |
| Empower community residents and leaders through neighborhood safety partnerships, to give those most impacted by the criminal justice system a say in how laws are enforced. | ✓ |
| Partner with neighborhood organizations and service providers to create and expand community-based justice options to reduce incarceration and criminal convictions. | ✓ |
| Reduce prosecution of school-based offenses and divert youth from the criminal justice system. | ✓ |
| Develop protocols for charges resulting from police misconduct to improve accountability and transparency. | ✓ |
| Identify high-risk individuals early and explore early interventions to deter violent behavior. | ✓ |
| Prevent gun violence and gang affiliation by working with community groups to intervene after a gang takedown. | ✓ |
| Enhance prosecution of cases of gender-based violence, including acquaintance rape and sexual assault cases. | ✓ |
| Create a single point of contact for hate crime charges. | ✓ |
| Establish a transformation office and data/analytics team to drive metrics, best practices, and reform. | ✓ |
| Train all staff in cultural competency. | ✓ |
| Realign staffing so that each case is the responsibility of a single ADA (vertical prosecution). | ✓ |
| Promote accountability by establishing an office of professional responsibility and ethics. | ✓ |
| Streamline case handling and enhance fairness and transparency with e-discovery. | ✓ |

The Brooklyn DA's Office has completed or made substantial progress on all 17 Justice 2020 recommendations. We have transitioned away from an over-reliance on incarceration to engage all stakeholders as partners in justice, focusing resources on those who do the most harm while taking a more strategic and mission-driven approach. DA Gonzalez remains committed to building on the progress achieved through Justice 2020, improving public safety, and by expanding data-backed programs and innovative community partnerships while further increasing transparency.



DA Gonzalez (center) in 2018 with former NY Chief Judge and Justice 2020 Launch Committee Co-Chair Jonathan Lippman (left) and Medgar Evers College President and Launch Committee Co-Chair Rudy Crew (right).

“By following through on the commitments of Justice 2020, Brooklyn has led the way in improving public safety while diverting those who do not pose a threat to public safety out of the criminal legal system and into community-based services. I hope to see prosecutors’ offices across the country use the Brooklyn DA’s office as a model for truly progressive criminal justice reform.”

– Former New York Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman

READ THE JUSTICE 2020 ACTION PLAN HERE

SCAN

The New York Times

How This ‘Progressive Prosecutor’ Balances Politics and Public Safety

As his peers around the country face fierce criticism, Eric Gonzalez, the Brooklyn district attorney, is navigating a narrow path so far.

By Rebecca Davis O’Brien Feb. 26, 2022

On the first Sunday in February, Eric Gonzalez, Brooklyn’s district attorney, sat in the front row at Antioch Baptist Church in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood. The visit was emblematic of Mr. Gonzalez’s approach to criminal justice: Alongside dozens of parishioners, he and several local officials and police leaders listened to music, prayer and a biblical account of healing by faith and touch.

When the service was over, Mr. Gonzalez and a top police commander stepped outside and into a crime scene. Just down the street, at around 2 a.m. that day, an 18-year-old man had been fatally shot in his car — Brooklyn’s 11th homicide of the year.

A few short hours and a few hundred feet apart, the two episodes illustrated the narrow path that Mr. Gonzalez must walk. First elected in 2017, he pledged to bring a modern, progressive approach — a prosecutor’s healing touch — to a criminal justice system that has long been seen as a source of inequity. But as he begins his second term, stubborn increases in shootings, gang violence and other crimes have focused the city’s attention on public safety and complicated Mr. Gonzalez’s ability to fulfill that pledge.

Some New Yorkers — most notably, Mayor Eric Adams — have blamed the increases in everything from shoplifting to shootings on leniency in prosecuting lower-level crimes. Calls for a tough-on-crime approach have run up against efforts to reduce the city’s jail population and rectify decades of racially biased policing.

Across the country, many of Mr. Gonzalez’s peers in what has come to be known as the “progressive prosecutor” movement — including Alvin Bragg, Manhattan’s newly elected district attorney — have struggled to balance the competing demands. Although it is unclear what is causing the spike in shootings, their critics have focused on what they see as heightened scrutiny of the police, an emphasis on social services over prosecution and the easing of bail and sentencing laws.

Faced with a spate of grisly crimes, rising public anxiety, relentless criticism from conservative commentators and open rejection by police unions, Mr. Bragg has spent his first weeks in the job clarifying and, in some cases, reversing some of his more ambitious proposals.

Mr. Gonzalez has largely escaped such scrutiny, despite pursuing similar policies for years. How he navigates these at times conflicting priorities — reducing crime while making the justice system more just; responding to residents’ concerns without filling jails; serving victims while addressing the roots of criminal behavior — could be key in shaping the future of the city’s criminal justice system.

“I know what works, and my strategy has not shifted,” Mr. Gonzalez said in a recent interview. “It’s my job to care about quality of life. What I am responsible for is safety — I am also a steward of public trust in our justice system.”

According to current and former colleagues, nonprofit leaders, academics, Mr. Gonzalez’s peers and other law-enforcement officials, his strategy boils down to this: Listen to the community. Work with the police. Do not speak in absolutes or make promises you cannot keep. Work quietly and steadily, making change case by case.

A Career in Brooklyn

Mr. Gonzalez, 53, grew up in the East New York and Williamsburg neighborhoods, at a time when violence and drugs plagued Brooklyn. He graduated from John Dewey High School in Coney Island, then went to Cornell University and the University of Michigan Law School. In

1995, he started working at the Brooklyn district attorney’s office, rose through the ranks as a prosecutor, and never left. He lives with his wife and three sons in Williamsburg, less than a mile from where he grew up.

He became acting district attorney in late 2016, after his predecessor, Ken Thompson, died of cancer.

When he was elected to a full term the next year, Mr. Gonzalez pledged to lead “the most progressive D.A.’s office in the country,” promoting public safety and treating Brooklyn’s minority residents fairly.

Mr. Gonzalez and his advisers put together a vision for the office, which was discussed widely within the office and shared with residents and the police. Early release from prison would be the default position in most parole proceedings; intervention efforts would be employed to drive down gang crime; prosecutors would be encouraged to resolve cases without jail time. The plan also called for more vigorous prosecution of certain sex crimes — such as so-called acquaintance rape — and the addition of a hate crimes unit.

When the plan, “Justice 2020,” came out, it was “a non-story, because he had already sold it and begun to implement it,” said Tali Farhadian Weinstein, who served as general counsel under Mr. Gonzalez, and ran unsuccessfully against Mr. Bragg last year. She and several other former colleagues said the quiet, incremental rollout was typical of his style. “Not because you’re trying to hide the ball, but because that’s sometimes the best way for public safety,” she said.

In his first full term, Mr. Gonzalez continued the work he began as acting district attorney: He dismissed tens of thousands of summonses for low-level offenses, and virtually stopped prosecuting marijuana possession. He expanded a mentorship program that allowed some young men arrested with a gun for the first time to avoid prison, and he reached plea deals with immigrant defendants that allowed them to avoid deportation.

Yung-Mi Lee, the legal director of the criminal defense practice at Brooklyn Defender Services, said an important difference between Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Bragg was that Mr. Gonzalez did not come out of the gates with a sweeping set of changes.

Instead, Ms. Lee said, he had been “quietly implementing his policies, in terms of what kinds of cases should be prosecuted, which kinds of cases he has been declining to prosecute” — with some getting “a very hard-line approach.”

“It’s all about prosecutorial discretion,” she said.

When residents of Bay Ridge were upset about a group of men who often lingered on a corner near a school, drinking and urinating, Mr. Gonzalez said, his office intervened. Instead of seeking charges, the office contacted a charity service, and got a couple of the men into shelters.

“Eric Gonzalez, rhetorically, is very progressive,” said Carl Hamad-Lipscombe, the executive director of the Envision Freedom Fund, a Brooklyn nonprofit and bail fund that pushes for alternatives to pretrial detention. “What plays out in court is often very different,” Mr. Hamad-Lipscombe said, with prosecutors from Mr. Gonzalez’s office seeking bail in cases that might not call for it.

Working With the Police

One factor that contributes to Mr. Gonzalez’s ability to walk the line

between progressive priorities and community calls to tackle public safety concerns more aggressively is his diplomatic relationship with the Police Department, which he cultivated over a quarter century as a state prosecutor.

“They have always been given a voice at the table,” Mr. Gonzalez said of the police.

In 2017, the city’s largest police union endorsed Mr. Gonzalez in the Democratic primary, saying he “demonstrated a clear commitment to justice and fairness, as well as an understanding of the difficult and unique nature of a police officer’s duties.”

Still, Mr. Gonzalez has occasionally faced criticism from the police. In 2019, when his office released a list of officers whose credibility had been undermined through discredited testimony or workplace infractions, the police union that once endorsed him said he had “abandoned his prosecutorial role,” siding with “criminals, not crime victims.”

The department also objected strongly to his approach to gun possession cases. The police started to send gun cases to federal prosecutors instead; one of Mr. Gonzalez’s former top aides recalled that he had to work hard “to rebuild those bridges.”

Mr. Gonzalez’s delicate approach to working with the police is rooted, observers said, in a fundamental understanding of New York: When it comes to law and order, much of the city can be somewhat conservative. In last year’s Democratic mayoral primary, Mr. Adams — a former police officer who ran on a tough-on-crime platform — carried many of the districts hit hardest by violent crime.

“I constantly hear people say they want more cops — they just want their cops to behave differently,” said Richard Aborn, the president of the Citizens Crime Commission of New York, a nonprofit group that works closely with law enforcement and community organizations.

