



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
OFFICE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CITY RECEIVES \$1.5 MILLION TO PROVIDE VICTIMS WITH REAL-TIME
INFORMATION ABOUT PERPETRATOR'S STATUS**

*Early Victim Engagement Project gives Life-Saving Information and Vital Services to Domestic
Violence Victims at New York City Family Justice Center*

Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence Commissioner Yolanda B. Jimenez announced today that the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women has awarded New York City a \$1.5 million grant to enhance victim accessibility to real-time information about the abuser's arrest and trial proceedings. The grant to implement the Early Victim Engagement (EVE) Project, will allow the City to contact victims in Brooklyn immediately following the abuser's first court appearance with crucial information, such as the existence of an order of protection. The project will be administered by the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence at the New York City Family Justice Center in Brooklyn, in collaboration with the Kings County District Attorney's Office, the New York City Police Department, the New York City Department of Probation, the New York State Division of Parole, and two non-profit partners, Safe Horizon and Good Shepherd Services Safe Homes Project.

"Knowledge is power and these Federal funds will enable us to give victims accurate and immediate life-saving information and services," said Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence Commissioner Yolanda B. Jimenez. "We are pleased that the Federal government has recognized the City's innovative programming to combat domestic violence by providing ongoing funding to enhance the New York City Family Justice Center in Brooklyn."

For domestic violence victims who report abuse to the police resulting in an arrest of the abuser, early efforts to connect the victim with services and information is crucial. Many victims do not know if the abuser is in jail, whether or not an order of protection has been issued, or where to go for help. This means that the abuser may have more information than the victim if she is not initially contacted with essential information. The New York City Family Justice Center EVE Project will build on the success of the Family Justice Center and provide domestic violence victims with case status and order of protection information immediately following the

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abuser's first court appearance. Last year police in Brooklyn filed 77,432 Domestic Incident Reports. Through the EVE Project, it is estimated that over 6,000 victims will be assisted annually.

Teams of District Attorney's Office domestic violence paralegals and non-profit victim advocates will be stationed in the Criminal Court during all shifts, 7 days/week from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., processing approximately 25 domestic violence cases every 24-hours and contacting victims immediately following the abuser's first court appearance. Victims will also be connected to a variety of services including crisis intervention and safety planning provided by the New York City Family Justice Center. These efforts will expand the current Family Justice Center multi-service delivery model by providing critical information and vital services to even more domestic violence victims.

On July 20, 2005, the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence in partnership with the Kings County District Attorney's Office opened the City's first Family Justice Center in downtown Brooklyn. Clients may walk in and choose which services they want, including counseling, advocacy, meeting with a prosecutor, career services, shelter and housing help, and civil legal assistance—all while their children play safely in the next room. Representatives from nine City and State agencies, 25 community based organizations, including four civil legal organizations, six faith-based organizations, and several universities provide support to the Center. The City's second Family Justice Center, to be located in Kew Gardens, Queens, will open in the spring of 2008. The new Center is a partnership between the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, Queens County District Attorney's Office, and the Queens Borough President's Office.

Help is also available 24-hours-a-day in all languages, by calling 311, or the New York City Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-621-HOPE (4673); in an emergency call 911.

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