

Citizen's Union Response

1. Among the most alarming trends is the attacks on senior citizens. Seniors are under siege. They are becoming subject to physical assaults in the street and they are increasingly victims of economic crimes. Seniors are being evicted from their residences and their homes are being stolen via deed theft. Oftentimes nursing home personnel, family members and others are committing seniors to nursing homes without their knowledge and consent and then their homes are sold or forfeited for payment to the nursing homes.

As Brooklyn's next District Attorney, I will create a unit comprised of lawyers, forensic social workers and investigators to educate and protect our Brooklyn Seniors from fraud and assault. We will work with NYPD and the community to establish 'senior watchdogs' and organizations that assist seniors. We will aggressively prosecute individuals who cause harm to our most vulnerable citizens.

The second trend centers around opiate use. Pharmacies and medical practices that over prescribe pain killers that end up sold on the street will be investigated and prosecuted for narcotics distribution.

2. The District Attorney is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in the country. Regarding anti-corruption. I will establish a Prosecutor's Integrity Bureau. The Bureau will be like the Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility. I will institutionalize ethical behavior throughout the office. This unit will be comprised of experienced lawyers, investigators, forensic accountants and human resource professionals. Cases will be audited in this unit, complaints about the behavior of a ADA and/or staff members will be investigated by this unit, ethics policy mandates will be overseen by the group. "Those who enforce the law must obey it." The fact that a senior prosecutor who led the most important in the office conducts an illegal wiretap investigation for over 20 months is an abuse of power, abuse of office resources and corrosive. There was absolutely no monitoring of her conduct and actions. It is not enough for her to plead guilty, she should have to reimburse the office because wiretaps are expensive undertakings. In my office, we will uphold ethical standards and we will proactively investigate and prosecute public officials who abuse their authority to the fullest extent of the law seeking repayment of stolen funds.
3. To the fullest extent of the law! I was a Special Assistant Attorney General in the office to investigate the criminal justice system. I have first-hand experience in prosecution of the bribery and public corruption cases including police corruption. Improper use of government resources is theft /fraud / bribery. The public deserves ethical public servants, not individuals who would use their positions for personal profit or gain. I will collaborate with other justice agencies such as the Attorney General, Department of Investigation and other investigative authorities to identify to the individuals that have failed to comply with stated procedures or regulations regarding campaign finance and the proper use of public funds.
4. Absolutely, in 1999 I created the first re-entry program run by a District Attorney in the country. It is still in place in the office today. As District Attorney, I have an obligation to break the cycle of recidivism. As the District Attorney I am responsible for public safety, recidivism comes under the umbrella. The strategies, cost of imprisoning individuals should be acknowledged as well as

the human costs. Rehabilitation of the formally incarcerated is linked to community stability and economic growth. I will collaborate with all stakeholders involved with reentry and I will commit additional resources to this worthwhile endeavor.

5. To the extent it is within my jurisdiction as District Attorney I will ensure we strike the right balance between security, human rights and civil liberties. I will maintain close community relations, connecting with religious institutions and gran roll organizations. I will work tirelessly to build trust in the community continually educating citizens about their duty to be vigilant watchdogs in the protection of our community. We will investigate allegations thoroughly to ensure that there is sufficient evidence of criminal activity before an individual is charged and arrested. We will be guided by the law and not fear at all times. The civil rights of all citizens will be upheld. We will investigate and prosecute individuals involved in the underground criminal economy that funds terrorist activities.
6. Yes –I do and believe that most police misconduct should do with lack of communication between citizens and police and the lack of professionalism on the part of the police officers and sometimes they have an unreasonable fear of community members. I believe in training, training and more training. I have trained thousands of police officers and law enforcement officials over the years. As an ADA I created a course for Brooklyn police officers that was law based, continued legal training for police. It was very successful. The course was a response to complaints from the community regarding the proliferation of stops of Black Men in certain communities. We were able to demonstrate to the officers why the stops were illegal, dangerous and made no one safer. The stops were “unprofessional”. We were able to stop the practice as a result of the training. I would work with the NYPD to help build community trust and understanding. I would encourage better review of arrests and cases closely to identify problems and officer that persistently have cases dismissed. I would work with the Internal Affairs Bureau of NYPD. I would also support and encourage police officers who work with the community. Hold them up as good examples.
7. Stop, Question and Frisk is a tool that when used properly aided with investigations of drug gangs. Stop, Question and Frisk became a public symbol of police abuse in some communities and in others that were not subject to Stop, Question and Frisk was a public display of power and control by police who wanted to appear to be preventing crimes from occurring. Policies are only good if they are equally applied across all communities.
8. Yes I do! I also believe that District Attorney interviews should also be videotaped. I believe in transparency and accountability. Videotaping interrogations is a way to hold ADA’s and police accountable.
9. The Mayor’s plan to close Rikers is in my opinion not good. It does not take years to close Rikers if you really want to close it and building more jails in the community is a bad idea and not necessary. First, I would identify individuals at Rikers who have not been convicted of a crime that is 40% of individuals of that population. Review their cases; if they are being held because of an inability to make bail or if they are 16/17 years of age then release should be considered

