March, 2010 District Manager’s Report

Highlights from the Borough Service Cabinet Meeting (1/29/10) (see attached)

Highlights from the District Service Cabinet Meeting (3/10/10)

It was reported even though 97 percent of homes have a smoke alarm, more than 33 percent of them do not work because they have a missing or dead battery. So in an effort to keep New Yorkers safe, FDNY Fire Safety Educators will distribute 9-volt batteries for smoke alarms in all five boroughs beginning March 9. Manhattan’s distribution date is March 12 at the following locations: 350 West 125th Street from 12 Noon to 2 p.m.; and West 168th Street and Broadway train station from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Fire House Renovations: It was reported the Engine Co. located at 139th Street (bct. Amsterdam Ave. and Hamilton Terrace) is scheduled to start renovations within the next two months renovations are scheduled to be completed in approximately 18 to 24 months.

Human Rights –NYC Media presents JOB HUNT on all local cable channels, tune into JOB HUNT to learn how to navigate today’s job market, get the skills you need and find the right job for you. Watch real New Yorkers as they experience the triumphs and difficulties of searching for work, changing their careers, and finding the job that is right for them. For further info. visit www.nyc.gov/media

26th Pct. (See Stats) – Shooting reported I/F/O 511 West 125th Street (Fish Market) Male black, 30 yrs old shot in leg, shooter still at large video was obtained for police review.

30th Pct. (See Stats)

PSA-6- Narcotics Sweep held in Grant Houses, Gang Members Identified and caught on camera selling Crack cocaine; 12 arrested 9 in custody.

NYC Police Department Police Service Area 6 Presents: Protecting Yourself from Identity Theft: What you should know, to be held on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 6p.m. to 8p.m., at the PSA6 2770 Eighth Avenue Community Room (see flyer)

Patrol Borough Manhattan North (See Stats) – Manhattan North NYPD/PAL Youth Programs 2010 schedule (see Flyer). For further information on any of the Programs or to get your child registered please contact Officer Herrschaft at (646) 246-3742.

D.A.’s Office – The DA’s Office at 100 Centre Street was closed and recently reopened due to a fire in their Office. (Stats are unavailable)

District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. announced the indictments of 11 individuals operating in and around the Grand Houses. The individuals principally sold cocaine and crack cocaine.
Many of the felony drug sales occurred in the vicinity of P.S. 125, located at 425 West 123rd Street, and I.S. 286, located at 509 Wes 129th Street. The 10-month investigation code-named “Grant Denied” was a joint endeavor between the DA’s Homicide Investigation Unit and the NYPD. The investigation was the result of community complaints regarding criminal activity in the area which included the distribution of street level narcotics, as well as a number of drug-related shootings and robberies. (see attached Press Release)

District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. announced a comprehensive initiative by the New York County District Attorney’s Office to seek to prevent wrongful convictions and address claims of actual innocence. The Conviction Integrity Program will consist of three components: A Conviction Integrity Committee, a Conviction Integrity Chief, and an outside Conviction Integrity Policy Advisory Panel. (see attached Press Release)

Parks Department – Renovation of Grants Pavilion is underway and will be finished by the end of Summer 2010. Parks Dept. personnel are working with DOHS in doing outreach at the “Cave” under the bridge at 145th Street. Outreach and assistance is being offered to homeless individuals for permanent housing, job assistance, and medical assistance.

ConEdison- is relocating their Office on 125th Street to 124th Street (bet. Park Ave. and Lexington Ave.).

Health Dept. – Bed bug infestations are increasingly common in New York City. There are steps that can be taken to prevent bed bugs from infesting your home. When bed bugs are present, they can be safely controlled. A guide is available to help you: Learn more about bed bugs and how they thrive; Prevent bed bugs from infesting your home; Safely rid your home of bed bugs if they do occur; Select and work with a pest control professional. For further info. please visit the Health Department’s website at www.nyc.gov.

City Council Member Jackson’s Office- (see attached Newsletter)

Riverbank State Park will be holding a “Save Riverbank” all day long Rally, on Saturday, March 13, 2010, at 9a.m., at R/S/D @145th Street. RBSP is urging Rally participants to say NO to cuts a Riverbank State Park. Proposed New York State budget cuts will eliminate all Senior Citizen program, cut kids’ and adults programs, close the outdoor pool and reduce access to the park to 8 hours per day.

