

# Project Restore BedStuy



# WAR: HOOLIE vs 900



# THE DEVASTATION

## HOOOLIE

900

**18 DEFENDANTS**  
**10 CHARGED SUBSTANTIVELY WITH MURDER 2**

**AGE RANGE**  
**16 YEARS OLD - 31 YEARS OLD**

**17 INCIDENTS**  
**4 HOMICIDES**  
**8 NON FATAL SHOOTINGS WITH 9 VICTIMS**

**OF THE 13 TOTAL VICTIMS,**  
**5 WERE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS (NOT RIVAL GANG MEMBERS)**

**15 DEFENDANTS**  
**4 CHARGED SUBSTANTIVELY WITH MURDER 2**

**AGE RANGE**  
**15 YEARS OLD - 25 YEARS OLD**

**12 INCIDENTS**  
**2 HOMICIDES**  
**10 NON FATAL SHOOTINGS WITH 10 VICTIMS**

**OF THE 12 TOTAL VICTIMS,**  
**4 WERE INNOCENT BYSTANDERS (NOT RIVAL GANG MEMBERS)**



# ENOUGH

**Killing of  
1-year-old in  
gun attack  
shocks city**

FULL COVERAGE: PAGES 4-5

**Now it must  
shock de Blasio,  
council to action**

EDITORIAL: PAGE 24



A surge of shootings in NYC has claimed the life of Davell Gardner, 22 months, who was killed after gunmen shot into a cookout in Brooklyn Sunday night.

**CITY'S SCOURGE OF GUN VIOLENCE**

**WHEN  
IS IT  
GOING  
TO END?**



Davell Gardner was in his stroller Sunday when he was fatally shot at a late-night barbecue in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn.

**Grandma wails after 1-year-old boy killed  
in barrage of bullets at Brooklyn park** PAGES 4-5



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# Gang Takedowns 2021

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# Letter to the Community



ERIC GONZALEZ  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
KINGS COUNTY  
350 JAY STREET  
BROOKLYN, NY 11201-2908  
(718) 250-2202  
WWW.BROOKLYNDA.ORG

May 5, 2021

Dear Community Member,

The gun violence that has plagued Bedford-Stuyvesant, and especially our public housing developments, in the last year has been heartbreaking. As a community, we have lost friends and loved ones. We have spent sleepless nights worrying about those we care about. Joyous occasions have turned into unthinkable tragedies, as occurred at a summer cookout that ended with the shooting death of a 22-month old baby, and the wounding of several others.

Our community cannot thrive under the constant threat of gun violence, and with the constant drumbeat of grief, trauma, fury, and all too often, retaliation, that follows each new shooting. We need peace. We need safety. And we need accountability in order to heal.

Today, the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, together with the NYPD, took a necessary step to restore peace and safety for the community, and to hold individuals accountable who we allege are directly responsible for some of the tragedies our community suffered last year, and stretching back to 2018. We have charged 18 individuals in connection with four murders and eight non-fatal shootings. I want to be clear that this was not an indiscriminate sweep of everyone connected to gang or crew activity. We know that many young people who get caught up in those activities need resources and second chances, not prison. Those who are charged allegedly participated directly in the planning and execution of serious violence that harmed innocent bystanders and put others in grave danger. They must be held accountable and removed from Brooklyn for the safety of others.

In addition to the individuals who use guns to harm others, the sheer quantity and availability of illegal guns in our community drives deadly violence. Disputes that might otherwise end with harsh words or a fistfight often end in gunfire because unlike in most of the developed world, guns are so readily available in American cities. New York has strict gun laws, but nearby states don't, so organized gun traffickers buy guns in states with lax gun laws to sell in Brooklyn. My office will continue to focus resources on apprehending and prosecuting illegal gun traffickers because we know that the shootings they directly enable are profoundly destabilizing to the community, robbing us of the sense of safety we all deserve.

