



718.286.6000
WWW.QUEENSDA.ORG

QUEENS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568



MELINDA KATZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025

CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE (718) 286-6315
QDACommunications@queensda.org

DA KATZ HOSTS FIRST MISSING PERSONS DAY IN QUEENS WITH
NYC OCME AND US REP GRACE MENG

Event Provided Personal Assistance to Families and Friends with Missing Loved Ones

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced the first Queens Missing Persons Day, hosted in partnership with the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) and U.S. Rep. Grace Meng on October 24. The free event provided one-on-one assistance for families of loved ones who have been missing for 60 days or more. Attendees were able to file reports, update records and submit DNA samples to be uploaded to a national database in the hope of locating and identifying their missing person. OCME has hosted these events in the past, but Friday was the first time the event was hosted in Queens.

A total of 16 attendees, representing nine separate families, were assisted during the event. Five additional phone interviews were scheduled for families who heard about the event but were unable to travel to Queens.

District Attorney Katz said: "My office's Cold Case Unit is investigating approximately 47 unidentified homicide victims. While these cases may have grown cold, they are never forgotten — nor are the families still searching for answers. Updating records and collecting DNA from relatives of missing persons can be the key to identifying some of these victims, and that is why we never give up. I thank Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Jason Graham and U.S. Rep. Grace Meng for partnering with us on this important effort to help bring answers and justice to those who deserve it most."

Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Jason Graham said: "Missing Persons Day exemplifies the unwavering commitment of OCME to provide answers for families and alleviate uncertainty about what happened to their loved ones. This signature initiative combines compassionate service and scientific innovation to address a widespread if often unspoken challenge. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with D.A. Katz and Rep. Meng to reach the diverse communities of Queens in person with this effort."

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Queens) said: "This Missing Persons Day helped to ensure that families have the resources and support they need, and it gave them a chance to update records, file reports and submit DNA samples to assist with finding and identifying their loved ones. I am proud to have secured \$500,000 to help District Attorney Katz's Cold Case Unit investigate and prosecute cold cases in our borough. Impacted families are entitled to closure and justice, no matter how long it may take. I thank D.A. Katz and the Office of Chief Medical Examiner for working to find the answers they deserve."

In 2024, the District Attorney's Cold Case Unit office received a \$500,000 grant, secured by Congresswoman Meng, for advanced DNA testing and genealogical investigations on unidentified homicide cases. Since that time, the unit has initiated genealogy investigations for 21 cases involving unidentified human

remains. You can view active cold cases currently being handled by the District Attorney's office here: <https://queensda.org/cold-cases/>.

According to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUS), nearly 400 individuals are officially reported as missing across New York City and 73 of those cases were reported in Queens County.

New York City Missing Persons Day has served hundreds of families and is credited with contributing to dozens of identifications of missing persons in the New York metropolitan area since its launch in 2014.

Any family member with a loved one missing for 60 days or more may reach out to the OCME for further assistance by calling (212) 323-1201.

#

Note to Editors: Archived press releases are available at www.queensda.org.