Free Health Clinic at St. Mary’s Church, 521 W. 126th Street on Tuesday’s 5:30p.m. – 8:30p.m.

Census – Census Forms will be available at the Community Board No. 9 Office after March 15, 2010 for distribution, and there will be a representative from the Census at the District Office to assist in filling out Forms and to answer questions.

Submitted by
Huma Prince
District Manager – 3/11/10
SUMMARY REPORT OF THE MANHATTAN BOROUGH SERVICE CABINET
January 29, 2010

In Attendance:

Presiding: Shaan Khan, Director of Community Affairs & Constituent Services

Council Members: Mr. Jesse Bodine (Representing Hon. Gale Brewer), Mr. Jake Itzkowitz (representing Hon. Margaret Chin), Mr. John Ignacio (Representing Hon. Robert Jackson), Mr. Dan Pasquini (Representing Hon. Daniel Garodnick)

District Managers: Mr. Michel Levine (CB 1), Mr. Robert Gormley (CB 2), Ms. Susan Stetzer (CB 3), Mr. Robert Benfatto (CB 4), Mr. Wally Rubin (CB 5), Ms. Toni Carlina (CB 6), Ms. Penny Ryan (CB 7), Ms. Latha Thompson (CB 8), Ms. Eutha Prince (CB 9), Ms. Geneva Bain (CB 10), Mr. George Sarkissian (CB 11), Mr. Ebenezer Smith (CB 12)

Agencies: Ms. Verna Arthur (DFTA), Ms. Lolita Jackson (CAU), Ms. Jennine Ventura (DCAS), Ms. Leah Donaldson (DOB), Mr. James Esposito (FDNY) Mr. Mike Congo (DOHMH), Mr. Rubin Wolf (HPD), Ms. Paula Jardere (CCHR), Ms. Evelyn Nieves (311), Mr. Bob Redmond (PARKS), Sgt. Nicolle Robinson (NYPD), Det. Norman Adams (NYPD), Mr. Joe Andrews (DSNY), Ms. Colleen Chattergoon (DOT), Mr. Josh Orzech (DOT), Ms. Laurie Kilpatrick (DOF)

9:42 a.m. Borough President Stringer moved for adoption of the January 29, 2010 Borough Service Cabinet agenda and the December 17, 2009 Borough Service Cabinet minutes. Both motions carried.

Borough President’s Report

The “New Yorkers for Haiti” fundraiser was hosted by Borough President Stringer and Deputy Borough President Rose Pierre-Louis with the Haitian Roundtable. Most elected officials in the city joined as co-sponsors. $200,000 was raised in just 36 hours. The money will go to relief efforts in Haiti through UNICEF. Visit www.mbpo.org/haitirelief for information or to make a donation.

Borough President Stringer is working with elected officials to address what St. Vincent Hospital’s closing or restructuring would mean to Manhattan’s west side. The State Department of Health proposed bringing in Continuum Health Partners to take over many of the hospital’s services and turning St. Vincent’s into a community health center with no emergency room. The hospital has the only Level 1 trauma center on the Lower West Side and has the facilities that 240,000 patients rely on each year. Planning and negotiations will be ongoing.

NYCHA has released no further information on the Section 8 voucher crisis affecting 3,000 New Yorkers.
Discussion of Manhattan Borough Board Budget Priorities

Susannah Vickers, Budget Director for Borough President Stringer, gave an overview of the Manhattan Borough Board Budget Priorities process. Community Boards and Borough Presidents are asked to respond to the Mayor’s Preliminary Budget each year. MBPO usually conducts budget hearings, but this year will be using an online survey to gather comments and feedback about the budget priorities of Manhattan residents.

2010 Community Board Update

Shaan Khan, Director of Community Affairs for the Borough President, reported that there were 367 new applications for community boards this year. Interviews are being conducted throughout the month of February with candidates who passed the independent screening panel. All appointments will be made by April 1st as mandated by the city charter.

