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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson Today Announced That Brooklyn Is One Of Just Four Jurisdictions Nationwide Awarded A Grant For Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Initiative**

Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson today announced that the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women has once again selected Brooklyn to participate in a Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Initiative to save lives by identifying the most at-risk victims of domestic violence.

The District Attorney's office will partner with the New York City Police Department, New York City Department of Probation, Safe Horizon, the New York City Criminal Justice Agency and the Borough President's Office.

District Attorney Thompson said, "This grant is a testament to our deep commitment to protect women in Brooklyn from domestic violence, especially women in high-risk relationships."

This is the second year in a row that Brooklyn has been selected to participate in this initiative. Last year the borough was one of 12 jurisdictions nationwide selected to participate and received a \$200,000 grant. This year -- of the 12 jurisdictions selected for the first phase of the initiative -- only four jurisdictions were invited to participate for the second phase: Brooklyn, New York; Contra Costa, California; Cuyahoga, Ohio; and Pitt County, North Carolina. The amount of the grant is still being determined.

The Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention initiative (DVHP) was created by the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) and helps state and local jurisdictions reduce domestic violence homicides by effectively identifying potential victims and monitoring high-risk offenders. The DVHP initiative is modeled after programs in Massachusetts and Maryland where the use of coordinated teams of law enforcement, prosecutors, health professionals and victim services significantly reduced the domestic violence homicide rate.

The DVHP initiative is based on an assessment tool that can be used to identify women who may be in fatally abusive relationships. Attempted strangulation, threats with weapons, sexual assault and obsessively jealous and controlling behavior are among the markers of domestic violence offenders whose relationships may end in a fatality.

Brooklyn was selected for Phase 2 of the DVHP initiative following an intense evaluation of its Phase 1 effort including a three-day assessment in which representatives of the OVW conducted 16 interviews of 55 people involved in the initiative. The Phase 2 grant will be used to formulate a multidisciplinary team which will convene to discuss cases on a regular basis with the goal of containing the defendants and supporting the victims to prevent homicides.

In addition to providing the grant money, the OVW provides technical assistance, guidance and support.