

# MONROE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

October 9, 2026



### From Monroe County District Attorney Brian Green

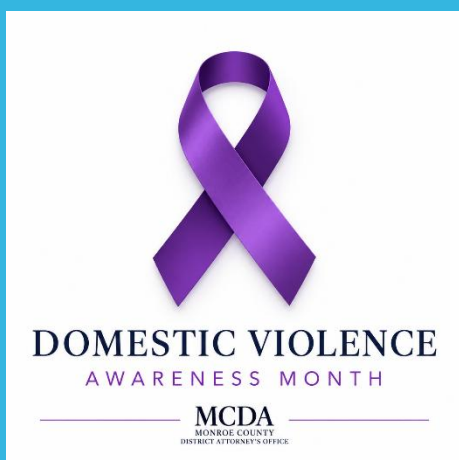
October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, an important opportunity to recognize survivors, remember those whose lives have been lost to domestic violence, and reaffirm our commitment to supporting individuals and families impacted by abuse.

At the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, domestic violence cases are among the most difficult and sensitive matters we handle. These prosecutors, led by Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau Patrick Gallagher, know that behind every case is a person who may be navigating fear, uncertainty, financial challenges, or concerns for their children. These factors can make seeking help incredibly difficult. These cases require compassion, collaboration, and strong partnerships with the organizations that support survivors throughout our community.

We are especially grateful for our continued relationship with Willow Domestic Violence Center, whose advocates provide critical services and support to survivors throughout Monroe County. Their work, and our collaboration with STRIVE, helps ensure that survivors have access to resources and.

This month, we are also looking forward to the grand opening of the Family Justice Center, an important new resource that will bring services together to better support survivors of domestic violence and their families. The Family Justice Center represents the kind of coordinated, survivor-centered approach that can make a meaningful difference for people during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

I want to thank our prosecutors, advocates, law enforcement partners, and everyone working throughout Monroe County to support survivors and hold offenders accountable. Most importantly, we stand with survivors and remain committed to helping make our community safer for every individual and family.



## MCDA in the Community

Monroe County District Attorney Brian Green spoke with the members of the St. John University Pre-Law Association about his career and the role of the District Attorney's Office. It is always encouraging to meet students who are already thinking seriously about how they can use a legal career to serve their communities. Thank you to Pre-Law Association President Jessica Sweet and all of the students who joined the conversation for the warm welcome and engaging discussion!



Members of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office participated this year's NAMIWalks Rochester! Mental health touches every family and every part of our community. Events like NAMIWalks are an important reminder of the value of breaking down stigma, supporting one another and making sure people know they are not alone.



Thank you to the Monroe County Magistrates Association for bringing members of our local legal community together and for all you do throughout the year. The Local Court ADAs represent the District Attorney's Office every day with the utmost commitment to justice and ethical prosecution.

## MCDA in the Courtroom

New York State Supreme Court Justice Thomas Moran sentenced 33-year-old **Tovontay Haygood** to 30 years in the New York State Department of Corrections, followed by five years of post-release supervision. Haygood previously pleaded guilty to two counts of Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for his role in the separate homicides of Derrick Ellis and Karen Wargo. On September 19, 2023, Rochester Police Officers responded to the corner of Diringer Place and North Goodman Street, where they located 48-year-old Derrick Ellis suffering from a gunshot wound to the upper body. Mr. Ellis was immediately transported to Strong Memorial Hospital, where he died from his injuries. Rochester Police Detectives determined that Mr. Ellis was standing on the porch of a residence on Diringer Place when he was shot. On July 9, 2025, Rochester Police Officers responded to Pleasant Street near North Clinton Avenue, where they located a deceased woman on the sidewalk who was later identified as 46-year-old Karen Wargo. The Monroe County Medical Examiner's Office determined that Ms. Wargo died from a combination of blunt force trauma to the head and asphyxiation. Following a thorough investigation that included surveillance video evidence, Tovontay Haygood was arrested for the homicide. While Haygood remained in custody awaiting trial for the homicide of Karen Wargo, the Rochester Police Department's Major Crimes Unit worked alongside the Monroe County District Attorney's Office to continue investigating the homicide of Derrick Ellis. Following a detailed investigation, Haygood was also indicted for Mr. Ellis' homicide. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jessica Wagner, Deputy Chief of the Special Victims Unit.