2009 Community Board Annual Reports

The New York City Charter mandates that annual reports be submitted by April 1st each year. Community Board annual reports should be submitted to the Borough President’s office by Friday, March 12, 2010 to allow time to include the annual reports in the Borough Board Budget Priorities report to the Mayor. This will strengthen our case to preserve the community board budgets. Each community boards should submit a brief cover letter outlining how the proposed budgets cuts would affect their ability to meet goals in the coming years.

Agency Updates

DFTA: Walking Club Season begins March 29, 2010. Senior Centers who may be interested in registering can call (212) 442-0954. The deadline for the RFP for Caregiver Services has been extended to March 2, 2010.

DOF: The NYC 2010 Lien Sale Process is underway. A lien is a legal claim against real property for unpaid property taxes, water, sewer or other property charges, as well as the interest due on these taxes and charges. When the city sells a lien, it is not selling the property. The new lien holder does not take title to the property. DOF, DEP and HPD will hold an outreach session on lien sales in Manhattan at the Finance Business Center, 66 John Street, 2nd Floor. DOF’s Outreach Unit contact number is (212) 232-1776.

DOT: DOT will give presentations on the 1st and 2nd Avenue Selective Bus Service project to the CB 3, CB 6, CB 8 and CB 11 Transportation Committees. The project runs from Houston Street to 125th Street. The project is scheduled for implementation in Fall 2010. The meeting dates are as follows: Feb 1 – CB 6, Feb 2 – CB 11, Feb 10 – CB 3, Feb 25 – CB 8.

Reports by District Managers

CB 1: The downtown community remains concerned about the possibility of locating the 9/11 terrorist trials in Lower Manhattan.

CB 2: CB 2 is working on illegal vending and the removing of five phone booths on Canal Street.

CB 3: There has been an increase in teen violence in CB 3. The city should have a conference on the subject in the early summer.

CB 4: CB 4 has seen issues with sidewalk cafes and restaurants owners being penalized.
CB 5: Noise problems from street festivals at Madison Park remain an issue.

CB 6: The public walk way at East 28th Street and 1st Avenue need DOT attention. A $400,000 grant has been awarded for the East Side water park.

CB 7: Raccoon issued emerged but have been resolved.

CB 8: The board issued a resolution on 161 East 94th Street and 333 East 91st Street.

CB 9: A coyote was captured on 141st Street. CB 9 is active with the complete count committee for the 2010 census. The CB is facing challenges finding a new building.

CB 10: Thanks to DEP and DOHMH for handling the raccoon issue. CB 10 is working with Columbia University and City Planning to get resolution with the 197-A project.

CB 11: Three schools are closing in East Harlem which is of great concern to the community. The situation with Costco lay-offs is ongoing.

CB 12: CB 12 is planning events for the week before the 2010 Census kick-off. There is a rodent issue in Washington Heights.
## Crime Complaints

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<td>1</td>
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### Arrests*

*Includes ALL arrests by NYPD and all other outside agencies (FBI, DEA, Pvt. Sec., etc.) within the confines of this precinct.

## All Arrests

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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### Statute Arrests

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### Summons Activity / Reports

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### Prepared by

NYPD CompStat Unit - Figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision.
Report covering the period 3/1/2010 through 3/31/2010

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<th>Crime Complaints</th>
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<td>166</td>
<td>249</td>
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Prepared by NYPD CompStat Unit - Figures are preliminary and subject to further analysis and revision -
New York City Police Department
Police Service Area 6
Presents:

Protecting Yourself
From Identity Theft:
What You Should Know

Tuesday, March 23, 2010
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 pm
PSA6 2770 8th Avenue
Community Room

For more information contact PSA6 Community Affairs
@ 212.694.7723 e-mail: john.ramos@nypd.org
Refreshments Served
Manhattan North NYPD/PAL Youth Programs
2010

PAL COPS AND KIDS PROGRAMS
These programs bridge the gap between police and youth. High school students play along side police officers in soccer, flag football, basketball, softball and volleyball. Leagues are formed in all these sports in Manhattan North and the winning teams from each sport represent Manhattan North in a city wide tournament to determine the city champs. In Manhattan North this program brings together over 75 officers and 200 kids. Get your command involved with these competitive leagues and make a difference in the lives of the youth of the city.

