



Mayor's Office to Combat  
Domestic Violence

# 2016 Annual Report



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## INTRODUCTION

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) was established by City charter in 2001 and is charged with coordinating the delivery of Citywide domestic violence services and formulating policies and programs related to the prevention of domestic violence and raising awareness about domestic violence. OCDV operates the New York City Family Justice Centers and collaborates closely with governmental and non-governmental agencies that assist domestic violence survivors. This is OCDV's first annual report, which provides an overview of the domestic violence initiatives that OCDV implemented in 2016.

## ABOUT THE COMMISSIONER



Cecile Noel was appointed Commissioner of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) in October 2015. OCDV was established by city charter in 2001, and is charged with coordinating the delivery of citywide domestic violence services, and formulating policies and programs relating to domestic violence services. The office also oversees the Family Justice Centers (FJCs) that operate in Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island, serving over 2,700 clients a month.

In her prior position as the Executive Deputy Commissioner for the Human Resources Administration (HRA) Emergency Intervention Services, Commissioner Noel oversaw a \$180 million budget, over 500 staff and 30 contracts. Under her leadership, expansions were accomplished in both residential and non-residential services for domestic violence survivors across the network of 52 New York City-funded domestic violence shelters. She launched one of the first school-based domestic violence prevention programs in the country, the Teen Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP), now operating in 87 New York City public schools.

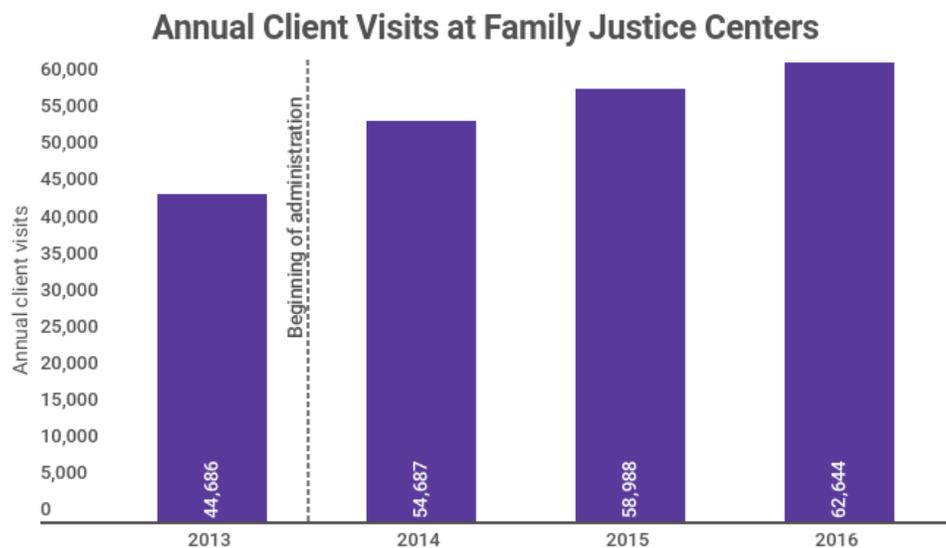
In addition, Commissioner Noel had oversight over the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP), the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) and several other emergency utility assistance programs that help low-income New Yorkers with their utility needs. She also led the HRA Crisis and Disaster program and Adult Protective Services (APS) programs for more than a decade.

Commissioner Noel is a graduate of Vassar College and holds a Master's Degree in Social Work Administration from Columbia University.

## NEW YORK CITY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS

OCDV operates the New York City Family Justice Centers (FJCs), which provide comprehensive social service, civil legal and criminal justice assistance for survivors of intimate partner violence, elder abuse and sex trafficking in all five boroughs. In June, 2016 OCDV opened the Staten Island FJC, completing the vision of having a FJC in every borough. Key city agencies; community, social and civil legal service providers; and law enforcement agencies including the NYPD and District Attorney's Offices are located on-site at the FJCs to make it easier for survivors to access assistance in one location. Services are free and confidential. All are welcome regardless of language, income or immigration status. OCDV has partnered with the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting innovative programs throughout the five boroughs, to secure support for the Family Justice Centers. Private funding of the FJCs has helped provide critical evidence of its effectiveness, leveraging the current public investment. Specific programs/services are available through the generous support of private funding partners, including the Brooke Jackman Foundation, the Robin Hood Foundation, the Chapman Perelman Foundation, AVON, Verizon Wireless and the Staten Island Foundation.

