



Dear DID and VID members,

I am extraordinarily thankful for the faith you've put in me and the privilege you've given me to serve as Manhattan District Attorney and proud of the work we have done to deliver the safety we need, fairness we deserve and justice for all. I know safety concerns are real, and we've got a lot of work ahead of us, but our comprehensive approach is getting results. I ask for your support for re-election to continue moving forward and building on the progress we are making.

I look forward to joining your members in person to discuss your issues and priorities, listen to your concerns, and answer your questions fully and contextually. However, given the sensitive nature of the District Attorney's job, the inability to comment on ongoing cases, and most of all, the need for clarity, I believe the best approach is to answer your questions face-to-face, in an open and straightforward discussion, as opposed to stock responses in a questionnaire. Therefore, our campaign will not be completing any campaign questionnaires.

Leading up to our meeting, I am sharing with you here some fundamental information about my record, values, policies, and governing philosophy.

When I took office, NYC - like nearly every city - was still reeling from the COVID-19 crime spike. We went to work on delivering safety and fairness, and we know that we cannot have one without the other. We are achieving these goals with a targeted strategy focusing on the drivers of violence, addressing the underlying needs of those who commit crimes, and investing in preventative measures, all of which will keep our communities safe today and in the long term.

Today, I'm proud to report that this comprehensive strategy is delivering results. While I'm never satisfied and believe we must make much more safety progress, the truth is total major crimes in Manhattan are down 10% over the past three years, outpacing the citywide decline.

Here are some highlights of the work we are doing:

- **Stopping gun violence.** Fighting the devastation of gun violence is one of the highest priorities of our office. We have brought more gun cases than the previous year; partnered with police to stop the flow of guns into New York City; invested in young people to prevent shootings from happening in the first place; hosted successful gun buyback events to get these weapons off the streets; and emerged as a national leader in combating the new threat of ghost guns that threaten our communities. More specifically:
 - Overall, shootings in Manhattan are down 32% since I took office.
 - Our gun prosecutions have increased from 416 in 2020 to 592 in 2023. For example, in November, we announced the indictment of 30 individuals

responsible for approximately 50 percent of the shootings in Washington Heights and Inwood.

- Building on the program's success over the first three years, this year we announced new and additional funding for Manhattan community-based organizations to work proactively to prevent youth gun violence by providing stipends for young New Yorkers, allowing them to earn money while participating in meaningful summer programs. Before this year's awards, approximately 420 young New Yorkers will have received stipends and services through the D.A.'s Office's summer gun violence prevention initiative.
- Our Ghost Guns Initiative has taken more than 90 ghost gun parts, 70 firearms, 424 high-capacity magazines, and numerous other components out of the hands of those who would wield these weapons to hurt others. We announced new legislation to make the manufacture of 3D-printed guns and gun parts illegal. And, we successfully convinced YouTube to stop hosting video tutorials that target kids on how to manufacture these deadly, untraceable weapons.
- **Standing with survivors.** We created the Manhattan DA's first-ever Special Victims Division – to make sure every survivor of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse receives justice and the services they need. The Special Victims Division is helmed by leaders with expertise in providing services to survivors and implementing trauma-informed policies. We are taking on challenging cases of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking including securing the trial conviction of a neurologist for the sexual assault, abuse, and rape of six patients under his care; prosecuting a man for following a 21-year-old woman, who was a stranger, into her Upper West Side apartment building and raping her; and announcing the retrial of Harvey Weinstein. And we expanded the services provided to crime survivors through the creation of the Survivors Services Bureau resulting in a more than 200% increase in the use of immediate survivor-centered support care.
- **Investing in new mental health and substance use initiatives.** To help unhoused people grappling with serious mental illness and dangerous substance addiction and break cycles of crime, we launched a new \$9 million community-based mental health initiative to immediately reach these New Yorkers with support services. The neighborhood and court-based navigators connect people with the help they urgently need, so they get back on their feet and live in dignity. The program has helped the lives of more than 700 people in less than a year after it debuted. And we've doubled our use of court-based treatment to address mental health and substance use disorder and reduce recidivism. Since 2022, in the 12 months after their felony problem-solving court graduation, the recidivism rates have been dramatically lower than similar rates for those people released from city jails or state prisons, and the result is a safer City.
- **Holding the powerful accountable and delivering justice for all.** We created the Office's first-ever Worker Protection Unit to investigate and prosecute wage theft, employee harassment, and workplace exploitation across Manhattan's many economic sectors. We launched the DA's first-ever Housing and Tenant Protection Unit, to target unfair

evictions or squalid living conditions, and prevent abuse of government programs by landlords and developers. And we've cracked down on government corruption and are holding accountable people and companies that line their pockets at the expense of their employees and clients.

- **Standing against hate.** We have taken an aggressive and comprehensive approach to combating hate crimes and keeping everyone — regardless of their religion or background — free from hatred. One of my first initiatives when I took office in 2022 was to successfully advocate for an additional \$1.7 million in baseline funding from the City Council to expand the Office's Hate Crimes Unit. We increased staffing in that unit from two to 15 specially trained prosecutors, hired new investigators and analysts, and expanded our community outreach work. Critically, we have significantly expanded our capacity to not only prosecute hate crimes but also to support victims and ramp up community outreach and engagement. Building out the unit has enabled us to meet this disturbing moment. Our hate crimes docket is at an all-time high, with antisemitic hate crimes now making up nearly 30% of those open cases. In 2021, DANY initiated 81 new hate crime cases. In 2024, the number increased to 139. It doesn't matter whether the case involves violence, property damage, or threats — we take all investigations and prosecutions of hate crimes extremely seriously. We also stood with lawmakers to modernize our laws, so that offenses our antiquated system currently doesn't consider hate crimes can now properly be pursued as they should be.
- **Righting past wrongs and increasing trust.** We launched new reforms to bring justice for those wrongly convicted in the past. The Office's Post-Conviction Justice Unit (PCJU) allows anyone convicted of a crime prosecuted by the Manhattan D.A.'s Office to request a review, with an emphasis on collaboration and trust with the community when reviewing old cases. Since its creation, the unit has successfully moved to vacate ten convictions, including five homicide convictions. It has also successfully moved to vacate and dismiss more than 500 convictions tied to police officers accused of misconduct. The first exoneration announced was Steven Lopez, who was charged in the Central Park jogger case.
- **Improving quality of life.** Responding to the national increase in retail theft, one of my first acts as District Attorney was to create the Manhattan Small Business Alliance - bringing together business owners, heads of business improvement districts, police and sheriffs, and community-based organizations to stop the rise in shoplifting. We are targeting recidivists who are driving a significant amount of retail theft. And we're addressing quality-of-life crime hotspots like East Harlem, Hell's Kitchen, and now Washington Square Park by creating new interagency improvement hubs bringing together 20 city agencies and more to address a range of public safety issues including retail theft, substance use, the mental health crisis, illegal scaffolding, unlicensed cannabis shops and more.