



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 Announces Formation of Elder Abuse Unit to Investigate and Prosecute Crimes Committed Against Senior Citizens

Staten Island, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced the formation of the Elder Abuse Unit to investigate and prosecute crimes committed against senior citizens. Additionally, the Unit will serve as a resource to inform and educate the community on ways to avoid scams and other financial crimes that often target the elderly. McMahon also announced today that he has named Assistant District Attorney Rhiannon La Tour to be the inaugural head of the Unit.

“Financial and physical abuse of the elderly are serious crimes that require dedicated and increased amounts of time working with the victims,” said **District Attorney Michael E. McMahon**. “In recent years, we have seen more financial cases that target the elderly. And, as a result of the drug crisis plaguing Staten Island, we have also seen a rise in cases of thefts and assaults where family members are turning to the criminal justice system to intervene with their addicted family member. Elder abuse, whether it is financial or physical, is unacceptable and we will continue to work diligently to hold criminals who prey on seniors accountable.”

McMahon continued, “We are incredibly fortunate to have a Staten Islander with the depth of experience of ADA La Tour to ensure that every victim receives the support and proper attention they deserve and that justice is served in these important cases.”

In addition to investigating and prosecuting crimes against the elderly, the Unit will also work closely with the office’s Community Partnership Unit to raise awareness of the types of crimes that typically target seniors on Staten Island. Often, these involve phone scams and various types of financial fraud.

ADA La Tour began her career with the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office in 2009 in the Criminal Court Bureau. She was assigned in 2010 to the Office’s Special Victims Bureau where she investigated and prosecuted felonies involving child, elderly, domestic violence, and sexual violence victims. Prior to joining RCDA, she worked in the Kings County DA’s Office in the Domestic Violence Bureau. Ms. La Tour is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where she earned her J.D., M.S. in Criminology, and her B.A. with Honors.

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