By the end of 2020, Brooklyn had tallied 175 murders and 652 shootings, compared with about 100 murders and 290 shootings the year before. Aggravated assaults also increased, as did burglaries and car thefts. Brooklyn reported some improvement last year: a 15 percent decline in murders and 20 percent fewer shootings. Robbery, rape and burglary also dropped. Mr. Gonzalez’s office worked with the police on

four major gang takedowns.

But there is more work to be done.

“We became the safest large city in America,” Mr. Aborn said. “When you’ve had 15 years of those levels of safety, and suddenly random shootings and murders start to creep up — people being shot, people being pushed on the subway, bodegas broken into with guns, that is going to shake an already shaken city.”

Mr. Gonzalez has argued that this is not a problem the city can arrest its way out of. Many of the concerns he hears, he said, are not about violent crime or gangs or gun violence, but about residents’ perceptions of an erosion of public safety.

“You have to have your ear to the ground, because it really goes from community to community,” Mr. Gonzalez said.

His office recently fielded a call from a chain drugstore in the Brownsville neighborhood that was being targeted regularly by several shoplifters who would get violent when confronted.

“There are neighborhoods with one pharmacy,” Mr. Gonzalez said. If that branch shuts down, “Suddenly, that community doesn’t have a 24-hour pharmacy.”

A woman in Mr. Gonzalez’s office who handles cases involving repeat offenders talked to the local precinct and set up a pilot program. Detectives in unmarked cars stationed outside the store arrested the shoplifters but, rather than jail or prosecute them, the district attorney’s office spoke with them about what was behind the thefts: Of the six who agreed to participate in the pilot program, two reported having mental health problems, three were homeless and all reported substance abuse problems.

The six were referred to service providers, and Mr. Gonzalez’s office is tracking their progress.

“To me, being progressive is not simply about not prosecuting cases,” Mr. Gonzalez said. “It’s about using the resources to protect communities.”

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In February 2022, the NY Times profiled DA Gonzalez and highlighted KCDA's success in keeping communities safe while also ensuring fairness in the justice system.

Gender-Based Violence Division

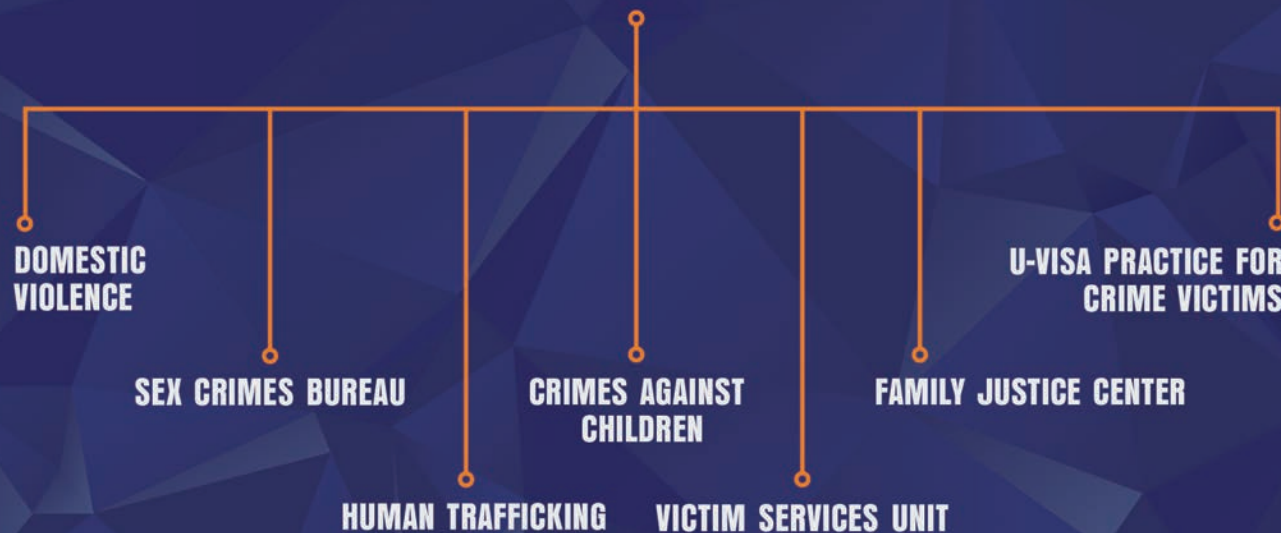
The Brooklyn DA's Office has been recognized as a national leader in combatting sexual and gender-based violence and DA Gonzalez has been committed to continually improving our approach to handling these important cases.

This year, DA Gonzalez established a new Gender-Based Violence Division, bringing together the Domestic Violence and Special Victims Bureaus, the Sex Trafficking and Victim Services Units, and the U-Visa practice that allows non-citizen crime victims to remain lawfully in the United States.

This will strengthen our response to Gender-Based Violence given the intersectionality of issues that the various Bureaus and Units share, the common evidentiary themes in their cases, and the critical need for a unified, coordinated and consistent response to the various federal and state remedies that are available to survivors of gender-based violence. In addition, victims of domestic violence or trafficking may also be victims of sex crimes. The same trauma-informed and victim-centered approach is necessary when handling cases of sexual abuse, intimate partner violence or trafficking, and when providing support to survivors.

Creating the new Division was also a response to the critical need to elevate the issue of gender violence, especially due to recent regressive policies towards women and their bodily autonomy on the national level and the statistical link between gun violence and domestic violence. A review of data from the last five years in Brooklyn showed that 20% of gun offenders have a domestic violence history (an undercount, given that the analysis could not include sealed cases). With this streamlined division, we will be able to better assist victims and more effectively bring offenders to justice.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE DIVISION



The New York Times

Brooklyn D.A. Assigns 1 in 5 Workers to Fight Violence Against Women

A new division will be created in a major restructuring meant to streamline complex cases against abusers. It's part of a national trend.

By Hurubie Meko and Rebecca Davis O'Brien Nov. 28, 2022

One October morning in a New York City courtroom, a woman from Pakistan tearfully recounted how an arranged marriage with a man she barely knew had devolved into violence in a tiny apartment in Flatlands, Brooklyn.

She told the judge about when she had finally called 911. Police officers had found her huddling in the bathroom with a bloody mouth and broken glasses — she had turned on the shower when calling for help so her husband and in-laws couldn't hear. She said in court that officers had gone back to fetch her shoes. A few feet away at the defense table, her estranged husband, in shackles, kept his head lowered, his eyes trained on the desk in front of him.

For years, cases like these — which typically involve not just prosecutors, but social workers, police officers, children's services, immigration authorities, shelters and translators — were handled by different offices, disjointed efforts that victims and their lawyers said tended to delay justice and left their varied needs unmet. Now, the Brooklyn district attorney's office has consolidated these services into a single division for gender-based violence — a major restructuring that will bring 20 percent of the entire office, including more than 100 lawyers at least 30 social workers, under central leadership.

Divisions are the principal organizing unit of a city prosecutor's office, and they have multiplied in recent years: Manhattan now has five, while the Bronx has six. Until now, Brooklyn had only two: an investigations division and a trials division. By elevating gender-based violence as a third, it is assigning such crimes an extraordinary level of priority.

"These cases all have very similar denominators, and we were treating them with a very siloed approach," said the Brooklyn district attorney, Eric Gonzalez. He called the new division "a model buster."

The move reflects an emerging ethos among district attorneys throughout the country to reshape their offices to focus more holistically on victims, particularly those who have suffered gender-based violence. In an arrangement called "vertical prosecution," lawyers work with teams of in-house victims' advocates and social workers who follow a case from start to finish.

Brooklyn's division will house the domestic violence and sex crimes bureaus, the human trafficking, crimes against children and victim services units, family justice center operations and the U-Visa practice, which offers immigration protection to victims who suffered physical or mental abuse in certain crimes.

Cases that fall under the Domestic Violence Survivors Act — which allows for more lenient sentencing, resentencing and other post-conviction relief to those who commit crimes while in relationships that are violent — will also be handled by the division.

The restructuring comes at a time when the #MeToo movement has forced a reckoning on how the police and prosecutors handle sexual violence cases.

Deals between prosecutors and defendants in rape cases have come under scrutiny, and in June, the Department of Justice said it had opened a sweeping investigation into the New York Police Department's Special Victims Division and its handling of sex crimes. The investigation was announced 10 months after more than a dozen women wrote to the Department of Justice, many of them outlining how they encountered investigators who they said lacked the skill, time and sensitivity to properly investigate their cases.

Two out of three sexual assaults are not reported to the police, according to an analysis by the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network. And immigrants face a daunting array of discouragements.

Back in the Brooklyn courthouse last month, on the same day that the Pakistani woman gave her victim impact statement, in a courtroom a few stories below a woman in her 30s testified at the trial of a family friend who had sponsored her move to New York from Grenada, then demanded sex after she moved in.

Staring at her hands, the woman described how she ran away without anywhere to live. He promised her he would stop assaulting her if she came back. He told her she could not survive in New York by herself, she said, avoiding his stare from the defendant's table.

The man claimed his actions were consensual. He told investigators he had brought her to the United States and promised to pay for everything, in return for sex, according to court documents.

Both cases, which require knowledge of cultural nuance and involve victims with vulnerable immigration statuses are typical of the complex circumstances prosecutors navigate.

The office will allow consistency, said Assistant District Attorney Michelle Kaminsky, who leads the division. Even if victims decide they don't want to move forward with prosecution, division staff will still assist them.