PAL TENNIS PROGRAM
This program is held at the Harlem Armory PAL. Located at 143rd st and Lenox ave. Instructional tennis lessons for beginners and intermediate players are given every Monday at 4pm and Sundays 3:30pm for youth ages 7-13. This program is year round taking a break in July and August. Instructions are given by a tennis pro and an NYPD officer. An annual Cops VS Kids tennis tournament is held in July with food and trophies given away.

PAL 28PCT BASKETBALL CLINIC
This youth basketball clinic is open to boys and girls ages 7-10. This program will be held during different times of the year at the Harlem Armory. This intensive training conducted by police officer from the 28pct and officers from youth service division, will have your child playing their best basketball. Along with this program there will be guest speakers, drug and gang awareness presentations given by the NYPD and much more.

MANHATTAN NORTH MENTORING PROGRAM
Meeting will be held at the 28pct Tuesdays on a bi-weekly basis. This program is open to all Manhattan North high school students looking to achieve their best. Come join us for open rap sessions, communities projects, college tours, cops and kids sports, trips, dance parties and much more. Through this program youth will develop self esteem and confidence to achieve there best. Officers from the 28pct, youth services unit and other Manhattan North commands will be participating in bringing out the best in each child.

For information on any of these programs or to get your child registered please contact Officer Herrschafft at 646-246-3742
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 13, 2010

CONTACT: Erin M. Duggan
212-335-9400

DISTRICT ATTORNEY VANCE ANNOUNCES INDICTMENTS OF
MEMBERS OF DRUG ORGANIZATIONS

Cocaine and Crack Cocaine Sales Made Inside Grant Houses, Near Two Schools

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. announced today the indictments of
11 individuals operating in and around the Grant Houses, located in the Harlem area of
Manhattan.1[1] The individuals principally sold cocaine and crack cocaine, with less
frequent heroin sales. Many of the felony drug sales occurred in the vicinity of P.S. 125, an
elementary school located at 425 West 123rd Street, and I.S. 286, an intermediate school
located at 509 West 129th Street.

The 10-month investigation, code-named “Grant Denied,” was a joint endeavor
between the Manhattan District Attorney’s Homicide Investigation Unit and the New York
City Police Department. The investigation was the result of community complaints
regarding criminal activity in the area which included the distribution of street-level
narcotics, as well as a number of drug-related shootings and robberies.

“Drug dealing threatens the safety of our children and pushes families and
businesses out of our communities,” said District Attorney Vance. “This Office is
committed to improving the quality of life for the approximately 4,000 residents of the
Grant Houses, and will continue to pursue investigations leading to these types of serious
felony cases. I want to thank the NYPD for its partnership in these arrests and indictments,
and in driving crime down across our borough.”

New York City Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly said: “Crime in public
housing was down by 14 percent citywide last year, and down by 26 percent in Manhattan’s
Grant Houses in 2009 because of operations like ‘Grant Denied,’ in which NYPD
undercover officers documented the sale of heroin and cocaine in the housing development
over the last six months. Officers also seized a handgun and took 11 accused drug dealers to
jail. We launched the New Year reminding dealers that if they return to public housing to sell
drugs we will return to arrest them.”

The defendants in “Grant Denied” were indicted in four separate indictments,
including conspiracy indictments against the “M-Set Grant Houses Organization,” and the

1[1] The charges contained in the indictments are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed
innocent unless and until proven guilty.
“Grant Houses Organization,” and stand alone indictments against PETER RODRIGUEZ, and DUWAN MILLER.

DUWAN MILLER was indicted for 3 counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree and one count of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree. All of MILLER’s charged drug sales in the Second Degree were of powder cocaine to an undercover police officer in the vicinity of the Grant Houses. The drug sale in the Third Degree involved the sale of 51 packets of heroin with the brand name “Sugar Hill.”

The indictment against the “Grant Houses Organization” charges 3 defendants with Conspiracy in the Second Degree and includes charges of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree, Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, and Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in or Near School Grounds.

