Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York

2020 Annual Report
Cover photo: Tragically, fatal overdoses shot up 35 percent during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the majority of these deaths associated with fentanyl. Some drug traffickers prosecuted by the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor stamped glassine envelopes of narcotics with the brand names “coronavirus” and “COVID-19.”
This report focuses on the work of the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor (SNP) for the City of New York during a year when we, as a city, state, and nation, faced unprecedented challenges. I write this message in the Spring of 2021, reflecting on a year of tragedy and tumult. More than 33,000 people have lost their lives to COVID-19 in New York City alone. In the midst of the pandemic, the criminal justice system has faced scorching criticism over equity and fairness. After more than a year of sadness, shutdowns, and resilience, New York City is gradually reopening to find a new normal. At SNP, we are looking at our work, our community, and our priorities through a new lens.

Nationwide civil rights protests in response to the killings of George Floyd and other Black people prompted our own discussions about race, justice, and policing in our city. Over the past year, SNP staff committed time and resources to examining racial inequality in the criminal justice system, and our methods and goals. We will continue to refine our mission to meet the needs of the people we serve.

COVID-19 has touched all of us. Many have lost loved ones or suffered serious health problems. Businesses closed or relocated. Essential workers risked personal safety for the greater good, earning our enduring respect and gratitude. Others lost jobs or worked remotely with school-aged children at home. These changes often gave rise to grief, stress, and isolation. The coronavirus heightened disparities affecting access to necessities like quality medical care and secure housing, straining our social fabric. At the same time, shootings and violent crime spiked in the city, further undermining our sense of safety. Recently, we have observed more semi-automatic weapons and other firearms associated with narcotics organizations.

In the midst of such upheaval, another deadly health crisis – the opioid epidemic – has dramatically worsened. It too disproportionately impacts people of color and high poverty neighborhoods. COVID-19 has both overshadowed the opioid crisis and exacerbated it. Five people fatally overdose in New York City every day. In 2020, 35 percent more people died from drug overdoses in New York City than in the prior year, a record high.

SNP staff worked throughout the pandemic to save lives by cutting off the supply of lethal drugs and guns. In collaboration with the city’s five elected District Attorneys, we employ a strategic approach focused on four main areas: high level narcotics importation and trafficking; drug activity associated with violence; overdose death investigations; and medical professionals who illegally sell prescriptions. Alternatives to incarceration, such as drug treatment and harm reduction practices, are essential components of an effective strategy to save lives and reduce arrests. SNP has a decades-long history of demonstrated commitment to drug treatment and enhancing neighborhoods through strong relationships with local community groups.

Bridget G. Brennan
Special Narcotics Prosecutor
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About the Office

The Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor (SNP) works collaboratively with New York City’s elected District Attorneys to investigate and prosecute felony narcotics cases across all five boroughs of the city. We share the common goals of protecting city residents and ensuring our criminal justice system is fair for all. Built on a task force model, SNP has authority to prosecute felony cases involving narcotics, including heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and addictive pills, and related crimes such as weapons sales and possession.

New York City is unique in many ways, including its division into five separate boroughs, each with its own District Attorney empowered to prosecute crimes committed there. The city is also a major hub of international narcotics importation. Each drug shipment has a single point of entry through one of the five boroughs, but may be distributed to all. SNP was created in 1971 and empowered under New York State’s Judiciary Laws to address this free flow of narcotics across county lines and drug-related violence.

The District Attorneys appoint the Special Narcotics Prosecutor and assign Assistant District Attorneys to serve in SNP. All of SNP’s wiretap investigations are overseen by the District Attorneys. Current Special Narcotics Prosecutor Bridget G. Brennan oversees a staff of approximately 200 legal and support personnel. The agency has its own budget for operating expenses and receives funding from the city, state, and federal government.

Working in collaboration with its partners, SNP strives to strengthen communities. The office’s mission is to protect the public and prevent overdose deaths by investigating and prosecuting high-level narcotics trafficking organizations and illicit prescription drug distribution networks, and by responding to community complaints about persistent drug activity and associated violence. Targeted prosecutions and alternative dispositions are essential components of an effective strategy to save lives and reduce arrests. The office’s approach is consistent with the city’s goals to reduce incarceration. SNP further strives to decrease demand for narcotics by raising public awareness and facilitating treatment for those with substance use issues.

The first Special Narcotics Prosecutor, Frank Rogers, was appointed in January 1972. He was succeed by Hon. Sterling Johnson, Jr., who headed SNP for 16 years before becoming a federal judge in the Eastern District of New York. Robert H. Silbering was named the Special Narcotics Prosecutor in 1992 and served for six years.

On May 1, 1998, Bridget G. Brennan was appointed Special Narcotics Prosecutor by the city’s five District Attorneys. Under her direction, the office has developed innovative strategies to stem the flow of drugs into the city and target emerging problems. She has worked closely with community groups and has funded recreational and after school programs for youth across the city. Ms. Brennan established the Heroin Interdiction Team (HIT), the Digital Forensic Services Unit, the Criminal and Investigative Analysts Unit, the Prescription Drug Investigation Unit (PDIU), the Narcotics Gang Unit, the Money Laundering and Financial Investigation Unit, and the Community Outreach Unit.
New York City’s District Attorneys

The five District Attorneys appoint the Special Narcotics Prosecutor, assign Assistant District Attorneys to the office, and oversee the office’s work, including all wiretap investigations. SNP is a model of collaboration and effective partnerships. In the midst of the current opioid crisis, the District Attorneys formally reaffirmed their support for SNP in an agreement that recognizes the importance of the office’s leadership in citywide narcotics prosecutions.
The city faced unprecedented challenges in 2020 caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting shutdown. Even amidst so much uncertainty and tragic loss, SNP continued to perform its core mission to protect the public and save lives by investigating and prosecuting high-level narcotics trafficking organizations. Beyond that, SNP took on new obligations to better serve the city during a very difficult time.

In March of 2020, as the scope of the public health emergency became clear, the office conducted a comprehensive review and agreed to the release from incarceration of both convicted narcotics offenders and those detained pretrial to prevent the transmission of the coronavirus at Rikers Island. Working together with the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) and the defense bar, SNP staff identified those prisoners for whom the risk posed to public safety by their release was outweighed by the serious danger to health. We recognized that justice compelled the early release of these prisoners.

While balancing public safety against health risk to prisoners, SNP remained vigilant in protecting the city against deadly drugs that continued to saturate the city, fueling another serious health crisis—the opioid epidemic. The COVID-19 pandemic both overshadowed the opioid crisis and exacerbated it. Overdose deaths rose to record high levels in 2020. Drug traffickers circumvented travel restrictions and border closures to move large loads of narcotics, which could be sold at inflated prices.