I take no joy in putting anyone behind bars. My hope for the youth of this community is that they are provided the resources and opportunities they need to thrive in peace and safety.

There is always a risk at moments like this, after senior gang members have been arrested, that others will step up to take their place. The last thing we want is for more of our young men to be at risk of arrest, grave injury, or death. There are city funded resources available through the Office of Neighborhood Safety that are not connected to law enforcement in any way, to engage young people and offer resources and support to help them transform their lives. To access a list of these resources, please visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/peacenyc/index.page>.

I encourage anyone who has been impacted by the violence and needs help, whether you lost a loved one or simply have been exposed to community violence, to reach out to our Victim Services Unit (VSU) at (718) 250-3820. In light of everything this community has been through, it is completely natural to feel anxious, depressed, angry, or worried for your own safety – but we can help. VSU provides trauma-informed counseling, and they can also provide confidential referrals to community organizations that provide counseling and other services.

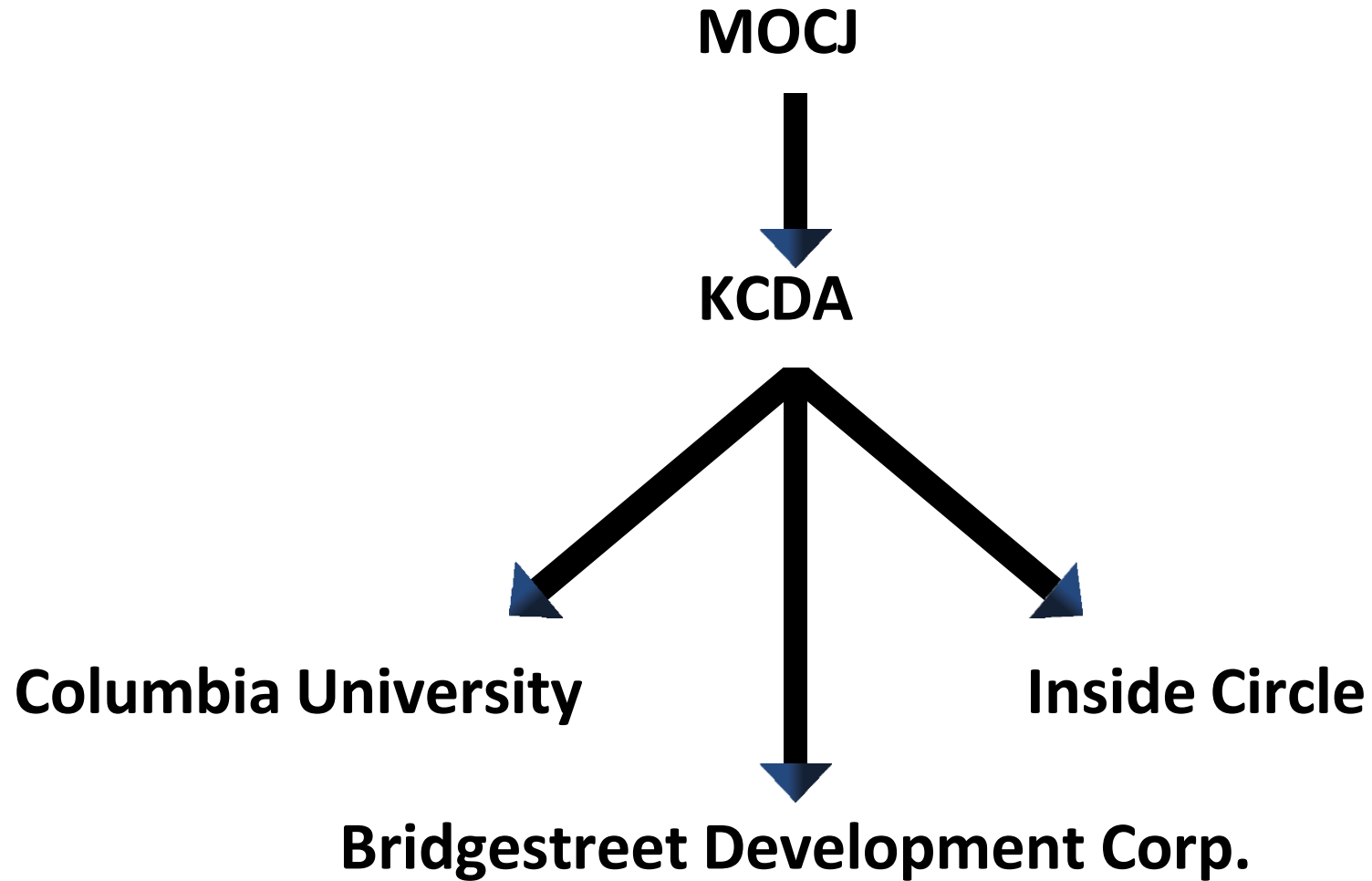
This is an important moment. Arrests and prosecutions alone don't create lasting public safety, but with some of the alleged drivers of gun violence in custody, we have an opportunity to work together as a community to end the cycle of violence and incarceration that has been so harmful for so long. I am committed to do this work in partnership with you. Be well and stay safe.

