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## MAYOR'S OFFICE TO END DOMESTIC AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE STRENGTHEN CITY'S RESOURCES FOR SURVIVORS AND CRIME VICTIMS THROUGH STREAMLINED SERVICE PROVISION

## Enhanced and Equitable Access to Services and Support for New York City's Survivors and Crime Victims Help Removes Barriers to Recovery

**NEW YORK, NY** - The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV), and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) announce the expansion of immediate and long-term supports for individuals and survivors impacted by crime and abuse through streamlined service provision. Many of the city's programs that support New York residents impacted by crime and abuse are housed across ENDGBV, and the New York City Office of Crime Victim Supports (OCVS) under MOCJ management. Consolidating these services into ENDGBV's robust portfolio of trauma-informed and survivor-centered programs will enhance access for crime victims, particularly marginalized individuals, to holistic resources such as responsive case management, individual and group counseling, and survivor advocacy that help meet their immediate crisis needs and aid in recovery from the long-term effects of victimization. This move bolsters the city's longstanding and ongoing commitment to supporting survivors of crime and abuse; aligns with national best practices for victim services provision; and provides access to New York State victim services funding not previously available. The consolidation of services involves ENDGBV releasing new Requests for Proposals (RFPs) aimed at providing services for New Yorkers impacted by crime, and the merger of the OCVS and ENDGBV online resource directories under NYC HOPE.

MOCJ will continue to manage the city's diversion programs by absorbing the OCVS court-mandated Abusive Partner Intervention Program (APIP), known as Dignity and Respect, into its current diversion programming portfolio. ENDGBV will continue to manage Respect and Responsibility, the city's free, community-based, non-mandated programming for individuals who cause, or have caused harm, have been abusive, or are abusive in their intimate relationship(s).

"Incorporating additional crime victim support programs into the Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence will help New Yorkers in need connect more quickly with trauma and survivor-informed support systems to assist in the moment following an incident and every step of the way thereafter," said **Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Anne Williams-Isom**. "It is deeply frightening to be a victim of any crime or an act of violence and can create feelings of vulnerability, fear, anxiety, and stress. We know that crime victims and survivors of domestic and gender-based violence experience many of those same feelings, and by consolidating these two offices, we recognize that all victims and survivors require holistic, individualized services that support each person in their own unique context."

"For too long, crime victims and survivors have been afforded differential support in the wake of traumatic events," said Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence Acting

**Commissioner Saloni Sethi**. "Folding the victim services portfolio into ENDGBV removes barriers that hinder recovery efforts for victims and survivors from the impacts of trauma. We are eager to begin this vital transition with our partner MOCJ towards a more seamless administration of, and equitable access to, comprehensive programming and support that meet the oftentimes urgent and intersecting needs of people impacted by crime and gender-based violence, and needs of their families."

"Support for victims and survivors is a crucial part of our city's public safety continuum. MOCJ is proud to work with our partners at ENDGBV to streamline services so that all victims and survivors of crime and abuse receive the same level of care in a way that is readily available and easy to access," said **Deanna Logan, Director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice**. "Providing these services from one city agency will help providers and clients to identify and access the appropriate supports, and underscores Mayor Adams' commitment to a safe, fair, and equitable city."

"Domestic violence is a primary driver of homelessness, and the NYC Human Resources Administration provides robust transitional housing supports to survivors of domestic violence across the city," said **Department of Social Services Commissioner Molly Wasow Park**. "We are incredibly grateful for the support of our partner agencies in this critical work as this Administration continues to break down silos to further strengthen the continuum of care for some of our most vulnerable New Yorkers. NYC HOPE recognizes the urgent need to implement more comprehensive approaches and innovative interventions to get at the very root of this crisis while focusing on ensuring long-term stability for survivors of domestic violence."

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## About the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence

The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) develops policies and programs, provides training and prevention education, conducts research and evaluations, performs community outreach, and operates the New York City Family Justice Centers. We collaborate with City agencies and community stakeholders to ensure access to inclusive services for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence (GBV). GBV can include intimate partner and family violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. Read more about the term.

The <u>NYC Family Justice Centers</u> are co-located multidisciplinary service centers providing vital social services, civil legal, and criminal justice assistance for survivors of domestic and gender-based violence and their children—all under one roof. For more information, visit <u>nyc.gov/ENDGBV</u> or visit us on visit us on <u>Facebook or Instagram</u>.

## **About the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice**

The <u>Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ)</u> advises the Mayor on all matters relating to the maintenance and improvement of a fair and equitable justice system. MOCJ convenes community and institutional stakeholders to address systemic issues that undermine the safety and stability of the city's ecosystem. MOCJ works to move the city forward by expanding access to the essential support services needed to safeguard the public well-being for all New Yorkers.