For example, Ms. Kaminsky said, sometimes mothers are hesitant to report domestic violence because they fear it will draw the attention of children's services. "It is terrifying that the government is watching over you, with the power to take away your children," Ms. Kaminsky said.

The division is, "really, really smart," said Liz Roberts, chief executive of Safe Horizon, the city's largest domestic violence shelter provider, which works closely with prosecutors' offices and police precincts.

"By bringing all the professionals focusing on these kinds of cases together under one umbrella, it could strengthen the work they do," she said.

At the sentencing, holding back tears and taking breaks, the woman from Pakistan told the judge that her estranged husband brought her to New York, where they moved into a two-bedroom apartment they shared with seven of his relatives.

He took her passport and phone, cutting her off from her father and sister, thousands of miles away. He became emotionally and physically abusive, she said. It took her time to realize she could report to the police what she was experiencing.

When officers arrived on a May evening last year, she was taken to Mount Sinai Hospital, in Manhattan, to be treated for lacerations to her mouth and pain to her head and neck, according to a spokesman for the district attorney. Her husband was arrested that night. He was later convicted.

In an interview before the sentencing hearing, the woman said she felt hopeful. She's been living at Asiyah Women's Center, a Muslim women's emergency center in the city. She plans to go back to school and get a degree in information technology.

It is the difference, she said, between hell and heaven.

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[READ THE ARTICLE HERE.](#)



Domestic Violence Bureau

The Domestic Violence Bureau investigates and prosecutes more than 10,000 cases of intimate partner violence each year, including homicide, strangulation, stalking, misdemeanor assault and others. Prosecutors work in conjunction with our Victim Services Unit and the Brooklyn Family Justice Center to provide a wide range of support services to survivors. Among many other resources, the Bureau offers counseling, civil legal assistance for immigration and family court matters, housing and HRA assistance, and economic empowerment programs.

**Case Spotlight**

A woman from Pakistan came to Brooklyn as part of an arranged marriage and was repeatedly sexually assaulted and violently attacked by her husband in a Flatlands apartment. Police officers found the woman huddled in the bathroom with a bloodied mouth and broken glasses after she called 911 with the window open to create noise so that her husband and in-laws couldn't hear her. After his arrest in May 2021, the defendant was convicted of committing a Criminal Sex Act in the First Degree among several other charges and sentenced to seven years in prison.

Special Victims Bureau

The Special Victims Bureau (SVB) investigates and prosecutes sexual assault cases, regardless of the age of the victim, and also investigates and prosecutes all incidents of harm to children who are under 13 years of age at the time that the perpetrator is apprehended, including cases of physical abuse and homicides. The excellent prosecutors in this Bureau are trained to work with these vulnerable victims and collaborate closely with the Victim Services Unit.

Addressing the Diverse Needs of Crime Victims



All crime victims deserve justice, safety and healing.

Do you want to talk to someone about issues that you are confronting as a crime victim or witness?
Our Victim Services Unit is here to help.


Services Include

- Crisis counseling
- Safety planning
- Court escort
- Advocacy with other agencies
- Physical and mental health referrals
- Assistance in filing for financial and medical bill reimbursement

Contact Us **718-250-3820**


 @BrooklynDA  @BrooklynDA  @BrooklynDAoffice

The SVB's work is survivor-centered, with Victim Services Unit counselors focused on providing survivors with what they need to recover and feel safe. Accordingly, prosecution decisions are informed by what survivors want. When a survivor wants to go forward with prosecution, prosecutors use a range of enhanced investigative techniques. These techniques are particularly important in cases of acquaintance rape because they pave the way for successful prosecution even when—as is often the case—there are no other witnesses. In collaboration with the Brooklyn Child Advocacy Center, the Bureau also investigates more than 5,000 reports of child abuse and neglect annually.

**Case Spotlight**

In July 2022, a Queens man was sentenced to 50 years to life in prison for sexually assaulting two women and attempting to assault a third woman, all at gunpoint, in three separate attacks in East New York. The defendant was convicted following a jury trial. With this sentencing he was held accountable for his actions, and our communities are safer now that he has been taken off the streets.

READ THE PRESS RELEASE HERE:



Victim Services Unit

We recognize that being a crime victim or witness can be a traumatic and disorienting experience. The Victim Services Unit (VSU) is dedicated to providing support, advocacy and information to people who have been victimized in Brooklyn. Social workers and prosecutors collaborate to enhance criminal prosecutions and promote the safety and recovery of survivors. VSU also provides counseling and support to victims of domestic violence between the ages of 13 and 20 and collaborates with community agencies to provide referrals.

2021 and 2022

14,182 crime victims served | 162 trainings and presentations

78 community events and task forces

\$2 Million Invested in Victim Services

Project Shield

A collaboration between the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office and YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities, Project Shield addresses sexual assault and domestic violence against people with disabilities.

VSU staff provide services in Spanish, Russian, Polish, Korean, and Haitian Creole with translation services available in other languages. Services include:

- **Safety planning**
- **Crisis intervention and short-term counseling**
- **Victim notification**
- **Information on court procedures and other related issues**
- **NYS Office of Victim Services reimbursement applications assistance**
- **Referrals to outside agencies**



Brooklyn Family Justice Center

The Brooklyn Family Justice Center (BFJC) provides a comprehensive range of services for domestic violence survivors by placing lawyers, police, dedicated domestic violence prosecutors, counselors, clergy, and other service providers under one roof. Under the Mayor’s Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence and the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, the BFJC is the first of 15 centers opened under the President’s Family Justice Center Initiative. Sanctuary for Families provides children’s programming and legal services at the Brooklyn Family Justice Center

Brooklyn DA’s Campus Sexual Assault Response

The Brooklyn DA’s Campus Sexual Assault Response Initiative works proactively with college students and administrators to raise awareness of sexual assaults on campus, protect and support student survivors and foster cooperation among schools and law enforcement.

The DA’s Office also works with campus officials to improve and institutionalize a coordinated response to campus sexual assaults, enhancing reporting and investigation while ensuring an appropriate and comprehensive response. In partnership with community organizations, prosecutors speak directly to new students arriving on campus during orientation and back-to-school activities and offer training programs for campus staff.

Human Trafficking Unit

The Human Trafficking Unit (HTU) vigorously investigates and prosecutes those who have forced individuals into sex trafficking, child sex trafficking, and labor trafficking, often through physical force, fraud or psychological coercion. The HTU uses best practices to actively investigate all forms of human trafficking through data-informed, victim-centered, evidence-based, and multi-disciplinary approaches.

HTU staff co-chair the federally funded Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force, a multi-disciplinary team focused on addressing human trafficking in NYC by bringing together law enforcement, service providers, research institutions, and civil society.

The HTU presents Human Trafficking 101, a training program to help teach community members to recognize the signs of human trafficking and what they can do to help law enforcement stop it. The training teaches participants about how family members, coworkers, and concerned citizens can assist potential victims by accessing social services. The HTU also provides advanced training for law enforcement agencies, NGO’s, healthcare providers, financial industries, and government agencies to increase identification, to address barriers in policy and practice, and to increase interdisciplinary collaboration.

To report human trafficking call 911 or (718) 250-2770



Case Spotlight

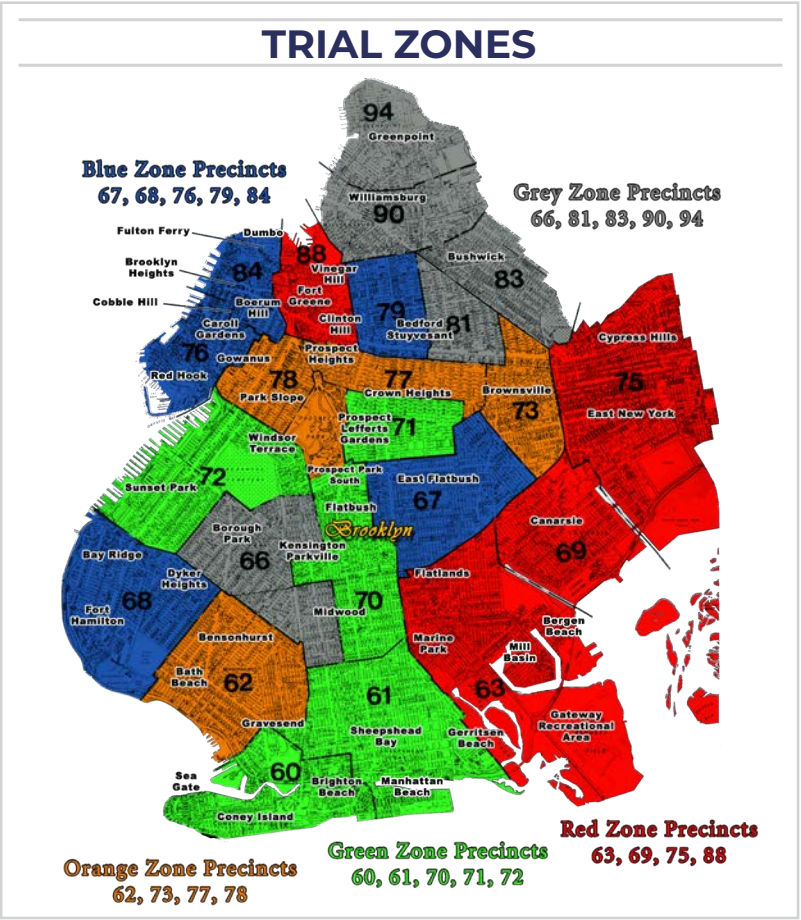
An East New York man was sentenced to 8 ½ years in prison after pleading guilty to attempted sex trafficking of a child for forcing a 16-year-old girl to have sex with men for money and then turn over that money to him. He also pleaded guilty to assaulting a brave pregnant woman who tried to rescue the teen. This outcome held the defendant accountable and sent a clear message that violent predators who seek to exploit vulnerable victims will find no sanctuary in Brooklyn.



