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PRESS RELEASE

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DISTRICT ATTORNEY DONOVAN ANNOUNCES RECORD FUNDING TO COMMUNITY PROGRAMS FROM ASSET FORFEITURE PROGRAM

******Richmond County D.A. Provides \$260,000 in Funding to 21 Organizations******

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. today announced that the Richmond County District Attorney’s office will be providing a record \$260,000 in grants to 21 organizations providing crime prevention and youth programs in the Staten Island community. The funds provided by the RCDA are proceeds from the Asset Forfeiture Program initiated by District Attorney Donovan in 2004, in the office’s first formalized program. Since calendar year 2005, over \$770,000 has been distributed to local groups.

“In these challenging economic times nearly all of our community organizations are suffering from decreased government aid and declining private support,” stated District Attorney Donovan. “I am grateful that my office is able to assist in funding these programs serving the Staten Island community, and especially those young people who will benefit from afterschool and camp programs underwritten by these funds.”

Under New York State Criminal Procedure Law Rules, police and prosecutors each get to keep 27 percent of forfeited assets for use on practically any crime prevention measure but paying salaries, with the balance given to the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services. When District Attorney Donovan took office, Staten Island was the only borough that did not routinely require all defendants who plead guilty to execute a forfeiture agreement relinquishing their rights to the identified instrumentalities and fruits of their crimes. Staten Island was also the only borough that was not participating in certain city-wide (anti-money laundering) investigative efforts leading to the seizure of substantial funds.

District Attorney Donovan stated, “We’ve made asset forfeiture a top priority of my administration. In this borough, there is no financial benefit to a life of crime. If you are arrested for selling drugs on Staten Island, my prosecutors will send you to prison and we’ll seize your assets and invest them back into the community for positive growth.”

In addition to providing anti-crime programs, the D.A.’s Asset Forfeiture funds provides significant support to the District Attorney’s witness protection program as well as to hire expert witnesses, purchase wireless headphones for playback of audio evidence in court, run the truancy program and print educational literature.

The District Attorney’s Asset Forfeiture Program is supervised by Special Assistant District Attorney Karen Schoenberg

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with the assistance of paralegal Laura DiGiacomo of the Executive ADA Bureau and Complaint Room Assistants Kathleen Fitzpatrick and Lauren D’Albero of the Criminal Court Bureau. The District Attorney’s grant program is coordinated by Ronald Carara, Bureau Chief of Administration, assisted by Sean Brannigan, Chief Fiscal Officer, and Anne Alarcon, Grants Coordinator.

ORGANIZATIONS FUNDED BY D.A. DONOVAN’S ASSET FORFEITURE PROGRAM -2008

120 Pct. Community Council
 122 Pct. Community Council
 123 Pct. Community Council
 Camelot
 Child Abuse Prevention Program
 Children's Aid Society - Goodhue Center
 College of Staten Island Foundation
 CYO - Staten Island
 Jewish Community Center
 New Springville Little League
 New York Center for Interpersonal Development/ PS 29
 Project Hospitality
 Seamen's Society for Children
 S.I. Children's Campaign
 Boy Scouts of America - S.I. Council
 S.I. Employment Education Consortium
 S.I. Mental Health Society
 S.I. YMCA Counseling Services
 United Activities Unlimited/ PS 20
 Unity Games
 Where to Turn

ANNUAL FUNDING BY D.A.’S ASSET FORFEITURE PROGRAM

YEAR	AMOUNT IN GRANTS
2008	\$260,000
2007	\$215,000
2006	\$185,000
2005	\$110,000

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