Since the beginning of Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration, the number of annual client visits to FJCs has increased by 40%. In 2016, the five FJCs had 62,644 visits from domestic violence survivors (see chart below).



The FJCs provide a variety of programming for survivors and their children. Some of these offerings include:

- **The Brooke Jackman Family Literacy Program** works to strengthen literacy skills while building bonds between children and their caregivers. At each session, children and their caregivers have the opportunity to read books, enjoy a family meal and complete an art activity together.
- **WISE (Working in Support of Education)** partners with the Allstate Foundation to provide survivors with financial empowerment skills during a 13-week financial literacy course at the Bronx, Brooklyn, Staten Island and Manhattan FJCs. The FJCs provide an 8-week basic computer literacy course that assists trauma survivors to learn or refresh basic computer and public speaking skills, update their resumes and meet with guest lecturers to hear about their career paths.
- **The David Lynch Foundation's Women's Health Initiative** provides Transcendental Meditation training for staff and survivors across the FJCs. Transcendental Meditation has been shown to heal and empower victims of abuse.
- **Exhale to Inhale**, an organization that uses yoga to inspire healing in survivors of domestic violence, provides on-site yoga classes to survivors as well as for staff working at the FJCs. Both staff and clients greatly benefit from the opportunity to engage in yoga as a self-care method.

The FJCs offer a 12-session core training series monthly for partner agency staff and community members to ensure that all are highly trained on the complexities of intimate partner violence and how best to work with survivors in a multidisciplinary setting from a client-centered, trauma-informed perspective. These regular training offerings include:

- Intimate Partner Violence Dialogue
- Risk Assessment and Safety Planning
- Cultural Conversations
- Engaging with Trauma Survivors
- Family and Matrimonial Law
- Understanding the Criminal Justice System
- Immigration Law 101

- Economic Empowerment
- Housing and Shelter Options
- Supporting Sex Trafficking Survivors
- Understanding Immigrant Eligibility for Public Benefits
- Elder Abuse.

As part of Thrive NYC, the FJCs also provide regular Mental Health First Aid trainings to the FJC partner agency and domestic violence prevention community staff.

## **Opening of the Staten Island Family Justice Center**

In June 2016, OCDV, in partnership with the Richmond County District Attorney's Office, opened the Staten Island FJC. The Staten Island FJC is a 10,000-square-foot facility located near the Staten Island Ferry Terminal, designed and built through a collaboration between the Department of Design and Construction (DDC), Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS), the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DOITT), the Richmond County District Attorney's Office and architecture firm Spacesmith. The Staten Island FJC was built under DDC's Design and Construction Excellence program which decreases the amount of time required for DDC to procure design services, while ensuring the highest levels of quality and professionalism in construction projects managed by the agency.

The opening of the Staten Island FJC was attended by First Lady Chirlane McCray, OCDV Commissioner Cecile Noel, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Herminia Palacio, Commissioner Feniosky Peña-Mora of the Department of Design and Construction, Staten Island Borough President James Oddo, Richmond County District Attorney Michael McMahon, Congressman Daniel Donovan, Council Member Debi Rose, New York State Assemblymember Matthew Titone and the Honorable Catherine DiDomenico, New York State Family Court Judge. The Staten Island Foundation provided funding to enhance the functions of the Staten Island FJC Training Room and Verizon Wireless provided funding to outfit the Staten Island FJC Children's Room/Family Suite. Prior to the construction of the Staten Island FJC, OCDV operated the Staten Island Domestic Violence Response Team, which brought services to over 200 individuals from 2012-2016. During the

first six months of operation, the Staten Island FJC assisted 802 unique clients through over 2,200 client visits.



(From Left) Deputy Mayor Herminia Palacio, OCDV Commissioner Cecile Noel, NYC First Lady Chirlane McCray and City Council Member Debi Rose cut the ribbon at the opening of the Staten Island Family Justice Center.