At the same time, violent crime in New York City surged. Shootings doubled in 2020 and murders increased by 50 percent, ending years of historic lows and undermining New Yorkers’ sense of safety and security.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on all New Yorkers, city agencies, and businesses. SNP is no exception. However, due the commitment and dedication of both our legal and non-legal staff, our preparedness for remote work, and commitment to safety precautions within the office, we made the necessary adjustments to ensure that we continued our important work on behalf of the People of the State of New York.

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### SNP Indictments/SCIs

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Grand juries were suspended by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo during the COVID-19 emergency.
Criminal Justice Reform

Criminal justice reform touched every aspect of our work in 2020 in response to police killings and mass protests over racial injustice and systemic inequities. Our office engaged in identifying how racism or bias has affected our work, and how we can change to assure fair and equal treatment for all involved in the criminal justice system.

Under the guidance of the Chief Diversity Officer, SNP formed a Diversity & Inclusion Committee to explore how to best respond to systemic racism as an office. To get beyond discussion, and identify and change flawed practices, we broke into individual working groups which examined topics such as Legal Practices & Procedures, Education & Training, Alternatives to Incarceration, and Community Outreach. Our goal was to provide a space for those who previously might not have had a platform to speak, with executives and managers serving in advisory roles.

Recommendations from the working groups included expanding SNP’s alternative disposition offerings as an effective crime prevention strategy and public safety measure, and a critical tool for correcting for inequities. Our office is proud to have been in the forefront of developing alternatives to incarceration programs 35 years ago.

Much has changed since we launched our pioneering treatment programs. Under today’s laws for first time offenders, criminal penalties for all but the most serious drug crimes no longer require incarceration. As a society, we have learned more about what may motivate some people to engage in drug dealing, such as mental health issues and lack of access to secure and stable housing. We are expanding criteria for treatment eligibility in consultation with District Attorneys, and developing new programs to provide supportive services.

SNP is in the process of reevaluating its search warrant practice, including revising trainings and manuals. Because of our strong record of rigorously reviewing requests for search warrants, and carefully considering the factual bases for these requests, no search warrant obtained by our office has resulted in a death or serious injury to an occupant of a premises or a law enforcement officer. However, the death of Breanna Taylor during a search warrant execution in Louisville, Ky., and the resulting public outcry, prompted a reexamination of our protocols. The office is also performing a careful analysis of best practices regarding permissible pleas to assure that defendants are treated fairly and equitably.

SNP Defendants Sentenced to Prison (1984–2020)

PANDEMIC IN NYC

New York City suffered the brunt of the coronavirus in its early stages. COVID-19 has claimed more than 33,000 lives in the five boroughs, cutting a wide swath of grief and despair. Efforts to control the spread of the virus led to shutdowns, shortages and high levels of anxiety. The city that never sleeps stopped in its tracks and more than half of New York City households experienced lost wages. Parents juggled jobs and remote schooling. Essential workers risked personal safety for the greater good. We are only just beginning to understand the long-term effects of coronavirus.

COVID-19 both overshadowed and exacerbated the opioid crisis. Every day five people in New York City fatally overdose. Most drug deaths involve illicit fentanyl. Drug-related deaths increased by over 35 percent during the pandemic, reaching record-high levels in the city. Experts say that isolation and trauma, loss of employment and fewer supportive services led people to use more and/or relapse. A lethal drug supply, saturated with fentanyl, led them to die.

At the same time, New York City, like many major metropolitan areas, saw a surge in shootings and homicides. Street crime contributed to anxiety and insecurity in the city. SNP investigations have resulted in more gun seizures from high-level drug traffickers. Both the NYPD and the DEA New York Division have linked increased gun violence to narcotics trafficking.

The sense of isolation felt by many at the height of the pandemic was especially challenging for those struggling with substance use issues. New stress paired with limited access to drug treatment contributed to a surge in overdose deaths. Despite travel restrictions and border closings, shipments of the potent synthetic opioid fentanyl, heroin and cocaine continued to make their way to New York City throughout the pandemic, albeit at inflated prices.
Drugs and Violence

Violent crime rose dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, with shootings doubling and murders increasing by 50 percent. Both the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and the U.S. Drug Administration (DEA) New York Division observed a strong correlation between sharp escalation in violent crime and drug trafficking over the past year. Recent SNP cases involved seizures of multiple semi-automatic weapons and other firearms in connection with narcotics organizations.

A long-term investigation into a narcotics trafficking operation in Ozone Park, Queens resulted in the seizure of approximately 40 pounds of fentanyl, heroin and cocaine, with an estimated street value of $4 million in December of 2020. Also recovered were seven semi-automatic weapons, a bulletproof vest, and large quantities of ammunition and magazines. Five of the semi-automatic guns were recovered from a Brooklyn storage unit during a court-authorized search. Three individuals were indicted, including the alleged ringleader, who is charged with Operating as a Major Trafficker.

In October of 2020, police recovered three guns from a man who allegedly aimed an assault rifle at an NYPD detective conducting surveillance as part of a narcotics investigation. The incident occurred in Middle Village, Queens and was recorded by the man’s own security cameras. In a search of the alleged gunman’s car, agents and detectives uncovered a hidden compartment containing a semi-automatic pistol, an EVO 9mm carbine assault rifle and a MAC-11 submachine gun with a suppressor (used to eliminate muzzle flash). They also seized approximately 85 grams of cocaine, handcuffs, and ammunition.
Opioid Crisis

Tragically, five people fatally overdose in New York City every day. According to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), 35 percent more people died from overdoses in 2020 than the year before. Researchers suggest that stressors associated with COVID-19, including trauma from economic instability, social isolation, and grief, as well as limited access to treatment, contributed to a surge in relapses.

The hardest hit New York City neighborhoods for both the COVID-19 pandemic and the opioid crisis are those with high levels of poverty. Latino/a New Yorkers are most impacted, while overdose death rates among Black and White populations are slightly lower. This escalation of overdose deaths is disheartening and represents a significant setback from recent progress in reducing fatal overdoses.

During the pandemic, beleaguered public health officials scrambled to launch new public awareness initiatives and to expand access to critically important medications, such as methadone and buprenorphine, and the opioid overdose antidote naloxone.

