

OFFICE OF THE MONROE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The Honorable Brian P. Green, District Attorney

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Statement from Monroe County District Attorney Brian Green on First Year in Office

One year ago today, on September 25, 2025, I was given the extraordinary honor of being appointed by Governor Kathy Hochul to serve as Monroe County District Attorney.

Returning to the Monroe County District Attorney's Office was, in many ways, coming home. I previously spent ten years here as an Assistant District Attorney, and despite the long hours and difficult work, it was the most fulfilling job I had ever had.

When I returned as District Attorney, I came back to an office filled with talented attorneys, investigators, and professional staff doing difficult and important work every day. My responsibility was to preserve what worked, listen to the people doing the work, address areas where we could do better and build an office prepared for the challenges ahead.

I began my tenure with five major internal priorities: improving the culture and working environment of the office; expanding training and professional development; strengthening accountability, ethics and leadership; improving recruitment and retention; and modernizing our technology and internal processes.

Those priorities all serve a larger purpose: **public safety.**

A District Attorney's Office functions best when prosecutors are well-trained, employees are supported, cases move efficiently, ethical standards are clear, and talented people want to build careers in public service. Every improvement we make internally ultimately affects our ability to pursue justice for the people of Monroe County.

Public Safety and Accountability

During the past year, our prosecutors have handled thousands of cases, including some of the most serious acts of violence committed in Monroe County. We have secured significant convictions and sentences in cases involving homicides, shootings, domestic violence, sexual abuse, crimes against children, hate crimes, vehicular homicides and other violent offenses.

Among those cases, Rajab Banahi was sentenced to Life Without Parole for the murders of his parents and sister; Jermaine Williams received Life Without Parole for the murders of Shatina Jones and Timothy Chealey; Quentin Riviere was sentenced to 55 years to Life for the murder of Rukia Issack; Kyelon Marbury received sentences of 40 years to Life and 50 years to Life for the separate murders of James Huff and Jermaine Wilkins; and Rodney Lowman was sentenced to 70 years in the New York State Department of Corrections for the sexual abuse of a child, in addition to a separate sentence for an unrelated vehicular homicide.

But these cases should never be reduced to conviction statistics or prison sentences.

Behind every prosecution is a victim, a family and a community affected by what happened. There are also Assistant District Attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, law enforcement officers, forensic professionals, and support staff who spend countless hours ensuring those cases are handled thoroughly and fairly.

We cannot undo the harm experienced by victims and their families. What we can do is treat their cases with the seriousness they deserve, make sure their voices are heard and pursue justice to the fullest extent permitted by the facts and the law.

Building a Stronger Office

Some of the changes I am proudest of will never appear in a headline.

During my first year, we have worked to create a more open, collaborative, and accountable office culture. I have maintained an open-door policy and make it a priority to regularly visit all eight floors of our office. People should be able to raise concerns, suggest improvements, and respectfully disagree with leadership. An organization entrusted with decisions as consequential as ours must be willing to examine itself.

We have also reviewed how cases are assessed and resolved in some of our busiest bureaus, with a renewed focus on efficiency and appropriate case disposition. One area of particular focus has been reengaging with our courts on appropriate felony dispositions before cases are presented to a Grand Jury.

Resolving appropriate cases earlier allows prosecutors to devote more attention to cases that require litigation, helps reduce overwhelming caseloads and allows the criminal justice system to operate more efficiently without sacrificing accountability.

Training, Leadership and Ethics

This year, we developed a first-of-its-kind training program for new Assistant District Attorneys and created additional training specifically for prosecutors advancing into felony-level work. We have also increased our focus on leadership development and ethics training.

Prosecutors are given enormous authority, often very early in their careers. We owe it to the community to ensure they understand the law, know how to evaluate evidence, exercise sound discretion, and recognize the ethical responsibilities that accompany their position.

Accountability must also begin at the top.