## Queens Human Trafficking Intervention Pro Bono Project

The Queens Human Trafficking Intervention Pro Bono Project, launched by OCDV in partnership with Sanctuary for Families and the Queens Human Trafficking Intervention Court (HTIC), provides foreign-born defendants in the HTIC who are victims of or individuals at high risk of sex trafficking with pro bono legal representation on immigration law matters at the NYC Family Justice Center in Queens (QFJC). The Project builds on the success of the Queens HTIC, which assists individuals arrested on prostitution and related charges by providing alternatives to incarceration. In 2016, the Pro Bono Project served 52 clients at the Queens FJC.

## **Mental Health Services**

OCDV has partnered with NYC Health + Hospitals (Health + Hospitals) to station mental health teams, consisting of a full-time psychotherapist, part-time psychiatrist and an off-site administrative staff member, at the City's five FJCs. The goal of the initiative is to ensure that the FJCs' holistic services approach includes long-term, trauma-informed mental health services for clients. This project, part of First Lady Chirlane McCray's ThriveNYC initiative, builds upon the successful mental health counseling pilot program launched at the Bronx FJC with the Columbia University Department of Psychiatry, and funded by the Chapman Perelman Foundation, which has been operational since 2014. The Chapman Perelman Foundation has supported the expansion of this model through funding for the Columbia University Department of Psychiatry to provide training, technical assistance and support to the Health + Hospitals teams hired to staff the FJCs. As of December, the mental health teams have begun working at the Queens and Brooklyn FJCs, and additional mental health staff will be deployed at the other Centers through 2017. When fully operational, this program will assist 1,000 FJC clients annually.

## **Expansion of Housing Legal Services at the NYC Family Justice Centers**

Domestic abuse often causes victims to be at risk of losing their housing. Numerous studies have documented the high risk of housing instability and homelessness as a consequence of intimate partner violence. Housing instability includes: remaining in your home but having difficulty paying the rent or mortgage, eviction threats or notices, frequent moves, doubling up with family or friends, and entering the shelter system. In 2016, almost 3,000 FJC clients sought help obtaining permanent housing. In November 2016, in collaboration with the New York City Office of Civil Justice, OCDV expanded legal services at the FJCs by bringing contracted housing legal providers on-site to assist clients in housing related matters. Specifically, survivors can receive legal assistance or representation for eviction proceedings, rent arrears, foreclosures, housing discrimination and tenant harassment. These services can help individuals remain safely in their current housing or help them reestablish their lives after exiting shelter.

## **Award of Federal Grant Funding for the NYC Polyvictimization Collaborative Project**

In September 2016, OCDV, in partnership with the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, and in collaboration with the Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO) and community-based services providers Safe Horizon, New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault, Voces Latinas, Sanctuary for Families and Mount Sinai SAVI, received a grant under the Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime as part of a demonstration project with six jurisdictions around the country aimed at creating a model polyvictimization screening tool that can be implemented in FJC settings nationally. Polyvictimization specifically refers to an individual who has experienced different types of victimization, often severe, within their lifetime, as opposed to repeated instances of the same type of victimization. During the 36-month grant, Project partners will – through a collaborative strategic planning process that includes the existing service providers at the Queens FJC and community stakeholders – develop, pilot, test and implement a polyvictimization screening tool that will be used by all service providers at the Queens FJC. This Project will enable service providers at the Queens FJC to screen survivors of intimate partner violence for other forms of victimizations to ensure that they are connected with appropriate and comprehensive services to meet all of their needs. The grant includes an evaluation of the tool's development and implementation process, as well as its validity.

## **THE POLICY & TRAINING INSTITUTE**

Established in 2016, OCDV's Policy & Training Institute (the Institute) focuses on building awareness, skills and capacity around issues related to intimate partner violence throughout New York City and identifying ways to enhance city, state and federal policy affecting victims and their families.