At the same time, a flood of deadly fentanyl surged into the city and undoubtedly contributed to escalating overdoses. A synthetic opioid, fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin and is saturating the drug supply. Most heroin and counterfeit prescription pills sold on the street contain fentanyl. Cocaine and methamphetamine sometimes do as well. Unsuspecting drug users are at grave risk of overdose. Fentanyl is linked to well over 68% of drug-related deaths in New York City.

Our approach to addressing the opioid crisis is multi-pronged: reducing the supply of dangerous narcotics through our focus on high-level traffickers; investigating organizations linked to overdoses deaths and/or violence; and prosecuting those responsible for prescription drug diversion, including corrupt medical practitioners. This strategy is consistent with the city’s goals to reduce overdose deaths as well as incarceration rates.

Beyond our supply reduction strategies, SNP strongly supports public outreach, treatment, and harm reduction techniques, such as medication-assisted therapies (MATs), needle exchanges, and easy access to naloxone, the overdose reversal drug.
Supply Reduction

Narcotics trafficking is a highly lucrative international business. A primary focus of SNP is reducing the supply of lethal narcotics reaching New York City. Our essential partners include the city’s five District Attorneys, DEA New York Division, the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF), the NYPD, and the New York State Police. Together, we focus on international narcotics importation and high-level traffickers, overdose death investigations, and drug organizations associated with violence and prescription drug diversion.

The majority of narcotics found in New York City pass across the U.S.-Mexico border. During the COVID-19 pandemic, narcotics traffickers faced new challenges transporting fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine due to travel restrictions and border closures. The DEA reported that laboratories in Mexico were continuing to produce and stockpile illicit fentanyl during the pandemic border shutdown. Reduced access to narcotics in the U.S. resulted in buyers paying higher pandemic prices. However, when the borders opened up, the fentanyl flooded into the United States and New York in higher volume than before.

New York City is a hub of narcotics trafficking for the Northeast. Most commonly, large loads of drugs reach here after travelling cross-country in trucks or other vehicles. Upon arriving in the city, drug shipments are delivered to packaging mill operations, frequently set up in residential apartment buildings in the Bronx and Upper Manhattan. Recent investigations have also uncovered packaging operations in Queens and Brooklyn.

One such packaging operation occupied two apartments inside a building on Valentine Avenue in West Bronx. Members of NYDETF and SNP’s Investigators Unit uncovered an active heroin/fentanyl mill and recovered over 30 pounds of suspected heroin worth millions of dollars, and approximately 500 counterfeit pills suspected to contain fentanyl. Five individuals were charged.

Another investigation began following a non-fatal overdose in Brooklyn; an accused major trafficker and nine others were arrested for selling cocaine at a premium during the COVID-19 crisis. Even during the citywide lock-down, this narcotics operation, based in Park Slope, Gowanus and Sunset Park, was able to sell hundreds of thousands of dollars in narcotics. The investigation was conducted by the NYPD Brooklyn North Overdose Squad.

More than 100 pounds of cocaine, a loaded gun, and $200,000 cash recovered in Jamaica, Queens.

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Prescription Drug Investigations

Since its creation in 2011, SNP’s Prescription Drug Investigation Unit (PDIU) has targeted large-scale pill mills, pharmaceutical drug trafficking rings, and corrupt medical practitioners who sell prescriptions for highly addictive pills in exchange for cash. Our investigations have uncovered a wide array of criminal schemes that share a common goal: to turn a profit from illegally prescribed drugs. Significantly, the office has obtained the convictions of two doctors on manslaughter charges in connection with separate investigations involving patients’ deaths. As a result of these efforts, combined with improved education for doctors, increased public awareness, and more effective regulatory systems, the black market supply of diverted prescription drugs in New York City has been reduced. One of the most effective regulatory changes was the implementation of mandatory electronic prescribing, which is far easier to monitor than paper prescriptions. Given the amount of money to be made from illegal pill sales, it is no surprise that corrupt medical practitioners would seek out ways to circumvent new regulations. Two investigations in 2020 focused on doctors who allegedly attempted to do just that.

A long-term wiretap investigation, conducted with the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, centered on Dr. Lajos Lamperth, owner of a pain management clinic in Gravesend, Brooklyn. Dr. Lamperth allegedly conspired with two employees to issue prescriptions for narcotics and other controlled substances at the clinic when he was not present. These two individuals, a married couple, are not themselves licensed medical professionals and were therefore unauthorized to issue prescriptions or to make any determinations regarding the medical needs of patients. The investigation revealed that Dr. Lamperth also worked as an anesthesiologist at a Brooklyn hospital and was frequently at the hospital, or elsewhere, on days that the clinic issued prescriptions in his name.

Oxycodone Prescriptions Filled by NYC Residents: 2007–2020
Methamphetamine

DEA New York Division issued a warning about a surge in both fentanyl and methamphetamine related to COVID-19. Mexican cartels stockpiled both drugs during the lockdown, and then transported unprecedented amounts into the United States after reopening. According to intelligence, the cartels had to adapt their smuggling methods to increased security during COVID-19. The DEA reported seizing an alarming amount of both synthetic drugs in 2020: a 214% increase in methamphetamine and 59% rise in fentanyl as compared to 2019. These dangerously potent substances are mass-produced in clandestine laboratories and are two top contributors to overdose deaths.

In the early stages of the pandemic, trafficking organizations sent smaller and more frequent shipments of highly potent drugs to New York via the mail. “Mexican cartels took advantage of their ability to process fentanyl into pill forms for easier transport, concealment, and ultimate user popularity,” DEA reported. They simultaneously increased the volume and frequency of methamphetamine shipments to the area.

An investigation into illegal narcotic pill manufacturing in the Bronx uncovered a basement drug laboratory outfitted with three industrial pill press machines used to form counterfeit pills from illicit drugs. The basement also contained a coop of dozens of roosters and chickens. Members of the NYPD Narcotics Borough Brooklyn South Overdose Squad, DEA Group D-24, and SNP’s Investigators Unit conducted a court-authorized search on West 170th Street in Highbridge and recovered quantities of the synthetic drugs fentanyl and methamphetamine, including approximately 1,600 blue methamphetamine pills. In the days prior to the search, agents learned three suspicious packages purported to contain pill presses, and weighing more than 280 pounds, were addressed to an apartment in Union City, N.J. The packages had originated in China.
Community Outreach and Public Awareness

While in-person events and programming were interrupted by COVID-19, our community outreach efforts continued virtually during the pandemic. SNP’s Community Outreach Director attended more than 100 community board meetings, Precinct/PSA Community Council Meetings, NYCHA resident meetings, and other events. SNP also hosted community forums for the office’s Assistant District Attorneys and interns to create space for an open dialogue about drug enforcement and areas of community concern.