Following an extensive reinvestigation, our Conviction Integrity Unit concluded that Terrance Mack had not received a fair trial in 2009, and our office joined in the request to vacate his conviction. In another matter, we moved to dismiss the homicide indictment against Timothy Kuhn after developments in the case led us to determine that we could no longer ethically proceed with the prosecution.

Those decisions were not easy, but they were ethical, making them simple. A prosecutor cannot define success simply by whether someone is convicted. Our obligation is to seek justice.

Sometimes that requires aggressively prosecuting a case and seeking a significant sentence. Sometimes it requires taking another look at a conviction. And sometimes it requires acknowledging that the evidence or the law no longer supports moving forward.

The credibility of this office and the ethical pursuit of justice depends upon our willingness to do all three.

Recruitment and the Future of the Office

Like prosecutor's offices across New York State and the country, we operate in an increasingly competitive environment for talented attorneys and professional staff. We have expanded recruitment efforts, attended career fairs, and strengthened relationships with law schools both within and outside our region.

We are also taking a longer-term approach by strengthening our law school internship program and working toward hiring incoming classes of new Assistant District Attorneys rather than relying exclusively on individual hires as vacancies occur.

Recruitment is only part of the challenge. We must create an environment where employees receive the training, mentorship, and support necessary to build meaningful careers here. Lower caseloads, better training, strong leadership and a healthy workplace directly affect our ability to retain the people responsible for prosecuting cases and serving victims.

Modernizing How We Work

Technology is increasingly important to nearly every aspect of our work.

We are reviewing our case management and evidence systems, examining the accuracy of our data, and identifying opportunities to automate and simplify routine processes. We have begun utilizing tools such as Scrum boards and Power Apps to improve workflow and are continuing our movement toward a more paperless office.

We also continue our partnership with Measures for Justice and our work with Commons, the public-facing data dashboard designed to help residents better understand aspects of the local criminal justice system.

Technology should make government more effective, transparent and efficient, while recognizing that the resources we use belong to the taxpayers of Monroe County.

Partnerships and Community Engagement

Public safety cannot be accomplished by the District Attorney's Office alone.

During the past year, we have strengthened relationships with law enforcement agencies throughout Monroe County and reinstated opportunities for new prosecutors to participate in ride-alongs with Rochester Police officers.

We have continued partnerships with organizations serving victims and families and worked with community organizations, service providers, business leaders, schools, and residents throughout Monroe County.

Our office returned to Project TIPS, participated in National Night Out and community events, supported the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run, participated in ROC the Peace, and visited classrooms throughout the community.

I believe a District Attorney needs to be accessible. That means showing up not only where everyone agrees with us, but also in rooms where people have questions, concerns, or criticism.

Some of the most valuable conversations I have had this year have also been some of the most difficult. We may not always agree, but our community is better served when we are willing to sit at the same table, listen to one another and have those conversations.

Looking Ahead

I am proud of what the Monroe County District Attorney's Office has accomplished over the past twelve months, but there is much more work to do.

We will continue improving training, recruitment, and retention. We will continue examining our internal structure and technology. We will strengthen relationships with law enforcement and

community partners, support victims and their families, prosecute violent crime effectively, and hold ourselves to the ethical standards that the extraordinary authority of a prosecutor demands.

Most importantly, we will continue working to make this office better each year than it was the year before.

My commitment to the people of Monroe County is that we will confront challenges directly. We will make decisions based on the facts and the law. We will listen. We will acknowledge when something needs to change. We will support the dedicated public servants who work here. And we will never lose sight of the fact that the authority entrusted to this office exists for one reason: to serve the public.

One year ago, I understood that becoming District Attorney was an enormous responsibility. Today, I understand that responsibility even more deeply.

I am grateful to the attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional staff of the Monroe County District Attorney's Office who have embraced change while continuing to perform extraordinarily demanding work. I am grateful to our law enforcement, government and community partners. And I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Monroe County.

We have accomplished a great deal in twelve months. We have much more work to do.

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