



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: Ryan Lavis (718) 556-7150
Ryan.Lavis@rcda.nyc.gov

D.A. McMahon Creates New Firearms Anti-Violence Unit

*** Dedicated Firearms Unit will focus solely on combating gun violence***

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that he has created a new Firearms Anti-Violence Unit within the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office that will work specifically to prosecute firearms cases as part of the office’s continued effort to combat gun violence on Staten Island. In addition to handling all felony gun cases, including homicides committed with a firearm, the Firearms Anti-Violence Unit will help identify drivers of shooting and gun violence incidents and also better target community-specific efforts to reduce the incidence of gun violence. The Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice, under the leadership of Director Elizabeth Glazer, granted McMahon the funding to create this new unit as part of a Citywide, anti-violence initiative. McMahon also announced today that he has named Nina Spadafora, a Staten Island resident and ten-year veteran Assistant District Attorney with the office, to be the inaugural Chief of the Firearms Anti-Violence Unit.

“This new Firearms Anti-Violence Unit is part of our ever vigilant fight to drive the crime numbers down and keep the streets of Staten Island safe by jailing those who victimize others with gun violence or traffic in the sale of illegal weapons,” said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon.

“No community should ever have to live in fear of gun violence. We are incredibly fortunate to have a Staten Islander as experienced as Ms. Spadafora undertaking the leadership of this new unit, and I am confident that she will work tirelessly to make Staten Island a safer place. I would also like to thank the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice for giving Staten Island its fair share of resources to combat this serious problem.”

According to NYPD CompStat data, there have been 31 shooting incidents on Staten Island

as of October 16, 2016. Twenty-nine of those have occurred within the confines of the 120 and 121 Precincts. There have been 33 victims as a result of these shootings. There have been 116 gun arrests on Staten Island; an increase of 17.2% from last year. Breaking down these numbers even further by precincts, the 120th Precinct has 4 homicides, 20 shooting incidents, and 20 victims, along with 53 gun arrests, which is up 51.4% from 2015.

In addition to its new unit chief, the Firearms Anti-Violence Unit will be comprised of a second felony level ADA, Kate Malloy, two RCDA Detective Investigators, as well as a crime analyst and legal support staff to allow for more direct and involved supervision of firearms cases.

Nina Spadafora will be this office's first Firearms Anti-Violence Unit Chief. She is a graduate of Duke University and earned her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center. Ms. Spadafora began her career with the Richmond County District Attorney's Office in September 2006 as an ADA in the Criminal Court Bureau. In March 2011, Ms. Spadafora was moved to the office's Special Victims Bureau, where she remained until October 2012. She is currently an ADA in the office's Trials Bureau, where she has overseen the prosecution of crimes including murders, gang assaults and weapons possession.

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