LAWRENCE FRANKLIN, RASHEED MINGUES, and BASHIR TRIGGS were all charged with Conspiracy in the Second Degree. The “Grant Houses Organization” primarily sold crack cocaine in clear plastic twists in the vicinity of 1315 Amsterdam Avenue which is located inside the Grant Houses. According to the indictment, the “Grant Houses Organization” sold wholesale amounts of crack cocaine and were also engaged in the street-level distribution of crack cocaine within the Grant Houses. Defendant FRANKLIN was also indicted for Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree for selling more than a half-ounce of crack cocaine to an undercover police officer in the Grant Houses. MINGUES was also indicted for Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in or Near School Grounds for selling crack cocaine to an undercover police officer in the Grant Houses. TRIGGS was also indicted for Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in or Near School Grounds for selling crack cocaine to an undercover police officer in the Grant Houses.

The indictment against the “M-Set Grant Houses Organization” charges 6 defendants with Conspiracy in the Second Degree and includes charges of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree, Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree, Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, and Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in or Near School Grounds, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree. DONNIE FIGUEROA, CAREY GRACE, LEONARD JACKINS, HOZIE ROWELL, AARON RICE, and ERIC SANDERS were all charged with Conspiracy in the Second Degree. According to the indictment, the “M-Set Grant Houses Organization” sold crack cocaine in clear plastic twists, plastic baggies, and vials in the vicinity of 3170 Broadway, which is located inside the Grant Houses. They also sold crack cocaine in the vicinity of 75 La Salle St., which is located inside the Grant Houses. According to the indictment, the “M-Set Grant Houses Organization” sold both wholesale amounts of crack cocaine and were also engaged in the street-level distribution of crack cocaine within the Grant Houses.

As charged in the indictment, members of the “M-Set Grant Houses Organization” refer to themselves as either “Murder-Set” or “Money Comes First.” A number of the defendants communicated through public MySpace accounts and their profiles included an “M-Set” ticker, photos depicting members of the “M-Set Grant Houses Organization” flashing Crips-related gang signs, and a newspaper article related to a 2005 investigation and
indictment against the Grant Houses "M-Set" Crips, which included some of these defendants.

Defendant FIGUEROA was also indicted for five counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and five counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in or Near School Grounds for selling crack cocaine to an undercover police officer in the Grant Houses.

Defendant GRACE was also indicted for two counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and two counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in or Near School Grounds for selling crack cocaine to an undercover police officer in the Grant Houses.

Defendant JACKINS was also indicted for Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree, two counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree, and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree for selling crack cocaine to an undercover police officer in the Grant Houses. One of the drug sales to the undercover police officer was for over two ounces of crack cocaine.

Defendant ROWELL was also indicted for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Fourth Degree. ROWELL was in possession of 20 vials of powder cocaine.

Defendant RICE was also indicted for Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, and Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree. The weapons charge stems from the execution of a court-authorized search warrant on his apartment, in which RICE was found to be in possession of two loaded firearms, a .380 caliber Hi Point which was operable, and a .380 caliber Jennings which was inoperable.

Defendant SANDERS was also indicted for Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree and two counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree for selling crack cocaine to an undercover police officer in the vicinity of the Grant Houses. SANDERS is also charged with the drug sale to an undercover police officer for over two ounces of crack cocaine.

District Attorney Vance thanked NYPD Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, Chief of the Organized Crime Control Bureau Anthony Izzo, Chief JoAnne Jaffe of the Housing Bureau, Chief of the Gang Division Robert Boyce, Lieutenant Keith Loughran, Lieutenant Edward Barry, Sergeant Kevin Mulqueen of the Bronx Gang Squad, Detectives from the Bronx Gang Squad, Lieutenant Jason Savino of the Housing VIPER Unit, various Undercover Police Officers from the Gang Division, and members of the 32nd Precinct Anti-Crime Unit, the 26th Precinct Detectives Squad and PSA 6.