Educating the public about the dangers of street level narcotics is an important priority for SNP. Over the past four years, the office has collaborated with Staten Island District Attorney Michael E. McMahon and Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark as clients on capstone projects at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), examining the opioid epidemic in New York City. We worked closely with teams of graduate student researchers who produced independent reports and recommendations for improved access to treatment services, substance abuse education, and prevention initiatives.

In the Spring semester of 2020, a SIPA team created a plan for an advertising campaign targeting teens to promote healthy lifestyle choices, with an emphasis on substance abuse education and prevention. Simultaneously, a graduate student from Teachers College pursued an independent study involving the effective use of drug education resources by teachers. Both projects were underway at the time of the COVID-19 shutdown in New York City. The SIPA team and the Teachers College student smoothly transitioned to remote work settings and adapted the scope of their projects to ensure successful results.
Investigation Division

In 2020, SIB launched 71 investigations targeting a wide range of criminal activity including drug trafficking, murder conspiracy, robberies, weapons trafficking, and money laundering. The bureau also commenced civil actions to forfeit narcotics proceeds. Senior staff supervised wiretap investigations involving 180 eavesdropping applications, including 81 originals, 90 extensions, and 9 amendments. Investigation Division cases resulted in the seizure of approximately 152 pounds of heroin, 54 pounds of fentanyl, 72 pounds of heroin/fentanyl mixtures, 276 pounds of cocaine, 56 pounds of methamphetamine, and additional quantities of various other drugs.

Heroin Interdiction Team

The resurgence of heroin throughout New York State drove SNP to create the Heroin Interdiction Team (HIT) in late 2014. HIT is tasked with combating the flow of heroin to the areas surrounding New York City, particularly upstate counties. Working with a dedicated team of New York State Police troopers, DEA agents, NYPD officers, and other law enforcement officials, HIT focuses on cooperating with local prosecutors and law enforcement to share intelligence and resources to take down the organizations responsible for spreading heroin from the mills in New York City to New York State as a whole.

Prescription Drug Investigation Unit

Alarming rates of prescription drug abuse and related crime led SNP to form the Prescription Drug Investigation Unit in 2011. The unit is designed to combat the proliferation of prescription narcotics on the black market by investigating and prosecuting the criminal distribution of these drugs. Prosecutions target a range of subjects, from members

### 2020 SNP WIRETAP ACTIVITY

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### INVESTIGATION ACTIVITY

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| TOTAL             | 205   |

Special Investigations Bureau

The Special Investigations Bureau (SIB) targets major narcotics trafficking organizations, including those that import and distribute multi-kilogram quantities of heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine. The activities of the criminal enterprises extend beyond county, state, and international borders. SIB prosecutors work with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the New York City Police Department (NYPD), the New York State Police, the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (NYDETF), the New York Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and other local, state, federal, and foreign law enforcement agencies.
of street level drug organizations to doctors and pharmacists engaged in the criminal sale of prescriptions or pills. The unit also conducts investigations into doctors whose opioid prescriptions cause patient overdoses, bringing homicide charges where appropriate. Armed robberies of pharmacies, shootings, home invasions, and other violent crimes are also associated with prescription drug diversion. The unit works closely with the New York State Health Department’s Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, the NYPD, and the DEA, among other law enforcement agencies.

**Narcotics Gang Unit**

The Narcotics Gang Unit concentrates on violent neighborhood gangs, robbery crews, and weapons traffickers committing drug-related criminal activity across the city. The unit, established in 2002, works closely with detectives from the NYPD’s Gun Violence Suppression Division, Narcotics and Gang Squads, and Precinct members. The unit has developed expertise in the use of new technologies and collecting evidence through social media and messaging applications. In addition to narcotics trafficking, the unit also prosecutes murder and murder conspiracy, assault, armed robbery, kidnapping, burglary, weapons possession, and illegal firearms sales.

**Money Laundering and Financial Investigations Unit**

The Money Laundering and Financial Investigations Unit was initiated in 2001, and reconfigured in 2005 and 2008. It investigates narcotics-related money laundering and other financial criminal activity. Cases are generated from multiple sources, including intelligence developed during narcotics investigations. The unit aims to prevent foreign drug trafficking organizations from repatriating drug proceeds through smuggling as well as the use of the financial system and international trade, and local drug organizations from benefiting from illicit profits.

**Forfeiture Investigations**

Established more than 25 years ago, the Forfeiture Investigations Unit evaluates felony drug prosecutions for potential civil litigation to recover proceeds of narcotics crimes. The unit works closely with law enforcement on the federal, state, and local levels to identify criminal assets and deprive narcotics traffickers and money-laundering groups of the profits of criminality. The unit has in place a comprehensive set of systems to track office participation in investigations resulting in forfeiture actions. In 2020, 119 federal forfeiture actions were initiated and 6 were completed. At the state level, 111 actions were initiated and 42 were completed. Completions on seized proceeds in 2020 were delayed due to mandated Public Health COVID-19 restrictions, personnel changes, etc.
Investigators Unit

SNP’s Investigators Unit handles narcotics cases targeting local, national and international trafficking groups. Teams within the unit have expertise in identifying and dismantling major heroin and fentanyl distribution networks, prescription drug diversion organizations and pill mills run by corrupt medical practitioners. Investigators provide crucial leadership in collaborative efforts with law enforcement partners that result in seizures of hundreds of pounds of narcotics and millions of dollars in drug trafficking proceeds.

Created in 1992, the unit fulfills two primary areas of responsibility: investigations and enforcement support. A Chief Investigator oversees the activities of the investigators and monitors all investigation related expenditures.

The unit initiates cases independently and works jointly with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies throughout New York City and across the nation. During 2020, the unit opened 55 new investigations, resulting in 158 arrests. Of those, 109 individuals were charged with top felony narcotics counts. The remaining arrests resulted from PDIU investigations and money seizures.

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### 2020 SNP WORKLOAD

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### FELONY DISPOSITIONS

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<td><strong>Treatment Dismissals</strong></td>
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### FELONY SENTENCES

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### SEIZURES

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<tr>
<td><strong>Cocaine</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Heroin</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Fentanyl</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Heroin/Fentanyl Mixtures</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Methamphetamine</strong></td>
<td>68 lbs.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Guns Seized</strong></td>
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Trial Division Assistant District Attorneys handle the bulk of the drug felony arrests referred to the office for prosecution. They are assigned to one of the two bureaus that comprise the Trial Division. Each bureau is headed by a Chief and Deputy Chiefs who supervise assistants as they provide legal advice and draw up court orders, including search and arrest warrants, on a 24-hour basis.