Sincerely,

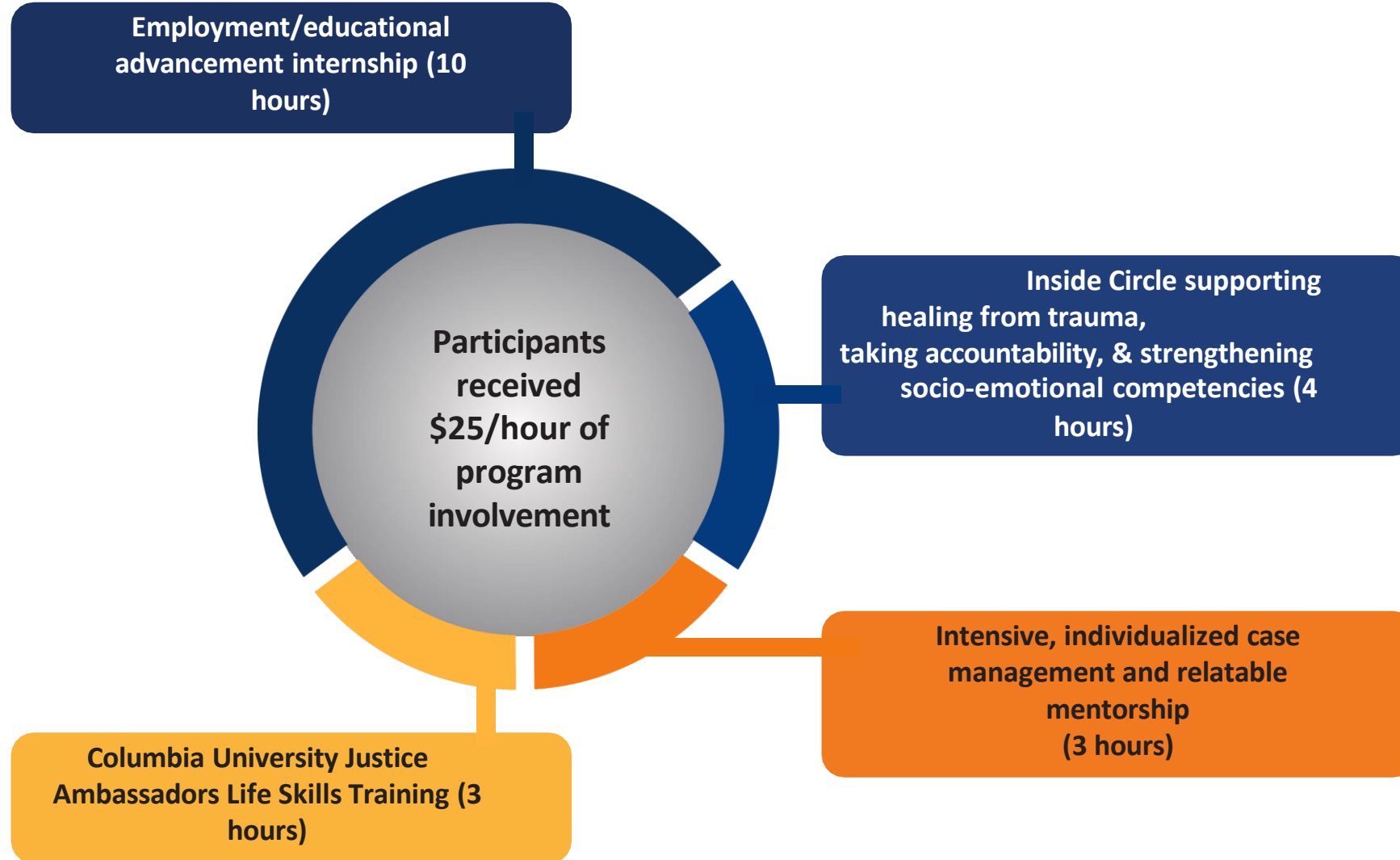
Eric Gonzalez  
Brooklyn District Attorney