Assistant District Attorney Eric Arnolde of the Homicide Investigation Unit presented the cases to the Grand Jury under the supervision of Christopher Conroy, Deputy Unit Chief of the Homicide Investigation Unit, and Assistant District Attorney Luke Rettler, Chief of the Homicide Investigation Unit. Chief Investigator Joseph Pennisi, Assistant Chief Terrance Mulderrig, and members of the Homicide Investigation Unit of the New York County District Attorney's Office also participated in the investigation.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY – NEW YORK COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2010

CONTACT: Erin Duggan
212-335-9400

DISTRICT ATTORNEY VANCE ANNOUNCES CONVICTION INTEGRITY PROGRAM

Groundbreaking Step in Effort to Prevent Wrongful Convictions

DA Vance Program to Employ the Best Science, the Best Training, and the Best National Practices

District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., today announced a comprehensive initiative by the New York County District Attorney’s Office to seek to prevent wrongful convictions and address claims of actual innocence. The Conviction Integrity Program will consist of three components: a Conviction Integrity Committee, a Conviction Integrity Chief, and an outside Conviction Integrity Policy Advisory Panel.

“As District Attorney of New York County, I am proud to supervise more than 500 of the finest prosecutors in the country,” District Attorney Vance said. “Our Assistant District Attorneys have prosecuted some of the most important and complex cases anywhere. Their work has helped to significantly reduce crime in this city, and has always been guided by an abiding concern that the right person be brought to justice.

“But the criminal justice system is subject to human error and thus can be fallible,” DA Vance continued. “As prosecutors, it is our duty to bring our best efforts to bear in every case to ensure that only the guilty are convicted. And if we have any reason to believe that we have prosecuted or are prosecuting someone who is actually innocent, we must take prompt steps to investigate the matter and see that justice is served. This Program is not aspirational – it is a modern, comprehensive structure to minimize wrongful convictions by evaluating the merits of each case, in the earliest stages of an investigation and beyond, guided by the best science, the best training, and the best national practices.”

The Conviction Integrity Committee, comprised of 10 senior members of the District Attorney’s staff, will review practices and policies related to case assessment, investigation, and disclosure obligations, with a focus on potential errors such as eyewitness misidentifications and false confessions.

DA Vance has appointed Bonnie Sard, a senior Assistant District Attorney, to the newly-created position of Conviction Integrity Chief. She will report directly to the District
Attorney and the Office’s General Counsel. ADA Sard will coordinate the activities of the Committee, and with the Committee will lead the re-investigation of any cases that present a meaningful claim of actual innocence.

In addition, DA Vance announced the formation of a Conviction Integrity Policy Advisory Panel. The Panel is comprised of leading criminal justice experts, including former New York Court of Appeals Judge Howard Levine, former New York State Commissioner of Criminal Justice Services Denise O’Donnell, Innocence Project Co-Founder Barry Scheck, as well as legal scholars and former prosecutors. The Panel will advise the Office on national best practices and evolving issues in the area of wrongful convictions.

The Innocence Project Co-Founder Barry Scheck said: “This innovative program will take us one step closer to preventing wrongful convictions before they occur, and freeing the innocent. This is a bold approach to a problem that plagues our country, and must be addressed without fear. It is my hope that the work done by the Manhattan DA’s Office will be emulated by prosecutors across the U.S. I applaud District Attorney Vance for making this issue a top priority, and moving swiftly to implement this comprehensive program.”

Former Commissioner O’Donnell said: “I applaud District Attorney Vance for launching this aggressive and comprehensive Conviction Integrity Program. Like so many other innovative programs which the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office has spearheaded in the past, this will prove to be a national model for prosecutors’ offices to follow to address the most vexing criminal justice problem of our time.”

The Policy Advisory Panel will include:

Rachel E. Barkow, a Professor of Law at New York University School of Law. Professor Barkow teaches criminal law and has written, lectured, and testified before Congress on an array of issues, including criminal and constitutional law, sentencing, and the structure of prosecutors’ offices. She is also the Faculty Director of the Center on the Administration of Criminal Law at New York University.

Zachary W. Carter, former United States Attorney for the Eastern District. As U.S. Attorney, Mr. Carter led several prosecutions of nationwide significance. He is now a partner at Dorsey & Whitney LLP, where he co-chairs the firm's white collar practice group.

Richard H. Girgenti, former New York State Director of Criminal Justice and Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services. Mr. Girgenti is currently the National and Americas Leader for KPMG LLP’s Forensic Services, and has served as a member of KPMG’s Board of Directors.