Assistants work closely with the NYPD’s Narcotics Division, the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force, the Port Authority Police, the New York State Police, the New York State Health Department’s Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement, and the SNP Investigators Unit. In 2020, the Division launched 125 new investigations. A total of 397 complaints were referred to the office for prosecution during the year; 221 defendants were prosecuted by indictment or Supreme Court information (SCI). Total SNP search warrants drafted numbered 602.
Case Highlights

Drugs and Violence

Seven Guns Recovered from Drug Network
Seven semi-automatic guns, including four assault weapons, and 40 pounds of suspected fentanyl, heroin, and cocaine were recovered as a result of a long-term investigation. Members of NYDETF Group T-31 recovered the narcotics and two guns from a vehicle and an apartment in Ozone Park, Queens. The apartment housed a drug-packaging mill. Prior to conducting a court-authorized search of the apartment in December of 2020, agents and officers observed the alleged ringleader of the drug network and a second man entering and exiting the residence with bags and equipment consistent with drug packaging. Five guns, including three assault weapons, ammunition, and a bulletproof vest were later found inside a storage unit associated with the ringleader and a female associate. Three individuals were charged.

Assault Rifle Aimed at NYPD Detective
A Queens man was indicted on weapons and narcotics charges after allegedly aiming an assault rifle at an NYPD detective. Members of NYDETF Group T-31 were conducting surveillance in Middle Village as part of a short-term narcotics investigation when they saw the defendant outside his residence on Elliot Avenue accompanied by a bulldog and carrying what appeared to be an assault rifle. As members of Group T-31 drove closer, the defendant appeared to “cock” or load the rifle and place it in front of his body. He then allegedly pointed it at an NYPD detective in an unmarked car. The detective, whose vision became obstructed by a blinding light, exited the car and announced he was a member of law enforcement. At that point, the defendant fled back into his home. The NYPD’s Emergency Services Unit (ESU) responded and the defendant was taken into custody. Agents and officers conducted a court-authorized search of the residence and a car parked in the garage. A hidden compartment inside the car contained three loaded guns: a semi-automatic pistol, an EVO 9mm carbine.
assault rifle, and a MAC-11 submachine gun with a suppressor (used to eliminate muzzle flash). Agents and officers also seized quantities of cocaine, handcuffs, and ammunition. The incident, which occurred on October 7, 2020, was captured on the defendant’s own security cameras. Footage shows the defendant coming out of the house and pointing the gun. After the defendant flees back inside, he can be seen carrying multiple backpacks to the car and cramming them into the area where the hidden compartment where the guns were later found.

Street Market for Drugs Dismantled: Two Guns Seized
A notorious street market for drugs drew numerous community complaints about the open sale and consumption of narcotics along a busy commercial stretch of 3rd Avenue in Mott Haven, as well as violent incidents. An indictment filed in March of 2020 charged 14 members of a large narcotics trafficking organization with conspiracy to sell heroin, fentanyl, and cocaine in the vicinity of a Bronx bakery following a long-term wiretap investigation. The New York Strike Force investigation revealed that the organization took over the bakery, a legitimate business, and used it as a hub for drug trafficking. The leader of the organization oversaw a strict hierarchy. Members worked in shifts and conducted sales on the sidewalk and inside the bakery. A court-authorized search of an alleged stash location yielded approximately $50,000 cash, zip lock bags containing cocaine, and glassine envelopes containing a mixture of heroin and fentanyl. In a search of an alleged drug supplier’s residence, agents and officers recovered two loaded guns and nearly a kilogram of heroin and cocaine. Nine individuals have since pled guilty, including the ringleader who faces a minimum of eight years in prison at sentencing. One defendant was murdered in an unrelated incident.
Fentanyl & Counterfeit Pills

$12 Million Drug Seizure in Ridgewood

Approximately 86 pounds of suspected heroin and fentanyl with a street value of over $12 million, plus 1,000 counterfeit fentanyl pills, were seized by members of NYDETF Group T-21 and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New York. An accused major trafficker is among four charged in connection with a large-scale heroin and fentanyl mill in Ridgewood, Queens. Members of the organization were in the process of packaging heroin and fentanyl into individual dose glassine envelopes, and had filled over 100,000 glassines, when agents and officers entered the mill apartment. The bulk of the narcotics were wrapped in brick shaped packages. Agents also recovered $200,000 cash. DEA laboratory analysis is still pending on some of the narcotics seized.

“Coronavirus” Branded Fentanyl Seized in the Bronx

At the height of the pandemic, in May of 2020, a long-term investigation into an NYC narcotics trafficking operation that led to the seizure of approximately 15,000 glassine envelopes containing a mixture of fentanyl, tramadol, and other substances. Individual dose glassine envelopes were stamped with various brand names, including two associated with multiple fatal overdoses in New Jersey: the word “Coronavirus” next to a biohazard symbol and “24 Black Mamba” (an apparent reference to the death of Kobe Bryant). The trafficking group allegedly distributed narcotics throughout the Northeast. The investigation by NYDETF Group T-12 centered on a drug-packaging mill in University Heights, Bronx. Six individuals were charged. The alleged manager of the mill faces the charge of Operating as a Major Trafficker and top narcotics possession charges.

Work table in an active drug-packaging mill loaded glassine envelopes of heroin and fentanyl.

“Coronavirus” was among the various names used to brand fentanyl.
Fugitive Among Four Charged in Drug Importation

A long-term investigation disrupted a narcotics trafficking operation believed to import heroin and fentanyl from Mexico for distribution in the Bronx. More than 28 pounds of heroin and fentanyl were recovered and four individuals were charged. Beginning in 2019, members of NYDETF Group T-41 established surveillance on an apartment located on East 169th Street and periodically observed the defendants entering and exiting the location. Three arrests occurred between November of 2019 and April of 2020, during which time agents and officers intercepted five kilograms of heroin and fentanyl from alleged members of the group. On April 16, 2020, agents and officers conducted a court-authorized search of the East 169th Street apartment and recovered an additional six kilograms of heroin and fentanyl and $115,000 cash from inside hidden compartments built into furniture. As the investigation continued, agents and officers identified the fourth man who oversaw packaging the narcotics into individual dose glassine envelopes for street level distribution. Agents and officers conducted searches of three apartments this individual allegedly controlled in October of 2020 and recovered two kilograms of heroin and fentanyl plus 4,000 filled glassine envelopes. Agents and officers learned that he had previously fled to the Dominican Republic to avoid prosecution on an SNP indictment filed in 1998. While living as a fugitive, he underwent surgery to alter his fingerprints.