# PARTNERS



# PROGRAMMING





# RESULTS: Personal Progress

## Participants Before

- Only 7% of participants had concrete plans for their futures.
- A large proportion expected to be in jail or dead in five years.
- Most participants' days were unstructured, largely spent hanging out together on the street.
- Participants were perceived as troublemakers within their communities and felt little hope of bettering themselves.

- Developed structured daily routine.

*"PRB gave me a real schedule and a real sense of time, a real purpose."*

- Became hopeful for the future, setting attainable 5-year goals.

*"It's helping me take control over my life and make it what I want it to be."*

- Developed an ability to regulate their emotions & respond to challenges in a healthy way.

*"I learned to be more emotionally aware, to see how I'm feeling and see where it's rooting from instead of just acting based off of emotion."*

- Took accountability for their actions.

*"I improved a lot... I learned a lot of self-responsibility and I learned to take accountability."*

- Transformed from perceived 'troublemakers' to community assets.

*"Now I am really thinking about bettering my community."*

- Developed a positive social network

*"The best thing about the program? I feel the connection that we have between the staff and me. They all made sure we were all good and doing something positive, on the right route."*

- Sense of self was transformed.

*"Before, I felt like since I was used to going back and forth to jail, that that's who I am. But now since doing the program, it has made me feel somebody. I feel like I'm a person... It is bettering me. So now I feel great."*

# RESULTS:

## Gun Violence Prevention

**No retaliation following two shootings that occurred during the program (at Group B and their friends/family, not by Group A)**



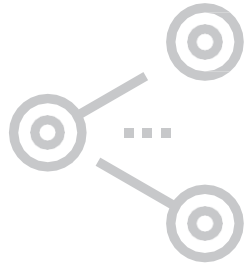
**No new shootings between the two groups**

**Three leaders from each group sat down together near the end of the program for an initial conversation. Ultimately, they decided to form a “Public Safety Working Group” with the aim of “squash[ing] all beefs in Brooklyn”**

# Next Steps for Project Restore in Brooklyn



**KCDA seeking funding at the City, State and Federal level for new iterations of Project Restore in other neighborhoods in Brooklyn**



**KCDA continuing to support the Public Safety Working Group led by PRB participants**



**KCDA supporting training for PRB participants in Restorative Justice**



# POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING



Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)  
Community-based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative:  
<https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/o-bja-2024-172063> (deadline passed for FY24)



**BJA**  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
U.S. Department of Justice

State-level Byrne/JAG funding (federal funding given to the states to enhance law enforcement)



Edward Byrne Memorial  
**Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program**

Other state or local funding