with community monitoring and District Attorney Supervision. Second, the group that is in Rikers for low level offenses, evaluate case and release them to community monitoring and District attorney supervision. Third, the group that has problems returning to court but charged with non-violent crimes I would consider use of ankle monitors and District Attorney supervision. The population of Rikers would be severely reduced and the others charged with serious felonies should be expedited on the trial calendar. I believe Rikers could be closed within two years! The issues concerning Corrections Officers are separate having them further trained and redeployed to enforce the community monitoring and DA supervision. Some communities do not want Rikers closed and jails built in the boroughs. There would have to be a public education campaign addressing their concerns so that citizens would not fear Rikers closing.

10. I do not support holding a constitutional convention to amend the New York State Constitution. I do not trust the political climate in Albany. The cost of such a convention should be considered. I believe that given all the dysfunction in Albany we risk losing cherished constitutional rights, harmful provisions could be added to the constitution and I do not believe the legislative could overcome the political hurdles to enact needed reforms.
11. I oppose the convention but I will take no public action as District Attorney to defeat it. The voting public should make the decision. I will work to educate the citizens of Brooklyn about the pros and cons and why they should pay attention and research to understand the issues.
12. My priorities as King's County District Attorney will be to restore legitimacy to the criminal justice system – fairness, integrity, transparency and equity. Institutionalizing integrity will be the hallmark of my administration along with diversity and inclusion. As the individual charged with public safety I will prevent crime by working in schools with teachers and families to prevent young people from straying. I will tackle recidivism by strengthening my reentry program and collaborating with community based providers and finally I will put protocols in place to review all the cases of individuals who assert “wrongful convictions” so that the cases can be reviewed and investigated without delay.

For 15 years I was a criminal prosecutor. I was the King's County Narcotics prosecutor in the 90's when Brooklyn was the 5th most dangerous place in the country due to the drug culture. I was a corruption and bribery prosecutor prosecuting police for death in custody cases, re-investigating Tawana Brawley and Corrections Officers for bring drugs and weapons into the jails. I was appointed 1st ADA because I was a creative and collaborative prosecutor who was committed to justice and not to the number of my convictions. I created most of the progress that currently exists in the office. I was the longest serving Commissioner and Chair of the City Human Rights Commission in the history of the City of New York. I brought a “dead” agency to life by tackling a 5,000-case backlog resulting in millions of dollars in settlements for complainant's. I worked with the most vulnerable communities and individuals in the city to restore dignity and level the playing field. I am capable of aggressively enforcing laws but I view the world in terms of human suffering. I believe we can be secure and safe while maintaining our civil liberties. I am the only candidate who has managed a City agency. The Brooklyn District Attorney's office is a 1,200-

person office with a \$94,000,000 budget that requires effective and efficient management as well a leader with a vision of justice that will keep Brooklynites safe while providing fundamental fairness and equity.

I will use technology to streamline office processes and create transparency. I will create a cybercrime unit to attack bullying, identity theft and internet auction fraud and harassment. The unit will be proactive comprised of highly skilled computer crime investigators and experienced investigative lawyers.

THE TOP5 2017 CAMPAIGN PROMISES

1. I will create an ethical office that will apply one standard of justice for all citizens of Brooklyn.
2. "Integrity" will be the hallmark of the office. Training, training and more training will take place regarding ethics. I will create a Prosecutor's Integrity Bureau for case auditing and professional development.
3. Create a gun violence task force to create innovative solutions to combat the problem of gun violence as a public health issue and crime problem. Members of the task force will include individuals from criminal justice, public health, mental health professionals and community members.
4. I will add additional resources to the reentry program.
5. I will appoint a Chief Digital Officer to oversee technology upgrades office wide and to create "App" technology for use by all stakeholders and to supervise the cyber-crimes unit.

Ethics Question

I will proactively conduct public corruption investigations and prosecutions. The creation of the Prosecutors Integrity Bureau will support and require ethical behavior by all employees of the District Attorney's office. We must be beyond reproach. I have a very long and very public track record of public service. I am Trustee on the lawyer's Fund for Client Protection, we compensate individuals who were victims of dishonest conduct by lawyers. I have always represented the public interest above all else. I am a problem solver.

Internally I will establish processes, audit mechanisms, measurements and protocols to monitor prosecutions and uphold ethical mandates.

Externally, I will proactively review the conduct of public officials in the criminal justice system and elected officials. I will follow the money.