Thirty Pounds of Heroin and Fentanyl Pills Seized

Over 30 pounds of suspected heroin and hundreds of fentanyl pills were recovered from a drug packaging operation occupying two apartments in a building on Valentine Avenue in West Bronx. Five individuals were arrested. Members of NYDETF Group T-21 and SNP’s Investigators Unit seized approximately 11 kilograms of heroin in brick form and over 100,000 filled individual dose glassine envelopes, as well as 500 blue pills of suspected fentanyl and $60,000 cash. The apartments also contained all of the equipment necessary to package narcotics, including 69 different stamps with brand names such as “Exit 3,” “Versace,” “American Gangster,” and “Mortal Kombat.” The narcotics carried an estimated street value of over $4 million.
Attic Packaging Mill Dismantled: Fentanyl and Gun Seized

Ten pounds of fentanyl with a street value of over $3 million was recovered from an active packaging mill in a short-term NYDETF investigation in the Bronx. In October of 2020, agents and officers saw a suspected narcotics trafficker exit 2020 Colden Avenue, Apt. 2 with a large, heavy, plaid bag and enter a brown 2016 Nissan Pathfinder. The Nissan travelled up the Hutchinson River Parkway to Harrison, N.Y., where officers with the Westchester County Police Department stopped the vehicle. After a drug-sniffing dog indicated the presence of narcotics, agents and officers obtained a court-authorized search warrant for the Nissan. Underneath the rear seats, they found a hidden trap compartment containing more than 32,000 glassines of fentanyl. Agents and officers then obtained a search warrant for 2020 Colden Avenue, Apt. 2. A search uncovered an alleged a heroin mill in the attic of Apt. 2, which contained three tables, a ventilation system, a large number of grinders, and vast quantities of paraphernalia, such as glassines and scales. Members of NYDETF seized nearly eight pounds of fentanyl from the mill apartment, including approximately 30,000 filled glassines, as well as a loaded handgun, and approximately $85,000 cash. A ledger listed large narcotics transactions, including an apparent recent total amount of over $2 million.

“Fire” Fentanyl Worth $4 Million Seized

Six individuals were arrested at a high volume drug-packaging mill in the Bronx in January of 2020 as members of NYDETF seized over $4 million worth of fentanyl. The narcotics were believed to be destined for distribution in New York and Massachusetts. After conducting intensive surveillance on a Sedgwick Avenue apartment, agents and officers with the DEA’s Drug Enforcement Task Force obtained a search warrant and found the large-scale mill. The defendants had allegedly filled over 425,000 glassine envelopes with fentanyl. Hundreds of thousands of glassine envelopes covered two tabletops and overflowed from plastic bins and cardboard boxes on the floor and a bed. Equipment and paraphernalia typical of a heroin/fentanyl mill were present in the room, including a glass table, desk lamps, a scale, grinders, empty glassine envelopes, small spoons, an ink bottle, ink pads, and stamps.
Man Indicted for Creating Dangerous Drug Mixtures
An accused drug trafficker allegedly obtained multi-kilogram quantities of opioids and methamphetamine, which he mixed to create highly unusual and potentially lethal combinations. Nearly four pounds of narcotics and packaging equipment were recovered from the maintenance area of a residential building on Walton Avenue in Fordham Heights, Bronx. Members of the DEA’s New York Strike Force conducted a court-authorized search and found multiple brick-shaped packages of narcotics inside a hidden compartment carved into the wall of a shower area. The narcotics consisted of mixtures of heroin, fentanyl, tramadol, and methamphetamine. Agents and officers also recovered bottles of ketamine (a general anesthetic), quinine (an anti-malaria agent), and $1,000 cash, as well as all of the equipment necessary for mixing and packaging the substances. Individual dose glassine envelopes were stamped with the brand names “Queen & Slim” and “Stroke.” The combination of opioids and methamphetamine (a stimulant) could easily cause an unsuspecting user to overdose.

Round-the-Clock Street Market Dismantled
A disruptive street-level drug organization that operated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in Manhattan and the Bronx was shut down. Seven individuals were arrested and indicted, including an alleged ringleader charged with Operating as a Major Trafficker. The highly organized group allegedly sold a wide range of substances, including heroin mixed with fentanyl and what appeared to be homemade prescription pills. The majority of sales took place in the vicinity of Audubon Avenue between West 173rd and West 174th Street in Washington Heights. An alleged ringleader oversaw numerous workers and assigned different roles and shifts, covering mornings, afternoons, and nights. Members of the organization sold to undercover NYPD officers on approximately two-dozen occasions. In conducting sales, the workers retrieved narcotics stashed in cars parked on the block and in nearby apartments. The investigation revealed that customers came from as far away as Connecticut. The alleged ringleader also travelled to Maine to sell to individuals there. Members of the organization were security conscious, yet brazen. They allegedly coordinated by phone, sometimes even by handheld two-way radio, using cryptic language. They could be heard calling out the presence of police in the area as they continued drug sales.

Dangerous drug mixtures bore the brand name “stroke.”
Citywide Cocaine Distribution

100 Pounds of Cocaine Bore Nickname of Soccer Star

More than one hundred pounds of cocaine were recovered from an apartment in a luxury residential complex in Jamaica, Queens. SNP investigators and DEA agents arrested two individuals, and recovered one loaded handgun, and more than $200,000, in addition to seizing the 50 kilograms of cocaine. During a surveillance operation, investigators and agents observed a suspect leaving the building with a suitcase, which he loaded into a minivan. Agents and investigators stopped the suspect and the suitcase proved to contain $200,000 cash. In a court-authorised search of the apartment, agents and investigators recovered 50 intact kilogram packages with the distinct marking “CR7,” containing cocaine were seized from a locked closet in the apartment. CR7 is the nickname for a popular Portuguese soccer star. The cocaine carried an estimated wholesale value of $1.7 million and a street value of up to $15 million. Also recovered from the closet and elsewhere in the apartment were $10,000, a firearm, and materials commonly used in large-scale narcotics distribution, including a kilogram press, vacuum bags, vacuum sealer, shrink-wrap, and money counting machines.
Case Highlights continued

**Cocaine Sold at Pandemic Prices: Two Guns Seized**
An accused major trafficker and nine others were arrested for selling cocaine at a premium during the COVID-19 crisis. At the height of the pandemic in NYC, access to cocaine was extremely limited. The organization operated its lucrative narcotics business in the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Park Slope, Gowanus, and Sunset Park, and paid up to $50,000 for a kilogram (nearly 30–50 percent over the typical wholesale price). The group immediately resold the cocaine after tacking on an additional 3–5 percent. Operating in this manner, the organization sold hundreds of thousands of dollars in cocaine. The long-term investigation, conducted by the NYPD Brooklyn North Overdose Squad, began in August of 2019 following a non-fatal overdose. Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez reviewed and submitted wiretap eavesdropping applications for court authorization. In conjunction with the arrests, police recovered heroin and cocaine, two defaced firearms, a bulletproof vest, ammunition, and over $145,000 cash.

