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May 6, 2016

## ***COMMUNITY PARTNER IN JUSTICE NOTIFICATION***

### **Brooklyn District Attorney Announces Creation of First Young Adult Court in New York State and Dedicated Team of Prosecutors to Keep Young People Out of the Criminal Justice System**

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson announced today the creation of a Young Adult Bureau that will operate in the newly-formed Brooklyn Young Adult Court. The new specialized court—the first in New York State and only the second one anywhere else in the country – will handle misdemeanor cases of young people between the ages 16 and 24.

Young adults between the ages of 18-24-years-old comprise only 10% of the population in the U.S., but account for almost 30% of criminal arrests. They are more likely to be sent to prison for violent and property crimes than any other age group, and have the highest propensity of re-arrest and return to prison than any other age group. They are also victims of crimes twice the rate of the general population and face more severe consequences from conviction and incarceration, such as problems in securing employment, education and housing.

This new Brooklyn Young Adult Court is designed to keep young people in Brooklyn from entering the criminal justice system. In the appropriate cases, this court will provide eligible young offenders with alternatives to incarceration and services tailored to their specific needs, including counseling, drug treatment, anger management and assistance with obtaining their GED.

District Attorney Thompson said, “Young adult offenders who enter the criminal justice system are at a higher risk of re-offending after being incarcerated. Many return to our society, not rehabilitated, but as hardened criminals. Recognizing that, our Office, in partnership with the Center for Court Innovation, applied for a grant from the Department of Justice and created a specialized Brooklyn Young Adult Bureau that will offer young misdemeanor offenders, who may be facing incarceration, the appropriate help and services they may need to help set them on the right path, avoid a prison sentence and live productive lives.”