Bruce A. Green, Louis Stein Professor of Law and the Director of the Louis Stein Center for Law and Ethics at Fordham University School of Law. Professor Green, who previously served in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York,
writes widely on issues on prosecutorial ethics and wrongful convictions. He also serves
as Chair-elect of the ABA’s Criminal Justice Section.

Howard A. Levine, former judge of the New York State Court of Appeals. Judge
Levine is currently a judge who a senior counsel at Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP.
Prior to his tenure on the New York Court of Appeals, he served as an Associate Justice
on the Appellate Division (Third Department), and as District Attorney of Schenectady
County.

Robert J. McGuire, former Commissioner of the New York City Police Department.
Mr. McGuire also served as Chairman and Chief Executive of Pinkerton’s Inc., and
subsequently, President of Kroll Associates, an international investigation firm. He is
formerly an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District.

Denise O’Donnell, former New York State Commissioner of Criminal Justice Services
and Deputy Secretary for Public Safety. In that capacity, Ms. O’Donnell supervised all
New York State criminal justice and homeland security agencies. Prior to her tenure at
DCJS, she served as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York, and as a
litigation partner at Hodgson, Russ LLP.

Mechthild (Mecki) Prinz, PhD, Director of the Forensic Biology Department in the
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of New York City. Dr. Prinz has been involved
in many high profile criminal cases, and worked on identifying victims of the 9/11
attacks. She oversees evidence examination and DNA testing for homicides, sexual
assault cases, property crimes, and other criminal cases for New York City.

Barry C. Scheck, co-founder and co-director of the Innocence Project. The Innocence
Project, a nonprofit legal clinic affiliated with the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at
Yeshiva University, has been responsible in whole or in part for exonerating most of the
250 men and women nationwide to be cleared through post-conviction DNA testing.
Mr. Scheck also serves as a Professor of Law at Cardozo Law School.

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Additional news available at: www.manhattanda.org

New York County
LEGISLATIVE AND COMMUNITY REPORT  
March 2010

I kicked off the month of March standing with Jackie Rowe Adams, wearing her Harlem Mothers SAVE hat, several Council colleagues, the NYPD, the NYC Department of Education (DOE), United Federation of Teachers President Michael Mulgrew, and the national gun violence prevention organization, PAX, to announce the launch of an anonymous telephone hotline in New York City schools. This hotline will allow students to safely report knowledge of dangerous and violent activity, particularly weapon-related activity, by calling 1-866-SPEAK-UP. The program, including an education and awareness initiative, will be piloted in a handful of schools with the goal of eventual expansion. It is tragic that according to a joint U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Dept. of Ed. report, in more that 80% of school shooting incidents, shooters tell other students about their plans ahead of time. This hotline will help remove the fear of retaliation that all too often deters students from acting to prevent violence.

At the March 3rd Stated Meeting, the Council voted to pass several new pieces of legislation, including two important Resolutions related to funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Unfortunately, the Governor's proposed executive budget eliminates state funding for this important program entirely. One Council Resolution calls on the State Legislature to fully fund the program and the other Resolution calls on the U.S. Congress to include $500 million in funding for summer youth employment in its jobs bill. I supported these resolutions because they will encourage State and Federal reps to preserve tens of thousands of summer jobs that help keep youth safe during the summer months, give them key work experiences that are essential to their future success, and provide the City with valuable workers. The Council also voted to pass legislation to streamline the approval process for green technologies and products, legislation to increase fines for illegal waterfront dumping, and legislation to establish a procedure for the replacement of trees removed from public property.