**Over 25 Pounds of Cocaine Branded with Dragon**
An accused major trafficker was among three individuals indicted in connection with over 25 pounds of cocaine and $125,000 cash seized in the Bronx. An investigation revealed the narcotics trafficking organization secured large quantities of cocaine in the midst of a COVID-19 pandemic-related shortage. During the pandemic, wholesale prices for cocaine increased by up to 72 percent per kilogram. In a search of an apartment on Popham Avenue, members of DEA Group D-43 and the New York State Police recovered 11 kilograms of cocaine labelled with a Chinese dragon stamp. The majority of the cocaine was found inside a wall in a bathroom behind the vanity and medicine cabinet. Agents and investigators also recovered $125,000 cash, more than 100 pills, and a makeshift pill press from the apartment. Prior to the court-authorized search, agents and investigators conducted surveillance on Popham Avenue and observed the alleged major trafficker and a second defendant entering and exiting the building carrying a bag and a brick-shaped package wrapped in plastic. The three defendants were arrested in a vehicle that contained a kilogram of cocaine.
Methamphetamine Surge

Illicit Pill Manufacturing in Bronx Basement
An investigation into illegal narcotics pill manufacturing in the Bronx uncovered a basement drug laboratory outfitted with three industrial pill press machines used to form counterfeit pills from illicit drugs. The basement also contained a coop of dozens of roosters and chickens. Members of the NYPD Narcotics Borough Brooklyn South Overdose Squad, DEA Group D-24, and SNP’s Investigators Unit agents conducted a court-authorized search on June 19, 2020 on West 170th Street in Highbridge. Agents and officers recovered quantities of the synthetic drugs fentanyl and methamphetamine, including approximately 1,600 blue methamphetamine pills. In the days prior to the search, agents learned three suspicious packages weighing more than 280 pounds were address to an apartment in Union City, N.J. The packages had originated in China and were purported to contain pill presses.

Meth Conversion Lab Dismantled
The first meth conversion lab ever encountered by the DEA in New York City was safely dismantled in the Bronx. The conversion lab was located inside a vacant apartment in a six-story residential building, directly across the street from a public elementary school. The NYPD 50th Precinct contacted DEA about the lab after receiving reports of unusual activity at the apartment. Agents seized approximately 22 pounds of meth, 45 grams of heroin, and 2,000 counterfeit pills from a vacant apartment. Three individuals, including the superintendent of the building, were charged. According to the DEA, the chemicals found at methamphetamine conversion labs and methamphetamine clandestine labs are highly volatile and may ignite or explode if mixed or stored improperly. Toxic chemical exposure can pose a variety of health risks.
Alternative Sentencing Bureau

For defendants with substance abuse disorders, an effective drug treatment program can mean the difference between the ability to lead a productive, law-abiding life and a cycle of relapse, arrest and incarceration. Yet it is not enough to simply treat the physical aspects of addiction. To begin anew, those in recovery require skills gained through academic and vocational training, along with supportive counseling. A pioneer in the field, SNP’s Alternative Sentencing Bureau has successfully worked with thousands of individuals over the past three decades to provide the tools needed to achieve and maintain a meaningful and sustained recovery.

Since October 2009, judges are authorized to place defendants in a court-sponsored diversion program. A judge determines which felony offenders qualify for these programs, and court staff supervises them. SNP staff offer their expertise in the screening and monitoring of diverted defendants. Eligible candidates are given the opportunity to enter an appropriate program instead of going to prison. Treatment options include long-term residential programs, short-term residential programs, or intensive outpatient treatment programs. Upon successful completion, charges may be dismissed. SNP also refers military veterans to Manhattan Veterans Treatment Court.

Through SNP’s Drug Treatment Alternatives to Prison (DTAP), which began in the early 1990s and served as a model for subsequent local and state programs, highly experienced staff members evaluate defendants who are likely to reap the benefits of treatment, identify appropriate programs, and monitor progress. SNP also refers eligible offenders with co-occurring substance use and mental illness disorders to the Manhattan Mental Health Court to provide integrated substance use and mental health treatment.

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Legal Training Unit

The Legal Training Unit develops and implements the professional training curriculum offered to Assistant District Attorneys. The unit selects speakers, lectures, and workshops to address topics that include investigatory and prosecutorial techniques, legal procedures, changes in the law, and effective approaches to the prosecution of felony narcotic and related crimes.

In 2020, the Legal Training Unit offered a professional development series and numerous lectures throughout the year to both experienced and new Assistant District Attorneys. Presentations included: Firearm Trafficking in New York City, International Prosecutions and Extraditions, and The Repeal of Civil Rights Law 50-a and its Implications. Faced with the challenge of conducting its training program during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Legal Training Unit adapted by pivoting to “virtual” training programs, utilizing web conferencing to successfully conduct trainings that our attorneys could access no matter where they were located.

The training curriculum complies with the regulations and guidelines of the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board. The office has been a New York State CLE Accredited Provider since 2000.

For over a decade, SNP has devoted a portion of its resources to training programs offered to hundreds of local and federal enforcement and criminal justice personnel in New York and other areas of the country. Senior staff members lecture on narcotics investigations and prosecutions at the New York State District Attorney’s Association (DAASNY) Summer College, the DAASNY Winter Conference, the New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI), the New York Police Department’s Police Academy, the DEA’s New York Drug Enforcement Task Force (DETF), and the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).

Legal Training Director Philip Gary instructs interns on the work of the office, highlighting the surge in fentanyl in the city’s drug market.
NYPD Special Narcotics Prosecutor’s Unit

The New York City Police Department (NYPD) has assigned a team of detectives to the office since 1972. The Special Narcotics Prosecutor’s Unit, as it is known, is under the command of a senior NYPD lieutenant who serves as a liaison between SNP and the Detective Bureau’s Criminal Enterprise Division.

