

Community Affairs Unit



CYRUS R. VANCE, JR.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Legal Bound

A series of educational initiatives have been designed to teach elementary, junior high, and high school students about the criminal justice system and other law-related topics. Classroom lectures, tours, assistance with mock trial preparation, and mentoring are offered to public, private, and parochial schools throughout Manhattan. Assistant District Attorneys teach curricula designed to address youth-related issues, such as the legal and personal consequences of gang membership, safety issues related to the Internet, domestic violence among teenagers, and the laws governing police-citizen encounters.

"I want to thank you for coming to our class and sharing your story to show us what a District Attorney does. Thank you for giving the class your time, sharing your experiences, and for listening and answering all of our questions. I hope that you keep enlightening youth, so that they think before they act."

Student at a Manhattan High School

Adult Education Programs

Criminal Justice Seminars provide adults with the opportunity to visit courtrooms to observe trials and learn about the role of an Assistant District Attorney in the criminal justice system. We offer presentations on topics such as addressing the problem of gangs or drugs in the neighborhood, domestic violence, and guidelines for keeping young people safe when they use the Internet.

In October of 1985, the Community Affairs Unit was established. Since its inception, the unit has served as a vital link between the District Attorney and the people of New York County.

The staff of Community Affairs has many responsibilities, which include: conducting community outreach programs, administering youth education programs, offering citizen assistance, and explaining the criminal justice system to the public.

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Dear Friends,

For the past 25 years, the New York County District Attorney's Community Affairs Unit has been a critical link between the District Attorney's Office and the community at large. As your new District Attorney, I look forward to building on this legacy by expanding the way our office works with you. We are committed to helping local residents and businesses solve crime problems and develop strategies to prevent crime. We have offices located at 1 Hogan Place in downtown Manhattan, and in the Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building, on 125th Street. Please take the time to read this brochure and learn about the ways that the DA's Community Affairs Staff can assist you and your community. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Cyrus r. Vance, Jr.

Community Outreach

The staff of Community Affairs attends over 1,400 meetings each year. Representatives from Community Affairs meet with block associations, tenants' groups, landlords, social service providers, religious leaders, community coalitions, hospitals, site managers, parent associations, youth groups, senior citizens groups, gay and lesbian organizations, business improvement districts, major corporations, community boards, libraries, and other community-based organizations seeking to solve local crime problems.

The Community Affairs staff meets regularly with precinct commanders, narcotics officers, and other governmental officials to address particular crime concerns.

A key role of the Community Affairs staff is to bring information from citizens to the District Attorney's Office to facilitate the most effective solutions.

"We thank the Community Affairs team, which has made the link between our community and the District Attorney's Office such a solid and productive one. This is proof of the effectiveness of honest-to-goodness cooperation between a community and the criminal justice system."

Community Crime Prevention Group

Trespass Affidavit Program (TAP)

This program, established in 1991, represents a collaborative effort between the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and the New York City Police Department to assist landlords and tenants in eliminating trespassing and other illegal activity in the public areas of their buildings. When crimes such as drug possession, drug dealing, or prostitution occur in apartments or hallways, a common complaint from residents is the constant traffic to and from their residence by strangers who often loiter in the public areas for illegal purposes. Police patrols in the more than 3,000 buildings enrolled in the TAP program have alleviated many of these complaints.

"The creative work that you have done is truly outstanding and has enabled many communities in our city to take effective action in fighting crime and drugs."

Citywide Citizen Action Group

Internships

The Community Affairs Unit sponsors a select number of high school and college internships throughout the school year. The Summer Internship Program is an intensive program designed for junior high and high school students who live in Manhattan and are able to demonstrate a strong interest in learning about the law.

"I give this program a 10 – the summer was one of my best, I wish that I could do it again!"

Manhattan High School Student Intern