

Manhattan DA's Arrest Alert System

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Website: <http://manhattanda.org/intelligence-driven-prosecution-crime-strategies-unit>

Contacts:

David O'Keefe
Director, Crime Strategies Unit
Manhattan District Attorney's Office
Email: okeefed@dany.nyc.gov

Kerry Chicon
Assistant District Attorney
Crime Strategies Unit
Manhattan District Attorney's Office
Email: chiconk@dany.nyc.gov

Criminal Justice Partners: New York Police Department, Port Authority of NY and NJ, the Parks Department, the New York City Housing Authority, block associations, and Business Improvement Districts

Information: In May 2010, District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. created the Crime Strategies Unit ("CSU") and tasked it with helping to harness the collective resources of the office to develop and implement Intelligence-driven Prosecution strategies that identify and address crime issues and target priority offenders for aggressive prosecution. Rather than information being left on thousands of legal pads in the offices of hundreds of ADAs, CSU gathers criminal intelligence and maps data to visually depict criminal activity based on multiple identifiers such as gang affiliation and type of crime

To organize and manage the information gathered as a result of employing an Intelligence-driven Prosecution model, the Manhattan DA's Office created a sophisticated arrest alert system. The system, which is managed by CSU but also allows for individual ADA access, provides email notifications of the arrests anywhere in New York City of priority defendants. The arrest alert system also provides automatic email notification when a defendant currently under prosecution is arrested anywhere within the city's five counties.

Through this alert system, ADAs throughout the Office are notified when a priority defendant has been arrested and can ensure that charging decisions, bail applications, and sentencing recommendations address that defendant's impact on criminal activity in communities. The alerts are shared with the New York Police Department.

The information gathered by CSU and disseminated through the use of the arrest alert system differentiates among those for whom incarceration is an imperative from a community-safety standpoint, and those defendants for whom alternatives to incarceration are appropriate and will not negatively impact overall community safety.