Expert at tracking, safekeeping, and presenting electronically recorded evidence, the detectives also provide support on search warrant investigations and maintain citywide repositories for electronically recorded evidence and SNP search warrants.

Search Warrants
The unit prepares search warrants and affidavits and expedites requests through SNP. Detectives keep track of all confiscated evidence and maintain a database on arrests and seizures resulting from the execution of search warrants. The unit also educates new investigators on search warrant procedures. In 2020, the unit processed 602 search warrants.

Digital Media Evidence
The unit tracks and controls “chain of custody” for electronic media evidence and makes certain that all audio/video evidence is secure. Additionally, the unit is responsible for the creation and testimony of grand jury/trial wiretap composite recordings and processes digital photographic evidence and data evidence.

In 2020, the unit registered 354 pieces of audio/video evidence, 965 pieces of wiretap media evidence, and 17 pieces of data and photographic evidence. The unit also prepared, created, and registered approximately 2,000 duplicate copies of registered electronic media evidence. The unit trained SNP trial preparation assistants (TPAs) to edit original video evidence to protect the identity of undercover officers and to make compilations of original evidence. The TPAs performed the majority of these edits and compilations in 2020. The unit also performed this function five times in 2020.
Support Services Units

**Fiscal**
All agency fiscal activities, including the production and submission of funding requests to federal, state, and city funding agencies, and the monitoring of expenditures, fall under the responsibility of the Fiscal Unit. To that end, the unit assesses and approves purchases and payment vouchers, and disbursement of funds such as petty cash and payroll coordination; enforces fiscal policy; conducts internal audits; and reviews and approves agency procurements.

**Human Resources**
The Human Resources Unit oversees and implements procedures related to the assignment or transfer of Assistant District Attorneys from the offices of the five county District Attorneys, while also administering the recruitment of managerial, administrative, and clerical personnel. The unit is committed to fostering a culture of diversity and inclusion amongst staff and seeks out individuals with a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences. Unit staff participates in planning, developing, and executing programs for all employees, as well as in support of recruitment efforts. The unit implements effective human resource policies; adheres to collective bargaining agreements; maintains time and leave records for all employees; and is responsible for bi-weekly payroll distribution. The unit serves as liaison with the citywide payroll management system and adheres to all HR regulatory compliance laws.

**Public Information**
The Public Information Unit responds to inquiries from members of the media, government agencies, advocacy groups, and individuals on the status of cases, joint enforcement efforts, legal decisions, legislative action and citywide narcotics-related trends. Press releases, reports, and testimony are prepared and distributed through the unit. The agency’s website and social media accounts are also maintained by the unit.

**Community Outreach**
The Community Outreach Coordinator meets with community and religious leaders, block associations, the New York City Housing Authority, and other groups to address local drug problems, while conferring regularly with NYPD officials to devise strategies to combat crime. Once an investigation is completed and a drug organization is removed from a building or neighborhood, resources are devoted toward providing community support services. Additionally, experienced prosecutors offer lectures to schools and youth groups, serve as mock trial coaches, and speak at career days.

**Information Technologies (IT)**
Information Technology develops, establishes, and administers SNP’s computer networks and telecommunication systems. The unit identifies needs and puts in place systems that effectively merge technology with office processes, and provides a variety of case-related services.

**Digital Forensics and Litigation Support**: provides pre-trial and in-court technology support, including recovery and examination of evidence from electronic devices, trial exhibit preparation, and presentation.

**Technical Support and Desktop Security**: supports staff in using electronic devices, and addresses technical problems and desktop security.

**Application Development and Support**: develops, maintains, and supports computer software.
**IT Infrastructure Support and Network Security:** oversees servers, computers, network security, email and data storage, and backup maintenance.

**Records Management:** files, registers, and maintains a record of closed and bench warranted case files, and processes parole requests.

**Case Information:** captures and tracks data pertaining to all cases prosecuted by the office, from arrest to disposition. The unit prepares regular reports and ad hoc reports on narcotics activities and performs statistical analysis. Unit staff is assigned to coordinate data capture and provide additional support.

**Criminal and Investigative Analysts**
Analysts are instrumental to all stages of investigation and prosecution, using the most current technology available to enhance a case from its inception through trial. Evidence from various sources is analyzed, including telephone communication carriers, social media sources, Treasury Department data, and prescription drug-related data. Analysts prepare and process subpoenas, provide background searches using public records and law enforcement specific databases, prepare investigative reports, and act as points of contact for law enforcement. During the presentation of a case, analysts prepare trial exhibits and testify in the grand jury and at trial.

**Trial Preparation Assistants (TPAs)**
Trial Preparation Assistants (TPAs) are assigned to the Investigations Division, the Trial Division, Part N, and the Alternative Sentencing Division. Investigation and Trial Division TPAs track cases, maintain case records, and gather reports and legal papers required by Assistant District Attorneys. Additionally, they make arrangements for prisoners to be produced in court, and help Assistants prepare for grand jury and trial presentations. Alternative Sentencing Bureau TPAs interview defendants who are diverted to treatment and track their progress. Part N TPAs assist in tracking plea offers, grand jury actions, and case dispositions.

**Extraditions/Detainers**
The unit administers the return of fugitives apprehended or in custody in other jurisdictions and in foreign countries that have extradition treaties with the United States.

**Grand Jury Reporters**
Grand Jury Reporters record, produce, and maintain transcripts of confidential testimony presented before the grand juries.

**Interpretation and Translation Services**
The unit interprets and translates for non-English speaking witnesses in debriefings with investigators and Assistant District Attorneys, and during testimony before the grand jury; provides written translation and transcription services for evidentiary consent and wiretap recordings that contain dialogue in languages other than English; and provides translation of documents.

**Property Release**
The Property Release Section is responsible for coordinating with the New York City Police Department and other law enforcement agencies to ensure property that can be legally returned to its rightful owner is returned in a timely manner.

**Operations**
The Operations Unit is responsible for office maintenance, reproduction of documents, mail delivery, messenger services, housekeeping requests, office supply inventory, and disbursement.
The People of SNP
Executive & Legal Staff

Bridget G. Brennan
Special Narcotics Prosecutor

Steven M. Goldstein
Chief Assistant District Attorney

Thomas G. Van Noy
Administrative Assistant District Attorney

Lisa M. Tompkins
Chief of Investigations

Nigel I. Farinha
Chief Diversity Officer
Co-Chief, Narcotics Gang Unit

Susan N. Lanzatella
Director of Strategic Initiatives
Co-Chief, Narcotics Gang Unit

Kathryn M. Spota
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