## **TRAINING**

### **Domestic Violence Training Team**

The Institute's Domestic Violence Training Team (Training Team) collaborates with City agencies and community-based organizations to increase knowledge and awareness about intimate partner violence, sex trafficking and elder abuse. The Training Team assesses training needs and designs trainings to support organizations' unique goals. Following trainings, the

Training Team is available for ongoing consultations, technical assistance and refresher trainings. Capacity building and sustainability are accomplished through “train-the-trainer” courses. In its first year, the Training Team provided 118 trainings to 4,412 participants, including 69 trainings for staff at the Department of Homeless Services.

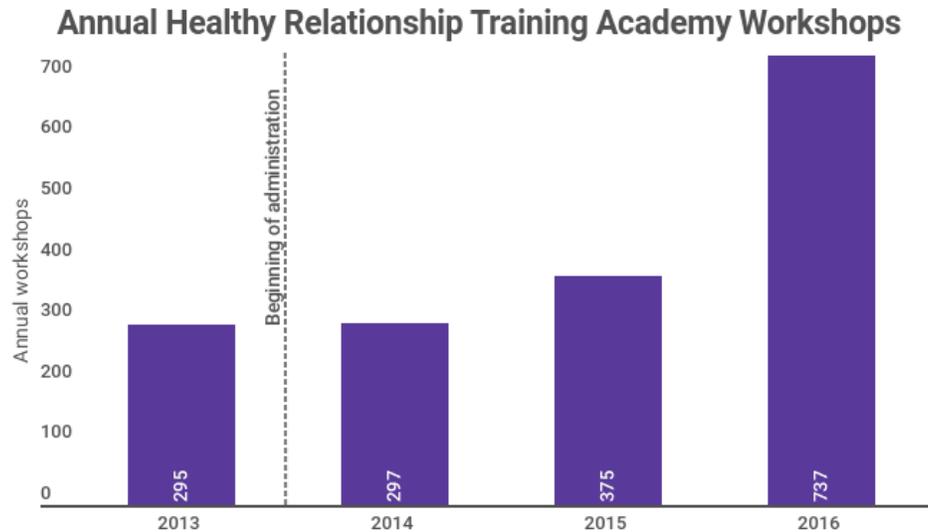
### Healthy Relationship Training Academy

The Institute also houses the New York City Healthy Relationship Training Academy (the Academy), funded in part by the Avon Foundation for Women, which provides workshops on intimate partner violence, teen dating violence and healthy relationships to young people, parents and staff members who work with teens. Workshops are delivered through a peer-educator model. Peer Educators are young people ages 17 to 26 who are trained to teach their peers about recognizing abusive relationships and building healthy ones. Since the beginning of Mayor Bill de Blasio’s administration, the number of annual



NYC Healthy Relationship Training Academy Peer Educators lead a discussion on consent.

Academy workshops has increased by 150%. In 2016, the Academy facilitated 737 workshops and trainings on teen dating violence and healthy relationships for 11,500 participants. In 2016, the Academy piloted a new curriculum focused on healthy sexual relationships targeted to young people ages 16 and over (see chart below). During this approximately 90-minute workshop, Peer Educators facilitate activities and discussions about healthy sexual relationships and consent.



In February 2016, as part of First Lady Chirlane McCray’s ThriveNYC initiative, the Academy expanded to include the Creating Awareness about Relationship Equality (CARE) program, which provides specialized workshops about building healthy relationships to youth in foster care throughout the City. Workshops through the CARE program are also available for foster parents, City staff and service providers. In 2016, the Academy provided 183 CARE workshops to 1,552 participants.

### **Mental Health First Aid Training**

Recognizing the strong intersection between intimate partner violence and mental health, OCDV supports the City’s ThriveNYC efforts to train 250,000 New Yorkers in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) by 2020. MHFA training aims to destigmatize and change attitudes around mental health issues and help people become better equipped at providing resources for others with mental illness or addiction. In 2016, OCDV’s certified Mental Health First Aid trainers conducted 11 Mental Health First Aid trainings with 204 participants.