[READ THE PRESS RELEASE HERE:](#)

Trial Division

The Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office is divided into several divisions composed of zones, specialized bureaus and units. This section of the report highlights some of their outstanding work.



BY THE NUMBERS

2021 Arrests: 41,548

2022 Arrests: 50,960

Pending Cases: 11,333

Criminal Court Bureau

The Criminal Court Bureau manages a high volume of cases as they progress through the non-specialized court parts of Brooklyn Criminal Court. The staff maintains an open dialogue with the courts and defense bar to address systemic problems and ensure that misdemeanor cases are handled fairly and efficiently.

Law Enforcement Assistance Unit

The Law Enforcement Assistance Unit works to enhance cases which are at the investigative, pre-arrest stage, by preparing subpoenas and various judicial applications, such as search warrants, takeout orders for lineups, and complaint-and-warrants. Cases involve a range of serious offenses, including homicides, robberies, credit card fraud, cybercrimes, identity theft, vehicular crimes, and domestic violence. The unit also works with out-of-state law enforcement agencies in preparing various judicial applications pertaining to interstate criminal matters, which include the securing of witnesses for out-of-state criminal cases by means of material witness orders. In addition, the unit handles all extradition and rendition matters.

Homicide Bureau

Brooklyn’s Homicide Bureau is home to some of the agency’s most seasoned prosecutors and reviews all homicides in Brooklyn. Assistant District Attorneys in the Homicide Bureau are skilled investigators and tenacious litigators prosecuting some of the most complex, challenging, and high-profile cases we see. This work requires great legal skill, and even greater empathy as they work closely with the families of victims who have endured horrific losses.



Case Spotlight

In June 2022, two men and a woman were sentenced to 75 years to life in prison for the torture and murder of NYPD Civilian Employee Robert D’Onofrio during a robbery in his home in Bensonhurst. The depravity of this horrific murder can’t be overstated and the lengthy prison terms to which these defendants were sentenced held them accountable for torturing and killing an innocent man during a carefully planned robbery attack.

[READ THE PRESS RELEASE HERE](#)



In March 2022, a Staten Island man was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison following his murder conviction for killing an off-duty firefighter following a minor fender bender on the Belt Parkway.

[READ THE PRESS RELEASE HERE](#)



In February 2022, a former Brooklyn resident was sentenced to 50 years to life in prison following his conviction on two counts of murder for shooting to death his sister and former girlfriend in July 2002. The defendant fled Brooklyn and remained at large until his arrest in Connecticut almost twenty years later.

[READ THE PRESS RELEASE HERE](#)



Investigations Division

Brooklyn’s Investigations Division develops and prosecutes some of the office’s most complex and high-profile cases, frequently involving long-term investigations that utilize sophisticated tools like electronic surveillance and data analytics. From undercover operations taking on organized crime and racketeering to unraveling high-tech frauds and cybercrimes, the talented and dedicated attorneys, investigators and staff of the Investigations Division play an essential role in keeping people of Brooklyn safe on the street, at home, online, and at work.

Organized Crime and Racketeering Bureau

The Organized Crime and Racketeering Bureau conducts proactive investigations of traditional and emerging organized crime groups involved in sustained criminal activity and racketeering. The activities involve white collar crime, violent crime, and occasionally narcotics crimes. These groups generally have a structure designed to insulate their highest levels from law enforcement. The investigative goal is to gather sufficient evidence through the use of all available law enforcement techniques to disrupt or dismantle these groups through multi-defendant conspiracy and/or enterprise corruption prosecutions coordinated with asset seizure or forfeiture.



Case Spotlight

In April 2022, following a joint two-year investigation by the Brooklyn DA’s Office, New York Attorney General’s Office and the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, indictments were secured against four members and two associates of the Genovese Organized Crime Family on a wide-ranging extortion, loansharking, and gambling indictment. All six defendants pleaded guilty to charges of racketeering conspiracy.

The multi-year investigation also uncovered corruption of the Bronx County Clerk, Luis Diaz. Following extensive investigation including search warrants at home and office. The former NYS Assemblyman was arrested and charged with Offering a False Instrument for Filing. Diaz pleaded guilty to the charge and has been permanently barred from holding public office in the future.

[READ THE ARTICLES HERE:](#)



Asset Forfeiture and Crimes Against Revenue Bureau

The Asset Forfeiture and Crimes Against Revenue Bureau initiates civil proceedings to recoup the proceeds of criminal activities in cash, bank accounts, homes and vehicles from offenders who have engaged in and profited from illegal activities. The bureau also investigates and prosecutes individuals and corporations who fail to pay state and city taxes.



\$8.2M Recovered Since 2021

Cybercrimes Unit

The Cybercrimes Unit investigates and prosecutes fraud connected to computer devices, such as identity theft and hacking. The unit also focuses on internet-related fraud and scams related to online payments.

Frauds Bureau

The Frauds Bureau investigates and prosecutes a wide variety of white-collar crimes, from scams targeting immigrants and homeowners, to wage theft and other crimes against workers, to healthcare schemes that defraud public programs and divert resources from people who truly need help. Protecting Brooklyn residents from all manner of fraud and scams is an essential part of protecting public safety.



Case Spotlight

DA Gonzalez has zero tolerance for fake charities and scammers who seek to prey on the good will of donors. The commitment to fighting charity fraud was recently highlighted in a front-page New York Times article. The story centered on a Staten Island man who allegedly operated a long-running scam involving 23 fake cancer charities and collecting at least \$152,000 that was never put to any charitable purpose. Ian Hosang, 63, was indicted in May, and charged with 12 counts of third-degree larceny, three-counts of first-degree identity theft and one count of first-degree scheme to defraud.



READ THE ARTICLE:



Health Care Fraud Unit

The Health Care Fraud Unit investigates fraud in Medicaid, Medicare, and other health insurance plans, including in managed health care organizations. The unit investigates and prosecutes fraud committed by providers (such as doctors billing for services not performed and pharmacists who bill for medication that was not dispensed), as well as fraud committed by recipients of public benefits (such as fraud involving Medicaid and food stamps).

Construction Crimes and Labor Fraud Unit

The Construction Crimes and Labor Fraud Unit investigates and prosecutes employers and others who commit fraud against workers and the programs that are in place to protect them. This includes construction incidents which result in worker injury or fatality. DA Gonzalez is committed to investigating and prosecuting unscrupulous employers who cheat their workers or fail to provide safe working conditions.

In 2022, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul announced enhancements to the Wage Theft Task Force, a major coordinated effort between New York State agencies, the Attorney General, our partners in labor and local law enforcement. To date, the Brooklyn DA's office has secured felony convictions and agreements from more than a dozen businesses and 265 individuals to pay nearly \$3 million in restitution.



Call to Report Labor Fraud 718-250-3770



Case Spotlight

In September 2022, the owner of an illegally subdivided Flatbush apartment building was sentenced to jail and probation in connection with a fatal two-alarm fire in 2019 that left one tenant dead and six others injured.



READ THE ARTICLE HERE:



“This landlord’s unconscionable negligence cost an innocent man his life and left six others injured when a horrific fire broke out in his illegal apartments. Today’s sentence holds him accountable and sends a strong message to landlords who put profit over the health and safety of their tenants that violations of our housing laws and regulations can come with serious consequences.”

– Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez

Real Estate Fraud Unit

The Real Estate Fraud Unit investigates and prosecutes fraud related to real property, including deed fraud, mortgage fraud, and foreclosure rescue schemes, as well as fraud related to landlord-tenant relationships.

Combating Deed Fraud

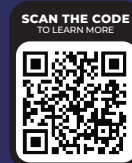
For many, owning a home is a significant accomplishment that reflects a lifetime of hard work and sacrifice. Home ownership is a foundational component of our communities and for many people, their largest investment. Sadly, homeowners have increasingly become targets of a variety of schemes and frauds that can be hard to detect, difficult to remedy and tremendously harmful. The problem is especially prevalent in Brooklyn, which has seen a significant increase in the value of real estate.

These frauds are frequently perpetrated by schemers who trick or pressure homeowners into signing away title to their homes. Scammers frequently target the elderly, the disabled, and those under financial stress. DA Gonzalez has made it a major priority to prosecute these heartless frauds – and to educate homeowners and community members to give them the skills to protect themselves from becoming victims in the first place.



Tips To Avoid Deed Fraud

- Register for the New York City Department of Finance's Recorded Document Notification Program by visiting the Automated City Register Information System (ACRIS) so that you can receive an alert when a deed, deed-related document, mortgage, or mortgage-related document has been recorded against your property.
- Make sure the New York City Department of Finance has the correct mailing address for you or the person who should receive notices about your property.
- Check the City Register's records periodically to ensure that no deeds or mortgages have been recorded on your property without your consent.
- Contact the Department of Finance if you stop receiving property tax bills and the Department of Environmental Protection if you stop receiving water bills.



DA Gonzalez hosted a Homeowner Resource Fair at Restoration Plaza with community partners to raise awareness about deed fraud, foreclosure rescue scams, and other schemes targeting vulnerable homeowners.

