



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RICHMOND COUNTY

MICHAEL E. MCMAHON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

130 STUYVESANT PLACE
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301
TELEPHONE (718) 876-6300

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Ashleigh Owens (718) 556-4065
aowens@rcda.nyc.gov

DA McMahon: Heroin Crisis Worsens – 8 Overdoses in last 8 Days

*** McMahon vows to up the fight of this epidemic that has grown into a plague ***

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today reported that there has been a marked increase in overdoses in recent weeks and alarmingly there have been 8 overdoses reported to the District Attorney's Office in just the last 8 days. This includes 6 fatalities and two near fatalities. As startling as these reports are, their depth is made more troublesome by the fact that these are just the reports that our office and the NYPD have been made aware of, it is believed that numbers may be as much as 30% higher.

"This drug epidemic is now a plague on our Island – 8 overdoses in 8 days. If Staten Island were faced with 46 shooting homicides since January 1st there would be a police officer on every street corner and an uproar on a citywide, statewide, and national level to match the severity of such tragic circumstances. These overdoses are no less tragic and the rampant availability of heroin and illegal opioids on our streets are proving to be as dangerous a weapon as any we face. We are at a critical mass in this fight and it has never been more important for Staten Islanders and for our partners in government to understand the urgency of this crisis," said Michael E. McMahon, Richmond County District Attorney. "I will continue my office's laser-like focus on this issue until this scourge is vanquished," McMahon continued. "But we need help."

Since early 2015, overdose rates on Staten Island have been on a dramatic incline going from a reported overdose every 5 days, to now one almost every day. The Richmond County District Attorney's Office in conjunction with the NYPD began more closely tracking overdoses since January 1, 2016 and have recorded 46 fatalities and over 15 naloxone saves since that date. On February 24, 2016 the District Attorney and NYPD launched the Overdose Response Initiative, which investigates overdose deaths as crime scenes in an effort to root out drug dealers and offer support to grieving families.

We encourage members of the community to reach out to our office with any tips by calling our Drug Hotline at 718-876-5839 or through our website [here](#).

The District Attorney has recently been appointed to the Governor's Statewide Task Force to Combat Heroin and Prescription Opioid Crisis where he will work with experts and governmental partners across New York State to identify existing and needed resources and legislative reforms to better address this crisis. Along with the Borough President, James Oddo, the District Attorney has also requested a meeting with Mayor Bill de Blasio to discuss an immediate plan of action that can be put in place to stem the tide of this crisis, as well as

long-term preventative measures that would help in this fight.

“We need more detectives to get the dealers, and more treatment slots for the addicted. We also have to mobilize the whole Island in our campaign to better educate our loved ones,” said McMahon.

Description of Overdoses in the Past 8 days

- Male, White, 54, Arrochar
- Male, White, 47, Willowbrook, found deceased by brother
- Male, White, 49, New Dorp, found deceased by cousin
- Male, White, 18, Great Kills, found by father and taken to hospital where he passed.
- Male, White, 18, Great Kills, found and taken to hospital, remains in critical condition
- Male, White, 40, New Dorp, found by mother
- Male, White, 53, Port Richmond, found several days after he passed, body decomposed
- Female, White, 38, Midland Beach, administered with Naloxone and removed to hospital

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