## **Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression Training**

Intimate partner violence in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities is a serious social and public health issue. LGBTQ survivors face increased barriers to obtaining consistent access to the services they need. Without access to identity-affirming advocacy, intervention, and other critical services, LGBTQ survivors will continue to suffer from violence and the aftermath of victimization. OCDV recognizes the need to work to continually improve LGBTQ-affirming and inclusive services through its FJCs, outreach efforts, training and programming. In anticipation of the debut of four new FJC client demographic questions on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression (SOGIE), OCDV created the training Understanding SOGIE. This training and its supplements provide a primer on LGBTQ and SOGIE terminology and concepts to create a basic and uniform level of competency for staff engaging with the public. In 2016, trainings were provided to over 100 participants, including all OCDV staff and City-contracted frontline staff at the FJCs.

## **OCDV Staff Development**

OCDV emphasizes the importance of professional development for staff, including identifying opportunities for staff to learn from key experts in the domestic violence field. In 2016, OCDV staff participated in multiple local and national conferences that addressed key innovative approaches in the work to end domestic violence, including youth violence prevention, risk assessment strategies and trauma informed practices. OCDV also invited Dr. Jackie Campbell, an internationally known expert in the area of domestic violence risk assessment who developed the evidence based Danger Assessment Tool, to certify staff in providing training and technical assistance to City agencies and community-based organizations on the use of the Danger Assessment tool in identifying individual clients' lethality risk. OCDV also partnered with Day One, an NYC based organization that provides direct services and education around the issue of youth dating violence, to provide a train the trainer course for staff on technology abuse and safety. Two cohorts of OCDV staff members also participated in an intensive course on trauma-informed care offered by the McSilver Institute on Poverty Policy and Research at the NYU Silver School of Social Work.

## **POLICY/LEGISLATION**

### **Paid Safe Leave**

In October 2016, Mayor Bill de Blasio joined with City Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland to introduce Paid Safe Leave legislation in the City Council. The legislation will allow a survivor of domestic violence, sexual violence or stalking to take paid leave from work to plan their next steps and focus on immediate safety needs without fear of penalty or loss of income. Examples of types of covered activities would be to meet with an advocate or counselor to create a safety plan or obtain services, speak with a civil legal provider to get information on a legal matter stemming from the victimization, file a police report, meet with a representative from a District Attorney's Office, seek new housing or shelter, enroll children in a new school for safety reasons or attend to urgent financial matters stemming from the victimization. Under this legislation, the reason for the survivor's requested paid time off would remain confidential and survivors would not need to disclose their victimization to their employer unless they requested an amount of days that would trigger documentation requirement in other situations, such as with sick leave.

## **COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES**

### **New York City Domestic Violence Task Force**

In November 2016, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced the launch of the NYC Domestic Violence Task Force (the Task Force), which is charged with developing a comprehensive Citywide strategy to reduce domestic violence by intervening as early as possible, enhancing pathways to safety for survivors and ensuring swift, effective and lasting enforcement to hold abusers accountable. The Task Force was co-chaired by First Lady Chirlane McCray and Police Commissioner James O'Neill and operated by Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Director Elizabeth Glazer and OCDV Commissioner Cecile Noel in collaboration with Task Force Executive Director Bea Hanson. The Task Force included four working groups focused on prevention, engagement and reporting, criminal justice

responses and long term violence reduction. Working Group members included over 120 multidisciplinary experts and leaders from government, nonprofits and community based organizations, as well as survivors to help inform the Task Force recommendations. A comprehensive list of 27 Task Force recommendations was released in April 2017.



Members of a NYC Domestic Violence Task Force working group.

## **New York City Fatality Review Committee**

Established in 2005 through Local Law 61, the Fatality Review Committee (FRC) is tasked with summarizing information pertaining to domestic violence homicides in New York City and developing recommendations for the coordination and improvement of services for domestic violence homicide victims in New York City. The FRC is chaired by the Commissioner of OCDV and includes staff from ten City agencies, two representatives from social services agencies and two survivors of domestic violence. The FRC publishes an annual report, and the 2016 annual report includes an emphasis on the intimate partner homicides that occurred between 2010 and 2015.