Immigrant Affairs Unit

Brooklyn is one of the most diverse places in America and we embrace the beautiful diversity of the immigrant communities that make our city so vibrant. Unfortunately, scammers and unscrupulous employers frequently try to prey on or take advantage of immigrants in our communities. To help our newest neighbors, the Brooklyn DA's office has dedicated special resources to protect and support immigrants, regardless of their immigration status. The Immigrant Affairs Unit (IAU) investigates and prosecutes individuals and businesses that target and exploit immigrants through fraud. IAU encourages non-citizen victims and witnesses to cooperate with law enforcement without fear of immigration consequences and supports them as they do so.



The IAU and the Special Counsel for Immigrant Affairs have organized and participated in dozens of community resource forums and presentations to help immigrants learn their legal rights and learn to protect themselves from scams. The Unit has also certified hundreds of U and T Visa requests allowing immigrant victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse or been victimized by human trafficking to stay legally in the country to assist with the investigation or prosecution of crimes.



Brooklyn has one of the largest Ukrainian populations in America, and the DA's Office supported Ukrainians fleeing war by partnering with nonprofit organizations to provide key information and resources related to the immigration process.



The District Attorney participated in a community resource event to provide support services for hundreds of Venezuelans who were bussed to Brooklyn from Texas and Arizona.

Public Integrity Bureau

The Public Integrity Bureau (PIB) investigates corruption and fraud committed by public officials, including city employees and elected officials. These offenses include bribery and malfeasance in the government contracting process, among others. PIB also investigates cases of attorney embezzlement and fraud in all levels of government programs, including city, state and federal agencies, as well as any government funded entity. Some of those include the New York City Housing Authority and the New York City Human Resources Administration. To facilitate these investigations, PIB frequently partners with other agencies including the New York City Department of Investigation, the New York State Inspector General's Office, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, among others.



Case Spotlight

A crooked attorney embezzled settlement checks totaling approximately \$493,000 from 16 clients. He also stole approximately \$96,000 by filing fraudulent loan applications through the COVID-19 Payroll Protection Program. After the defendant's arrest, the Investigations Bureau discovered nine additional clients from whom he stole approximately \$77,000. In December 2022, the defendant pleaded guilty to Grand Larceny in the Second Degree and Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree among other charges. The defendant has been disbarred and was sentenced to one to three years in prison. As of the date of this publication, the Brooklyn DA's Office has returned a total of approximately \$455,000 to 14 of the defendant's victims.

Since taking office, DA Gonzalez has prosecuted more than a dozen attorneys on charges of fraud or misconduct.

[READ THE PRESS RELEASE HERE:](#)



Case Spotlight

In September 2019, nine contractors were arrested for bribing superintendents at NYCHA developments in exchange for "micro purchase" contracts. These defendants tried to seek favors from NYCHA superintendents by offering them bribes, corrupting a process meant to ensure contracts are fairly awarded. All nine pleaded guilty to various corruption-related charges. The Brooklyn DA's Office will continue to work to make sure that bribery schemes, corrupt lawyers and other forms of public corruption are investigated and prosecuted.



[READ THE ARTICLE HERE:](#)



Specialized Bureaus and Units

Appeals Bureau

The Appeals Bureau is responsible for the litigation of the office's cases after conviction, including responding to appeals filed by defendants in the Appellate Division and to the New York Court of Appeals, the State's highest court. The Appeals Bureau prosecutes appeals by the District Attorney from certain adverse rulings by trial judges and responds to post-conviction motions in the trial court. The Bureau also responds to defendants' habeas corpus petitions in District Court and litigates federal appeals. In addition, Appeals Bureau attorneys often advise trial prosecutors regarding complex legal issues and provide legal training on a number of specialized topics.



Case Spotlight

In a case before the New York State Court of Appeals, *People v. Anderson*, the Appeals Bureau successfully defended a murder conviction that resulted from an incident in which the defendant fired a gun at rival gang members on a public bus and killed an innocent bystander.

[READ THE DECISION:](#)



Crime Strategies Unit

The Crime Strategies Unit (CSU) works closely with Violent Crime Enterprises (VCE) and uses sophisticated data analysis to identify drivers of crime—those few people responsible for many of the violent crimes committed in the community. CSU ensures that cases involving these individuals receive special attention and helps secure appropriate resolutions that promote public safety. An automated alert system provides prosecutors with detailed intelligence information in cases involving these defendants. CSU staff members also attend NYPD CompStat meetings to share information and develop informed and effective responses to gun crime.



While we have made great strides in public safety, gun violence remains a serious challenge in our community and the DA's office has committed to an innovative, strategic, and multi-pronged approach. This commitment includes prosecuting those who possess illegal firearms and long-term investigations into major trafficking rings, cases that remove guns from the street or stop them before they get there.

We have also invested in evidence-based and data-informed prevention programs focused on high-risk youth and drivers of crime, engaging credible messengers and violence interrupters on the ground in our neighborhoods to stop violence. The advances we have made reducing gun violence make clear that this comprehensive approach to public problems improves public safety, fairness, and trust than more than traditional criminal justice responses alone.

Gun Violence Suppression Bureau

Established by DA Gonzalez in 2020, the Gun Violence Suppression Bureau (GVSB) focuses with laser-like precision on the investigation and prosecution of gun possession cases. These cases are at the root of the scourge of gun violence that has long plagued our borough, particularly Brooklyn's Black and Latino communities.

By centralizing strategic decision-making for the prosecutions of these cases in one bureau, GVSB ensures that those who possess these lethal weapons on our city streets are held accountable, working closely with law enforcement agencies to expeditiously collect and process the evidence necessary for successful prosecutions. The Bureau also provides dedicated support to prosecutors in the Office's trial zones and other internal units as they are assigned to prosecute gun possession.

In addition, GVSB staff trains other prosecutors to utilize effective trial strategies to overcome the many challenges that frequently complicate the prosecution of gun possession cases. This training is especially critical given the speed and interagency cooperation that is necessary for prosecutors to gather the voluminous records required to comply with the short discovery timelines required by recent reforms.

GVSB also works to improve the fairness of gun possession prosecutions by formulating consistent criteria for both plea and diversion offers to all defendants.

Hate Crimes Bureau

No one deserves to live in fear simply because of who they are, who they love, how they look or how they worship. Hate crimes not only traumatize the immediate victim; they terrorize entire communities. Hence, they require a swift and decisive response by prosecutors equipped with the specialized tools and experience needed to deliver justice to victims of these terrible acts.



DA Gonzalez created a dedicated Hate Crimes Bureau to diligently investigate and prosecute cases against those who victimize our neighbors because of their perceived race, sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity or religion. There has been an unacceptable rise in hate crimes across New York City. The prosecution of hate crimes is a top priority for the DA's Office, and we will use every legal tool to fight against the scourge of intolerance.

Hate crime prosecutions are often challenging because New York law requires proof of the defendant's motivation, so Hate Crimes Bureau prosecutors assist in investigations by going to crime scenes and interviewing victims and witnesses at early stages of cases, working closely with members of the NYPD's Hate Crimes Task Force. They also conduct independent investigations and conduct vigorous outreach, holding educational sessions and reaching out to communities targeted by bias-motivated crimes.

“District Attorney Gonzalez understands the need to make prosecuting anti-Semitic violence a top priority, always making sure that victims are supported and have a voice. Too often, victims are left to navigate the complicated system of police, prosecutors and courts largely on their own. DA Gonzalez understands that we need to reorient the system to ensure victims are equal partners in the criminal justice process – that they are heard, kept informed, and supported as their cases progress, and that their views are understood and respected.”

– Devorah Halberstam,
Chair of the NYPD's Civilian Hate Crime Review Panel and
Mother of Hate Crime Victim Ari Halberstam



DAILY NEWS

Hateful Brooklyn slasher pleads guilty to assaulting man and his transgender partner, faces three years in prison



Case Spotlight

In May 2021, a Bedford-Stuyvesant man was sentenced to three years in prison after he pleaded guilty to assaulting a man and his transgender partner during an attack outside their apartment in Bedford-Stuyvesant. The victim, a 32-year-old male, and his non-gender conforming partner, were harassed by the defendant outside their apartment on Malcom X Boulevard in Bed-Stuy in June 2019. The defendant allegedly knocked on various apartment doors looking for the couple and threatened them when he found their apartment. While outside the apartment, the defendant allegedly said: “I’m glad I know where you live, because I don’t like gay people.” Later that day, as the couple was returning to their building, the defendant charged towards them in the street and stabbed the victim in the back of the neck while the couple attempted to retreat into the apartment building. The victim was transported to the hospital for surgery and made a full recovery.

[READ THE ARTICLE HERE:](#)



Violent Criminal Enterprises Bureau

The Violent Criminal Enterprises Bureau (VCE) seeks to stem gun violence and other criminal activity perpetrated by gangs and narcotics organizations operating in Brooklyn. The Bureau uses sophisticated analyses of social media, electronic communications, and other data to build successful conspiracy and enterprise corruption cases against offenders and thereby incapacitate and dismantle these violent enterprises.

VCE focuses on the investigation and prosecution of known gang members who have committed serious offenses, including the possession and sale of firearms and other violent crimes, and conducts gang awareness training working with community groups and educational agencies to help young people avoid gang life. The Bureau also investigates and prosecutes individuals and organizations involved in the trafficking of large quantities of drugs in Brooklyn. VCE prosecutors work closely with NYPD, federal agencies, detective investigators assigned to the office, as well as with community groups and religious and business leaders, to combat drug distribution and related violence in Brooklyn.



Street Safety Bureau

The Street Safety Bureau assists in police investigations of traffic violence cases, with emphasis on protecting bicyclists and pedestrians, responding to scenes of serious collisions and coordinating support services for victims and their families. Street Safety Bureau prosecutors also collaborate with lawmakers to assist in drafting legislation to combat vehicular violence, attend Safety Board meetings, and host regular meetings with traffic safety advocates.