Since the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) voted in January to move forward with a number of school closings throughout the City, I have been working to try to hold the DOE accountable for its actions. As Chair of the Council’s Education Committee, I held a joint hearing with the Oversight Committee on school closings on Tuesday March 2nd. I believe that closing should be a last resort – not option number one, and I tried to press the DOE to clearly outline what efforts it made to help these schools turn themselves around before deciding to close them down. I was not fully satisfied with the DOE’s answers and have announced that I am introducing a Resolution calling on the DOE to put a moratorium on locations of schools and school closings until there is an accurate and independent review that can speak to the true effect these actions will have on communities and students, and until there is an improved decision-making process that includes meaningful parent participation. Prior to the hearing, I joined the Coalition for Educational Justice (CEJ), Comptroller John Liu, several of my Council colleagues, parents, students, and teachers for a press conference in front of the Tweed Courthouse to protest the school closing process and to call on the DOE to fix schools, not close them!
On February 25th I joined State Senator Bill Perkins to announce the launch of a series of hearings regarding charter schools. All too often Charter Schools are brought into neighborhoods without true community input. Hearings on Charter Schools will provide what’s been missing from the co-locating process all along: a dialogue between parents, students, the DOE and elected officials. It is my hope that this will help to unify parents – both charter and non-charter school parents - in advocating for the interests of all NYC students.

Additionally, I have recently been working in cooperation with the DOE to strengthen and expand the “Respect for All” program, which aims to fight school-based discrimination and harassment based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and disability. The “Respect for All” teacher training program will be expanded and we are designating March 8th – 12th Respect for All Week. I invite all community members to participate in this week by discouraging bullying of all kinds and by celebrating diversity in its many forms.

I also recently attended an interfaith 2010 Census 30-day countdown event organized by the Hispanic Federation and the Latino Religious Leadership Project of the Latino Commission on AIDS. I joined a group of Latino religious and community leaders at City Hall to encourage all Latinos, regardless of their immigration status or economic situation, to be counted. The 2010 Census is a national count of every person living in the U.S. that determines funding eligibility for critical community services, political district boundaries and representation for the next ten years. The Census count determines the distribution of more than $400 billion annually in government funding.

We stand to lose over $4,000 per person, per year, for each person who does not complete and mail back the form. Unfortunately, some of the city blocks that I represent have had very low response rates historically. This year, I want to turn that performance around to ensure that our district receives the services it needs and deserves. I encourage everyone of my constituents to complete and return the census form as soon as it is received and I have been attending tenant meetings to promote participation. Census forms should arrive by US mail in March, 2010. If you do not get a form, pick one up at a "Be Counted" site. Find out more, including information on "Be Counted" locations and job opportunities with the Census at http://www.census.gov. There are 4,000 good reasons to return your form on time and no good reason not to!

I continue to fight the MTA’s extensive service reductions and programming cuts. The programmatic casualties include student metro cards and Access-A-Ride services for New Yorkers with disabilities. On March 2nd, I joined Transportation Committee Chair Vacca and Council Speaker Quinn to deliver over 40,000 petitions to the MTA Headquarters in protest of the cuts. MTA public hearings begin this week, including a hearing in Manhattan on Thursday March 4th at 6pm. You can pre-register to speak and find out more information at http://www.mta.info. Additionally, as Chair of the Education Committee, I plan to hold a joint hearing with the Transportation Committee on student metrocards. The hearing is tentatively scheduled for 1pm on March 12th at City Hall.

Please come to a college fair at Riverbank State Park from 10am – 4pm on Saturday March 6, 2010. A wide range of colleges and universities from around the country will be represented. Students, parents, and educators can learn about scholarships and financial aid opportunities, college readiness and college admissions including SAT preparation, and also job opportunities. All middle and high school students are encouraged to attend, but for seniors and juniors, attendance is especially important.

Join us at our upcoming celebration for Dominican Independence Day, which has been rescheduled for Tuesday March 9th from 6:30pm at Rio II Gallery at 583 Riverside Drive (at 135th). We will be honoring Dominican community and business leaders from Harlem, Washington Heights and Inwood. I am looking forward to this upcoming event. Please call my District Office at 212-928-1322 to RSVP.

Finally, budget season is upon us. I would encourage all groups interested in funding to apply as early as possible. Applications for non-capital discretionary contracts (FY2011) are due to my office by March 18, 2010. To receive a letter with detailed submission instructions, contact my legislative and budget staff: Johanna Garcia (Director) JGarcia@council.nyc.gov and Beth Schuler (Asst. Director) BSchuler@council.nyc.gov. Both can be reached at (212) 788-7007.

Happy Women’s History Month!

3/2/2010