## **Coordinated Approach to Preventing Stalking**

OCDV launched the Coordinated Approach to Preventing Stalking (CAPS) program in 2014 in collaboration with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and the Richmond County District Attorney's Office to increase stalking arrests and prosecutions, enhance the identification and reporting of stalking incidents and bring awareness to the seriousness of stalking. The program started in two precincts and then quickly expanded to all four precincts in the borough. In 2013, prior to the start of the CAPS program, three out of four of the precincts on Staten Island had no stalking offenses recorded for the entire year. Within the first year of the program launch, there was a 233% increase in stalking offenses recorded by the NYPD on Staten Island.

Given the success of the CAPS program in Staten Island, in 2015 the program was expanded to four precincts in Queens in collaboration with the NYPD and the Queens District Attorney's Office. Within the first month of the program launch, police officers in those precincts recorded the first two felony stalking arrests in the City that year. Additionally, in 2015, there was an 80% increase in recorded stalking offenses in those four precincts from the prior year, and in 2016 there was a 38% increase in stalking offenses in those four precincts from the same time period for the prior year. CAPS was then expanded to all thirteen Queens precincts in 2016, and throughout the entire borough that year there was an 89% increase in recorded stalking offenses compared to the prior year.

## Resources for Immigrant Crime Victims

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, OCDV worked with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) to increase awareness of U and T visas. The two offices published an article in *The Huffington Post* along with a fact sheet outlining immigration remedies and resources for immigrant victims of domestic violence and/or trafficking. U and T Visas are federal immigration visas that assist immigrant victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, human trafficking and other serious crimes, who are helpful to a law enforcement investigation or prosecution.



NYC First Lady Chirlane McCray joins OCDV volunteers for a Spanish-language domestic violence phone bank.

## **NYPD Homicide Review Research Project**

In partnership with the NYPD's Office of Management Analysis and Planning (OMAP) and Domestic Violence Unit, OCDV's research team conducted an in-depth, mixed-methods review of all domestic violence homicides from 2013-14. The aim of this review was to collect and analyze data obtained from investigative case files, witness and perpetrator interviews and prior police contact/charges in order to inform future prevention and intervention strategies to address domestic violence.

## **Community Schools Professional Development Training**

OCDV, the McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research at NYU Silver School of Social Work (McSilver Institute) and the Department of Education (DOE) have partnered to provide professional development around school-based, trauma-informed responses to domestic violence and teen dating violence for staff at the 120 Community Schools in the City. OCDV also identified eight DOE schools in neighborhoods with high domestic violence crime in which to launch a pilot program to help address the persistent problems of domestic violence and teen dating violence. The pilot program consists of a wide offering of trainings for staff, students and caregivers as well as technical assistance to school administration.

## **Interagency Working Group on NYC's Blueprint for Abusive Partner Intervention**

Following a successful joint conference and policy roundtable, in 2016 OCDV and the Coalition for Working with Abusive Partners (CoWAP) partnered to create the Interagency Working Group on NYC's Blueprint for Abusive Partner Intervention (IWG), and hired a consultant funded by the Chapman Perelman Foundation to assist in the development of policy recommendations regarding the coordination of abusive partner intervention services in NYC.

## OUTREACH

Specially trained OCDV staff conduct outreach in local communities to raise awareness about intimate partner violence, elder abuse and sex trafficking. Staff members work with a diverse range of partners to encourage understanding and responsiveness to survivors and provide information and linkages to OCDV and community programs, such as domestic violence training offerings and Academy workshops as well as resources available, including the FJCs. Outreach staff members often lead grassroots efforts and gather support at the local level by participating as members of task force and working group meetings. In 2016, OCDV conducted 1,144 Citywide outreach events including outreach to NYCHA developments as part of the MAP initiative.



OCDV Commissioner Cecile Noel and the OCDV Outreach team at Denim Day 2016.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Third Annual Upstander Awards

On October 26, Mayor Bill de Blasio, First Lady Chirlane McCray and OCDV Commissioner Cecile Noel hosted the City's 3rd annual Upstander Awards at Gracie Mansion. The Upstander Awards recognizes New Yorkers who have taken an active role in helping the City raise awareness about domestic violence. The five honorees at the award ceremony were The Color Purple The Musical, the New York City Anti-Violence Project,



(From left) OCDV Commissioner Cecile Noel, First Lady Chirlane McCray and Mayor de Blasio at the 2016 Upstander Awards.