Street Safety prosecutors are engaged in the investigation of collisions with fatalities of cyclists or pedestrians at an early stage. Once the NYPD's Collision Investigation Squad is activated, the Street Safety Bureau is immediately notified and when appropriate, dispatches a prosecutor to the scene at any time, day or night. The attorney assists police in identifying evidence, speaks to witnesses while their memories are fresh, documents relevant information, drafts warrants to facilitate the gathering of evidence and makes initial contact with victims and their families. This real-time presence helps prosecutors determine quickly whether criminality is suspected and ensures that all the evidence at the scene is preserved and reviewed. Support remains available to victims regardless of whether the incident proceeds as a criminal matter.

Prosecutors also meet regularly with community members, advocates and other stakeholders to discuss their work, answer questions, and to collaborate regarding strategies to improve safety. The Bureau also sponsors the Choices and Consequences Program, providing regular presentations to young people regarding the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.



Case Spotlight

A Sheepshead Bay man pleaded guilty to Aggravated Vehicular Homicide and Aggravated Driving while intoxicated following an incident in which he drove the wrong way on the Belt Parkway for more than two miles. The defendant collided with a Lyft car that was traveling in the right direction. The force of the impact threw the Lyft into the air and onto the median. One passenger died and the driver and another passenger suffered significant injuries. The defendant had a blood alcohol level of .18%. He was sentenced to seven to 21 years in prison.

READ THE PRESS RELEASE HERE:



DAILY NEWS

Brooklyn Driver Gets 15 Years In Prison For Killing Rollerblader During Drunken Rage

Following a first-degree manslaughter plea, a Brownsville man was sentenced in June 2019 to 15 years in state prison for fatally striking a pedestrian. Before the incident, the defendant was arguing with his partner and announced that he was going to crash the car and kill both of them. The defendant accelerated down the street – reaching 97 miles per hour just before the collision – and struck and severely injured a 21-year-old pedestrian, catapulting him into the air. The defendant proceeded to strike four stopped or parked cars, including a livery cab containing a pregnant mother and her toddler. The woman lost the baby as a result of the collision. The defendant was found hiding near the scene with a blood alcohol level of .22%

READ THE ARTICLE HERE:



Alternative Programs Bureau

Red Hook Community Justice Center

The Red Hook Community Justice Center is a community court established to address the unique social and judicial needs of its surrounding neighborhood — the 72nd, 76th, and 78th Precincts. The Justice Center is a collaborative effort of the Brooklyn DA's Office, the Center for Court Innovation, the Office of Court Administration and the defense bar.

The dedicated Assistant District Attorneys assigned to the Justice Center handle approximately 3,200 misdemeanor cases each year and they are a constant presence at community meetings and neighborhood events because close and trusting relationships with the public are critical to the mission of the Justice Center. They have an in-depth knowledge of the community, frequently attending



community meetings and participating in neighborhood events. As a problem-solving court, the Justice Center seeks to resolve cases in ways that make amends to the community, address the needs of victims, and endeavor to effectively change the defendant's behavior. Sentences often include intensive drug or alcohol treatment, mediation, anger management classes, GED classes, youth groups, vehicular programs, and more.

The courthouse is also the hub for an array of innovative programs that contribute to reducing fear and improving community trust in the justice system. These include a

youth court where teenagers learn to resolve actual cases involving their peers. Additionally, the Justice Center has an AmeriCorps program – New York Juvenile Justice Corps, and a housing resource center, which provides support and information to residents with cases in housing court. The Justice Center was the model for the Brooklyn Young Adult Court, which now provides similar services in the rest of the borough outside of Red Hook.


DA Gonzalez believes that although some young people make mistakes, it is irresponsible for us to give up on them. We must give them a second chance and make every effort to help all young people grow into adults who play a positive role in their community.

Brooklyn Young Adult Court (BYAC)

The Brooklyn Young Adult Court (BYAC) gives special attention to young people accused of misdemeanors with particular focus on those at high risk of re-offending and those facing more serious criminal consequences. A dedicated judge presides over the Court which is staffed by prosecutors from the Brooklyn DA's Young Adult Bureau, as well as specially assigned defense advocates, and social workers. All BYAC staff have received specialized training on the unique needs of young adults.


Brooklyn Mental Health Court

The Brooklyn Mental Health Court works with defendants who have serious and persistent mental illnesses, linking them to long-term treatment as an alternative to incarceration. The first court of its kind in New York City, the Brooklyn Mental Health Court aims to strengthen the justice system's ability to identify, assess, and monitor individual participants; to create linkages between the justice and mental health systems; and to improve public safety by ensuring that participants receive high-quality community-based services. The court and its programs have helped to reduce recidivism and improve mental health outcomes.



DA Gonzalez discusses the success of the Mental Health Court in improving public safety and improving mental health outcomes. This video interview was the first in NOW THIS' series on Brooklyn's Mental Health Court.

SCAN TO WATCH INTERVIEW



46% reduction in the likelihood of a rearrest for participants versus a comparison group

29% reduction in the likelihood of a reconviction for participants versus a comparison group

84% of active participants in compliance with court mandates

Source: Center for Court Innovation

LEARN ABOUT PROJECT CLEAR, WHICH OFFERS ADDICTION TREATMENT TO JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS HERE



Opioid Overdose Prevention Program



As the opioid epidemic continues to ravage communities all across our country, investments in harm reduction are essential to a comprehensive strategy. Naloxone is a lifesaving medication that can frequently stop an opioid overdose, and it has been successfully used to save countless lives. Many members of the KCDA staff are qualified to train others on the proper administration of naloxone, and have begun training and distributing kits to the staffs of local elected officials and community organizations.

To schedule a naloxone administration training for your organization, please email ODPrevention@BrooklynDA.org. Trainings take approximately one hour, and free naloxone kits are provided.

POST-CONVICTION JUSTICE BUREAU

The District Attorney's obligation to do justice and efforts to strengthen community trust in the criminal justice system continue after conviction. The Post-Conviction Justice Bureau, the first stand-alone bureau of its kind in the nation, is anchored by the nationally recognized Conviction Review Unit and includes the Parole and Clemency Unit and the Sealing Unit. Not only do members of this bureau work to ensure the integrity and propriety of the convictions, but also work to help those who have been properly convicted when they deserve a second chance, and to help seal past convictions when the law allows.


Conviction Review Unit

Brooklyn has the largest Conviction Review Unit (CRU) in the country tasked with reviewing cases in which credible claims have emerged that people may have been wrongfully convicted.

If prosecutors ignore credible claims of wrongful conviction, it undermines public confidence in the justice system. Conversely, if we vigorously investigate claims of innocence, exonerate innocent people and admit mistakes, it sends a powerful message to the public that we can be trusted to pursue the truth, and not just guilty verdicts.


When the CRU investigates a potential wrongful conviction, the team takes a fresh look at all the evidence. They re-interview witnesses, consult with experts and use the most up-to-date science and technology to reevaluate the evidence. This includes forensic science like DNA, as well as social science research on issues like faulty eyewitness identification and false confessions.






Case Spotlight

In September 2022, DA Gonzalez moved to vacate and dismiss 378 convictions that were directly based on the work of 13 former NYPD officers who were later convicted of crimes that were committed while on duty, one of the largest mass dismissal of convictions in US history. The officers' testimony in these cases was essential to proving guilt and the DA no longer had confidence in the integrity of the evidence. The move was an outgrowth of the DA's earlier decision to dismiss 90 convictions that relied on the work of an NYPD detective who was indicted for multiple perjuries.



READ THE ARTICLE HERE.



Parole and Clemency Unit

The Parole and Clemency Unit leads our participation in parole proceedings for incarcerated individuals through the analysis of individual cases and the development of policy positions that apply across various categories of cases. For too long, many district attorneys reflexively opposed release when individuals became eligible for parole. District Attorney Gonzalez ended the practice of reflexive parole opposition and the Parole and Clemency Unit now advocates for early release of individuals who have served the minimum sentence and have shown during their time in prison that they can safely return home.

Sealing Unit

The Sealing Unit encourages and facilitates applications to seal criminal convictions under a 2017 New York State law. The Unit has partnered with our Office of Public Engagement to spread the word about the opportunity to seal convictions, to encourage more applications and to resolve them expeditiously. Sealing convictions provides relief from the collateral consequences of convictions, including barriers to employment, housing, education, and public benefits.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND RE-ENTRY

Once someone has been held accountable for committing a crime, justice demands that we work with them to start a new chapter of life. The Brooklyn DA's Office has long had a robust and active Re-Entry Bureau and District Attorney Gonzalez has committed additional resources to support this critical work, with a new Re-Entry Bureau Hub opening in 2022. The Hub, located at 345 Adams Street, is the only Re-Entry Hub run by District Attorney staff.

By participating in one of the DA's Re-Entry Bureau sponsored programs, individuals can better equip themselves to avoid further criminal activity, contribute to their communities, and move forward with their lives from a position of strength.

For our team, successful re-entry means helping formerly incarcerated individuals find appropriate housing and educational opportunities, develop employment prospects, and re-establish the best relationships possible with family members and loved ones. Re-Entry services include substance abuse treatment, group and individual counseling, job readiness workshops, high school equivalency degree classes, family services, mentor matching, life skills workshops, HIV/AIDS counseling and testing, health insurance enrollment, clothing assistance, pre and post-natal support, educational advocacy, and assistance connecting with offsite services such as emergency shelters, job training, educational opportunities, and medical services. In 2022, the office also expanded its services to include a first-of-its-kind partnership with the Department of Education to offer GED classes onsite.



DA Gonzalez joins Community Resources and Re-Entry Bureau staff to open a new Re-Entry Hub



Program Spotlight:

In June 2022, the Brooklyn DA's Office partnered with Bike New York and One Community to sponsor a four-week bike path training program at the Brooklyn Navy Yard to help justice-involved individuals from the KCDA reentry program become bike mechanics. Case managers attended their graduation to celebrate them receiving their bike mechanic certification alongside other participants.

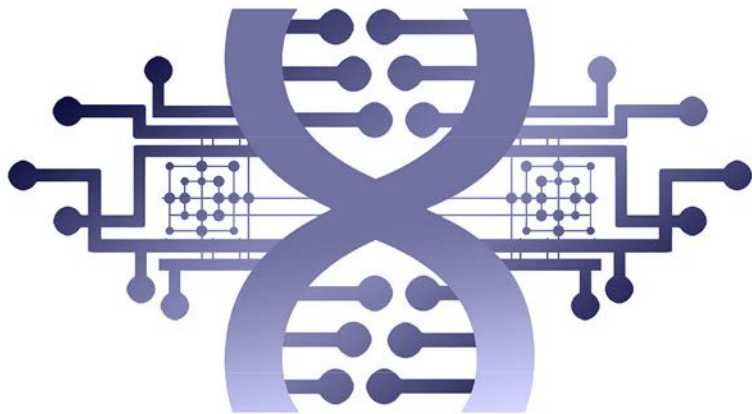


Forensic Science and Cold Case Unit

The Forensic Science and Cold Case Unit (FSCCU) advises all Brooklyn prosecutors on legal and technical forensic issues at every stage of their cases. FSCCU staff assist with grand jury presentations, motion practice, and trial strategy in cases involving DNA, fingerprints, and ballistics evidence. The Unit provides extensive in-house training to assistant district attorneys on various forensic disciplines and related legal issues to ensure that the office continues to understand and utilize the most sophisticated forensic evidence in all investigations and prosecutions. The Unit also assists in the review of post-conviction requests for DNA testing and cold case homicide investigations.



Reviewed over
1,904 DNA HITS



Submitted
1,100 FIREARM TESTING REQUESTS



Wrote
240 GRAND JURY AND TRIAL SCRIPTS



Conferred on
HUNDREDS OF PRE- AND POST-INDICTMENT CASES

Engaging Communities

Office of Public Engagement

DA Gonzalez is in the community almost every day, speaking with the people of Brooklyn about how we can serve them better. To ensure that we are present in every community, the dedicated team in the District Attorney's Office of Public Engagement is on the ground throughout Brooklyn listening to residents, strategizing, problem-solving, and celebrating together.

Throughout the pandemic, our team attended virtual community board meetings, police precinct council meetings, and block association and civic association events to listen to the concerns of residents and ensure that all Brooklyn communities were kept informed about the latest developments associated with our work.

The Public Engagement team has also organized virtual and in-person presentations to connect Brooklyn residents who are concerned about a particular law enforcement issue with prosecutors who can provide expert information and assistance.

There is an OPE representative assigned to serve every community in Brooklyn. For assistance, call 718-250-3888 or email CommunityAffairs@BrooklynDA.org.



Office of Public Engagement - 718-250-3888



CommunityAffairs@BrooklynDA.org



Karen Crawford

Central Brooklyn, Crown Heights, Wingate, Prospect Lefferts, Weeksville, Crown Heights, and Prospect Heights.



Judith Destin

Canarsie, Midwood, Fiske Terrace, Ditmas Park, Prospect Park South, East Flatbush, and Remsen Village.



Alex Gurevich

Marine Park, Mill Basin, Bergen Beach, Flatlands, Borough Park, Midwood, Kensington, Seagate, Coney Island, Brighton Beach, and West Brighton Beach.



Shelton Jones

Brownsville, Bedford Stuyvesant, Ocean Hill, Herbert Von King Park, Stuyvesant Heights, and Saratoga Park.



Paul Laguerre

Bensonhurst, Mapleton, Bath Beach, Carroll Gardens, Red Hook, Cobble Hill, Gowanus, and Columbia Street Waterfront District.



Nancy Lulu

Kings Bay, Gravesend, Sheepshead Bay, Manhattan Beach, Fort Hamilton, Bay Ridge, and Dyker Heights.



Denise Peterson

Park Slope, Prospect Park, Gowanus, Clinton Hill, Fort Green Park, and Commodore Barry Park.



Jonathan Pomboza

Bushwick, Greenpoint, Williamsburg, East Williamsburg, and Southside Williamsburg.



Roopesh Ramjit

East New York, Cypress Hills, and Starrett City.



John Watkins

Sunset Park, Windsor Terrace, Downtown Brooklyn, Dumbo, Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, and Vinegar Hill.

National Night Out Against Crime

National Night Out Against Crime is an annual community-building campaign that seeks to strengthen the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement, helping make our communities safer, more caring places to live. Brooklyn DA staff participated in events throughout the borough to educate our neighbors about our work and to build connections and trust with the people we serve.



DA Gonzalez and KCDA staff take part in National Night Out events across Brooklyn

Heritage Celebrations

The Brooklyn DA's Office is proud to celebrate all the diverse cultures that weave together the fabric of our City.



Hanukkah candle lighting
with NYPD Chaplain Rabbi Alvin Kass



KCDA Pride Celebration



Inaugural Yemeni American Heritage Parade



KCDA Hispanic Heritage Celebration



KCDA Black History Month Celebration



KCDA AAPI Heritage Celebration



KCDA Women's History Month Celebration



Pakistani Independence Day Parade



Diwali Celebration



West Indian Day Parade



Brooklyn Three Kings Day Parade



KCDA Lunar New Year Celebration

Brownsville Safety Alliance

“Because safety is rooted in community wellness and social relationships, the work of building long-term safety can only be done effectively by the community, in the community. Law enforcement must play a supporting role by ceding power to local communities and providing resources that enable residents to build the future they want. That’s why the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office continues to take part in several pilot initiatives including the Brownsville Safety Alliance.”

– Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez

As part of the Justice 2020 commitment to empower community residents and leaders through neighborhood justice partnerships, the DA’s office participated in the Brownsville Safety Alliance (BSA) in partnership with Brownsville In Violence Out (BIVO).

For five days, community providers conducted outreach to learn about residents’ needs and offer access to healthcare and other support services. During this time, police pull back from the area of focus and local leaders, violence interrupters, and individuals with prior justice involvement maintain a regular presence to intervene and de-escalate potential conflicts and prevent crime before police intervention may be needed.

The DA’s office has helped BSA with planning and convening and has staffed a resource table with information about re-entry services and sealing of convictions. All stakeholders agreed that the success of these experimental programs, with very few 911 calls made while programs were operating, providing a blueprint for future community violence intervention efforts. Working with our community and law enforcement partners, the Brooklyn DA’s office is committed to continued innovation to improve safety while building public trust.



LEARN ABOUT COMMUNITY-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY
PROGRAMS OFFERED FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH HERE



Overcoming Pandemic Challenges



The COVID-19 pandemic caused extensive pain to our communities and dramatically changed the way we live and work. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, courts in New York State closed their doors, but the DA's Office never shut down. We made a swift transition to remote operations, creating secure systems for ADAs and support staff to have access to all necessary materials to work remotely. Prosecutors adapted to handle cases and deliver justice for victims while keeping in contact with them virtually. Social workers stayed connected with survivors of domestic violence by conducting virtual check-ins for safety planning. Throughout the pandemic, our prosecutors, investigators and staff continued to support and serve the people of Brooklyn, continuing our work, and supporting efforts to provide food and protective supplies to people in need throughout the borough. Working together, our team has emerged stronger, more efficient, and better prepared to meet the challenges ahead.



**100+ food
and PPE
distributions**



**Thousands
of families
served**

DA's Action Center



The District Attorney's Action Center is available to assist the people of Brooklyn with criminal justice matters such as domestic violence, child abuse, school violence, immigration fraud, gun and illegal drug activity in their community and other crime-related or quality of life issues. Complaints can be made anonymously, over the phone or in-person. Trained specialists in the DA's Action Center are available to evaluate complaints and determine the next step to resolve the matter. The Action Center worked around the clock throughout the pandemic, responding to events on the ground and providing critical assistance to residents.



DA's Action Center - 718-250-2340

**3,185
Community Calls
Managed by a
Team of 6**



Most Common Action Center Calls

Domestic Violence

Child Abuse

Fraud Victimizing Immigrants

Deed Fraud

Mental Health Intervention

Cryptocurrency Scams

Gun Buybacks



Brooklyn Daily Eagle

Brooklyn Gun Buyback Program collects a record total of guns

[READ THE ARTICLE HERE.](#)



As part of our efforts to remove firearms from Brooklyn's streets, DA Gonzalez has hosted six gun buybacks over the past two years in Brownsville, Clinton Hill, East New York, Flatbush, and Bed-Stuy. The buyback held in Bed-Stuy resulted in 206 weapons being surrendered, the most during a single event in City history.

Allowing people to safely remove unwanted guns from their homes can help reduce many of the risks associated with having a firearm, including suicide, domestic violence, and unintentional deaths of children. That's why DA Gonzalez has partnered with the NYPD and community groups to sponsor buybacks that offer gift cards and other incentives in exchange for guns.

Reaching Young People

DA Gonzalez joined with New Yorkers Against Violence to host an Anti-Gun Violence Youth Summit in Bedford-Stuyvesant's Restoration Plaza. The event was part of a series of summits held by the DA's office to educate youth about the harms of gun violence and provide an opportunity for them to make their voices heard and help identify solutions to keep their neighborhood safe.