(From left) Upstander Award honorees Scott Sanders, producer of Broadway's *The Color Purple* the Musical; Beverly Tillery, executive director of the NYC Anti-Violence Project; Judge Toko Serita of the Queens Human Trafficking Intervention Court; Melissa Jeltsen, senior reporter at *The Huffington Post*; and NYC Sheriff Joseph Fucito.

New York City Sheriff Joseph Fucito, Judge Toko Serita of the Queens Human Trafficking Intervention Court, and *Huffington Post* senior reporter Melissa Jeltsen. The Upstander Campaign was launched to inspire New Yorkers to move from being bystanders of domestic violence to being Upstanders, focusing on the idea that everyone plays a role in preventing domestic violence.

## **CONFERENCES AND FORUMS**

As part of its mandate, OCDV is charged with bringing together local and national thought leaders on issues related to intimate partner violence. In 2016, OCDV convened several conferences and forums to explore trending topics and advance the dialogue in key policy areas affecting intimate partner violence victims and their families.

### **Intimate Partner Violence & Nonconsensual Pornography**

OCDV hosted a forum in January entitled, “Intimate Partner Violence & Nonconsensual Pornography: Promoting Awareness and Examining Best Practices.” Nonconsensual pornography is the distribution of sexually explicit image of individuals without their consent. The forum advanced the conversation regarding the intersection between intimate partner violence and nonconsensual pornography, convened national thought leaders and explored the legislative efforts and best practices in this emerging field.

### **Dr. Evan Stark Presentation and Dialogue**

In September, Dr. Evan Stark presented at the Manhattan FJC about his novel research on coercive control, which Dr. Stark defines as a multi-faceted strategy designed to establish domination in personal life by depriving a partner of basic rights, liberties and resources. Attendees included District Attorneys, law enforcement, City agencies and social service providers. Dr. Stark discussed the recent enactment of a United Kingdom law defining coercive control as a criminal offense and a course of conduct rather than a discrete assault, which encompasses a broader range of oppressive behaviors beyond threats and violence.

## **Behind Closed Doors: How can we prevent domestic violence homicides?**

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, OCDV partnered with the Center on Media, Crime and Justice at John Jay College (CMCJ) and Melissa Jeltsen, Senior Reporter at *The Huffington Post*, to host a press briefing on the coverage of domestic violence homicide in the media. Leading specialists from law enforcement, researchers, service providers and survivors briefed the press on innovative approaches underway in New York City and elsewhere to reduce domestic violence homicides and facilitated a discussion on how the media currently covers the issue of domestic violence and ways it could be improved. Research conducted by OCDV, *News Coverage of Intimate Partner Homicides in New York City (2013-2016)*, found that while news coverage of intimate partner homicides in New York City has become more comprehensive in the past year, there were important aspects of coverage quality that necessitate improvement given the critical role the media play in shaping public opinion around intimate partner violence. The report noted that few newspaper reports identify the crime as involving intimate partners, use a domestic violence advocate or expert as a source or provide information about where victims of intimate partner violence can access help.

## **Arresting Survival: Challenging the Survivor-Defendant Binary**

This November conference – held in partnership with Brooklyn Defender Services, the Center for Court Innovation, the Coalition for Women Prisoners, the Correctional Association of New York, Day One, the Legal Aid Society, the New York City Anti-Violence Project and STEPS to End Family Violence – featured a discussion about survivors of intimate partner violence that face arrest, prosecution and punishment as a result of their efforts to survive, resist or protect themselves or others from abusive partners. A 2011 report from the Avon Global Center for Women and Justice at Cornell Law School and the Women in Prison Project of the Correctional Association of New York cited that an estimated 75% of women in New York’s prisons have suffered severe violence at the hands of an intimate partner during adulthood, and more than 9 out of 10 women convicted of killing an intimate partner in New York State were abused by an intimate partner in the past. Conference speakers to address this important topic included

formerly-incarcerated survivors and nationally recognized advocates, prosecutors, criminal defense practitioners, civil litigators, clinicians, advocates, academics and administrators. The conference was held at the CUNY School of Law and over 250 participants attended.