“DA Gonzalez recognizes that to stop the shootings and prevent gun violence, we need to provide young people with safe and empowering spaces to talk about the violence they are experiencing and to be a part of finding solutions. We are proud to partner with the Brooklyn DA's Office on these critical violence prevention initiatives.”

– Rebecca Fisher
Executive Director
New Yorkers Against Gun Violence



Photo courtesy of NYC & Co.

Youth Initiatives



Educational Presentations, Career Days & Court Tours

Brooklyn ADAs present to youth on topics including gang awareness, human trafficking, teen dating and violence. Kids can also get tours of Criminal Court and Supreme Court and meet with judges.

New York State Mentoring Program

We partner with high schools to provide one-on-one mentoring to students in the Law Institute, with a new Latino Mentoring Initiative set to kick-off in 2023.

High School Internships

Internships are offered in winter, spring and summer and we provide a weekly stipend.

Explorers Program

The DA's office partners with the Explorers program to engage young people interested in legal careers.

Nuevos Hermanos Program

The program provides mentorship for newly arriving immigrants to teach English proficiency, assist with homework, and provide support unique to the challenges of migrants.

Chess Program

This program provides chess instruction for 5th and 6th grade students in a Central Brooklyn charter school.

Op-Eds



READ THE FULL OP-ED HERE.



Following the Supreme Court's decision on June 23 to overturn New York's century-old, concealed carry law, it's critical that New York's leaders take quick action to keep our neighborhoods and schools safe. In an op-ed in The Daily News, DA Gonzalez called on state lawmakers to add gun violence education and mental health education to New York's school curriculum as a way to protect students. That includes teaching educators and children to spot warning signs, matching mental health needs with critically-needed services, and teaching children about the dangers of gun violence



Writing in the New York Daily News after a major takedown of a violent gang that involved defendants as young as 15 and 16, DA Gonzalez highlighted the urgent need to invest in youth as part of a comprehensive crime-reduction strategy. Illiteracy and learning disorders, compounded by pandemic learning loss, put under-served children at higher risk of future criminal conduct. To give our kids the future they deserve and to improve public safety, DA Gonzalez is pushing for increased state funding for dyslexia screenings and literacy programs, as well as significant added resources to address the mental health needs of our most vulnerable youth.



READ THE FULL OP-ED HERE.



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Partnering with Faith Leaders to Reduce Gun Violence



The “God Squad” joins DA Gonzalez to announce a new anti-violence partnership with faith leaders.

In May 2021, DA Gonzalez, together with Pastor Gilford T. Monrose, President of the 67th Precinct Clergy Council (“The GodSquad”), announced a new strategic partnership to reduce gun violence. Working together with community members and the NYPD, the DA’s Office and Clergy Councils are providing support and guidance to at-risk youth and offering assistance in high-crime precincts, including street-level intervention, victim services, clergy care, social support services and mentorships, as well as providing immediate coordination responses to gun violence. These efforts seek to strengthen trust between communities and law enforcement as part of a holistic approach to reducing crime and breaking the recurring cycle of violence and criminal justice involvement.



DA Gonzalez has made community-based solutions to violence a priority in the fight against gun violence.

“Faith leaders play an essential role in our communities, and their work has been invaluable to our efforts to reduce gun violence in Brooklyn. Not only do they provide critically important support and resources to victims of crime, they have unique credibility and skill reaching vulnerable youth and guiding them to a better path.”

– Brooklyn DA Eric Gonzalez



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ FIRST DA IN NYS TO STOP PROSECUTING MARIJUANA POSSESSION & VACATE MARIJUANA CONVICTIONS
- ✓ LAUNCHED FIRST POST-CONVICTION JUSTICE BUREAU IN THE NATION
- ✓ 29 PEOPLE EXONERATED BY THE CONVICTION REVIEW UNIT SINCE 2014
- ✓ WROTE LETTERS OF SUPPORT IN OVER 150 PAROLE CASES
- ✓ LAUNCHED LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY BUREAU
- ✓ 89% OF ELIGIBLE YOUNG PEOPLE DIVERTED TO FAMILY COURT IN 2020
- ✓ BROOKLYN YOUNG ADULT COURT RESOLVES 97% OF CASES WITHOUT A CRIMINAL CONVICTION
- ✓ CONSENTED TO RELEASE OVER 300 PEOPLE FROM Rikers TO REDUCE RISK OF COVID INFECTION, CUTTING Rikers' POPULATION TO THE LOWEST IN MODERN HISTORY
- ✓ HELD OVER 45 FOOD & PPE DRIVES ACROSS BROOKLYN FOR COMMUNITIES IN NEED
- ✓ LAUNCHED STATE'S FIRST STAND-ALONE SEXUAL ASSAULT & STALKING SAFETY BUREAU
- ✓ DISMISSED ALL OUTSTANDING PROSTITUTION CHARGES IN KINGS COUNTY

Eric Gonzalez
Kings County District Attorney
BrooklynDA.org
718-250-2000



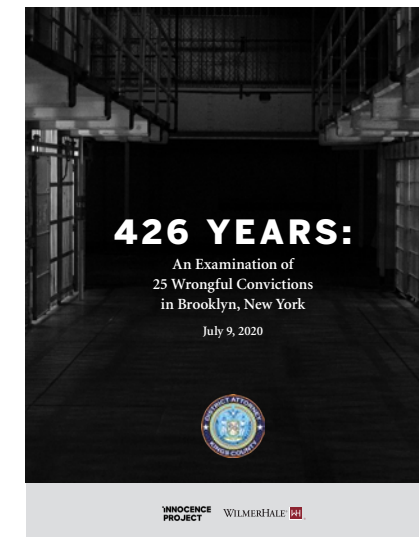
DA Gonzalez joins members of the community in North Brooklyn for a march against gun violence.

#ICYMI: Important Reports from the Brooklyn DA's Office

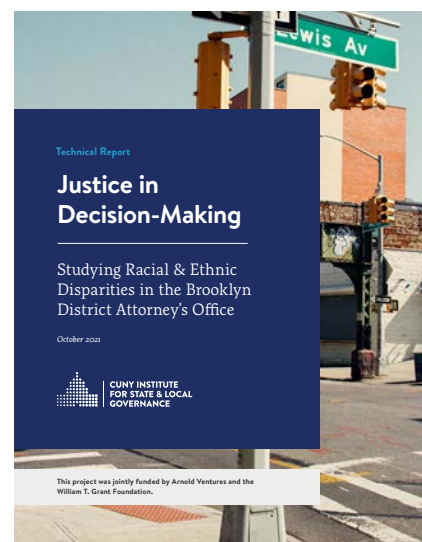
In case you missed these important reports released by the Brooklyn DA's Office examining our work, detailing our efforts, explaining our goals, and outlining our plans to address important issues, please use these QR codes to read the full reports online:



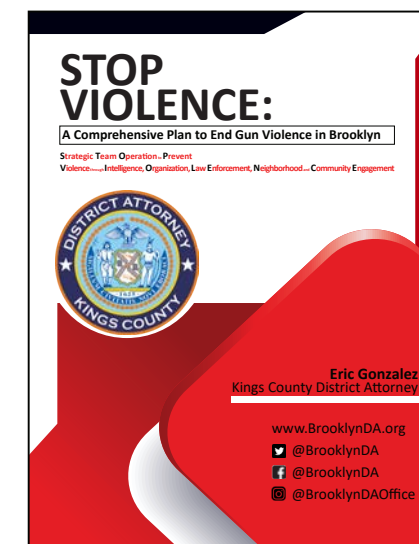
Justice 2020 detailed groundbreaking plans to establish Brooklyn as a national model of a modern prosecutor's office. Justice 2020 recommendations reflect input from a wide range of stakeholders, including reform experts, defense attorneys, service providers, law enforcement, formerly incarcerated individuals, clergy and others. The office has made substantial progress on every recommendation.



Brooklyn's Conviction Review Unit (CRU) has been recognized as a national model. This report chronicles the first twenty-five wrongful convictions identified by the CRU since its inception in 2014. DA Gonzalez hopes this report will help others nationwide as prosecutors invest in the critical work of ensuring that convictions obtained by their offices are just.



The Brooklyn DA's Office partnered with the CUNY Institute for Law and Government to examine critical decision-making points and develop plans to improve fairness. The findings and recommendations are detailed in this comprehensive report.



DA Gonzalez has committed unprecedented resources in the fight against violence in Brooklyn. The Strategic Team Operation to Prevent Violence through Intelligence, Organization, Law Enforcement, Neighborhood and Community Engagement (STOP VIOLENCE) Report details our innovative and comprehensive plan to continue the progress we've made.

Recognizing Prosecutorial Excellence

Brooklyn prosecutors have earned a distinguished reputation for outstanding contributions to the legal profession and as innovators in criminal justice. Several of our most accomplished attorneys were recognized for their exemplary work.



In June 2022, Deputy General Counsel Diem Tran was recognized by the District Attorneys Association of New York with the Prosecutor of the Year Award. Prosecutors statewide rely on Diem’s expertise implementing new laws, and legislators frequently seek her counsel as they are crafting legislation.



In December 2021, ADA Kelli Muse was awarded the Thomas E. Dewey Medal by the New York City Bar Association. In December 2022, ADA Christopher Blank received the prestigious honor. These outstanding prosecutors have dedicated decades of service to the people of Brooklyn and the cause of justice.



Photo courtesy of NYC & Co.

