

Summary of Budget requests made by the District Attorneys  
Association of the State of New York (DAASNY) to Governor  
Andrew M. Cuomo for Fiscal Year 2018-19

*The everyday work of prosecutors is an integral part of maintaining and improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers and visitors. New York State continues to be a leader in public safety. The people of New York deserve a fair, efficient and effective criminal justice system. There are crucial costs associated with keeping the public safe and maintaining public trust in the criminal justice system. The attached letter explains in detail the budget priorities of the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York.*

**Key items of DAASNY's budget requests for Fiscal year 2018-2019 include:**

- ◆ \$2.75 million to maintain services provided by the **New York State Prosecutor's Training Institute (NYPTI)**. This includes assistance and training, a case management system to track cases, produce grant reports and facilitate electronic discovery. There is an additional request for \$275,000 to continue **NYPTI's Witness Protection Program**.
- ◆ Increase funding for **State Aid to Prosecution** to \$15 million to support the enhanced prosecution of repeat violent and serious felony offenders.
- ✓ ◆ An additional \$1.7 million for reimbursement to counties for **District Attorney Salaries** already voted for in 2015 by the New York State Commission on Legislative Judicial and Executive Compensation.
- ◆ Grants to counties in the amount of \$15.5 million as part of **Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE)** to assist in the reduction of firearm related homicides and shootings.
- ◆ An additional \$500,000 for police departments to help maintain and develop locations for **Videotaping Interrogations** and \$1.5 million to equip officers statewide with **Body Worn Cameras**, as well as money for prosecutors to access, transcribe, translate, and disclose recorded material.
- ◆ Appropriation of **Crimes Against Revenue (CARP)** funds in the amount of \$17 million to recover funds from those who deliberately fail to pay taxes or commit Medicaid, welfare, unemployment and worker's compensation fraud.

EXA-1

# DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK



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October 16, 2017

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
Executive Chamber  
Albany, NY 11224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing to highlight DAASNY's budget priorities for fiscal year 2018-2019. As you know, the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York (DAASNY) represents the elected and appointed prosecutors of the sixty-two (62) New York State District Attorney's Offices, New York State Attorney General's Office, the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs and the Office of Special Narcotics. Our responsibilities are constantly increasing and keeping up with the latest technology is essential.

I strongly believe the prosecutors in New York State have a lot to be proud of. It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as a prosecutor in this great State. My colleagues and I all approach this role with the utmost respect for the trust placed in us by the public. You have demonstrated through your leadership that you believe that the people of New York deserve a fair, efficient and effective criminal justice system. This includes holding those accountable who commit crimes, exonerating those who are falsely accused and engaging in training and initiatives that enhance public trust in the criminal justice system.

We as prosecutors have been consistently doing more with less money. In recent years District Attorney's offices all over the state have expanded our functions to increase our work within our communities. We have spearheaded educational initiatives for crime reduction. We have created numerous diversion programs including those for veterans and youthful offenders. We continue to develop initiatives and search for better ways to address the needs of those suffering from drug addiction, the elderly, the mentally ill and victims of domestic violence.

New York State continues to be a leader in public safety and that improves the quality of life for all New Yorkers and those who visit our great state. Adequate resources must be provided to make sure that prosecutors can perform our responsibilities at the highest professional level. We acknowledge the goal of fiscal responsibility and the challenges of balancing a budget as we submit our request. Unfortunately, many District Attorneys' offices are underfunded and understaffed. I want to highlight DAASNY's priorities for the upcoming year. Many of these items are cost-neutral or even revenue generating. We

EXA-2

## **DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

### **State Aid to Prosecution**

DAASNY commends the work New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Commissioner Michael Green has done to make the distribution of this grant more fair and equitable. This essential aid is one of the most important components of the funding of District Attorney's offices. However, the funding of the grant has been reduced significantly over the past 10 years. The reductions in Aid to Prosecution have come at a time when the responsibilities of prosecutors have systematically increased. Prosecutors are increasingly expanding the duties of their staff, utilizing new technologies and adapting to new crime trends.

Funding for Aid to Prosecution must be restored to a more reasonable level. The 2017-18 budget bill appropriated \$12.5 to Aid to Prosecution. We strongly urge that funding for 2017-2018 be increased to \$15 million.

### **District Attorney Salary Reimbursement Program**

In December 2015, the New York State Commission on Legislative, Judicial and Executive Compensation voted to increase the salaries of New York State judges. State Judicial Law 183-a requires that a District Attorney's salary match the County Court Judge or Supreme Court Judge in a county depending on the population of that county. In the last two State budgets, the legislature did not allocate funding to help counties meet the District Attorney salary increases that were tied by statute to judicial salary increases. Cash-strapped counties were reluctant to pay for that unfunded mandate. As a result, not all District Attorneys are being paid what the law requires them to be paid for their services and they are in a political quandary if they demand what is rightfully owed to them by statute. With due consideration to this new and ongoing financial obligation, it is essential that the budget be modified to provide this support.

In 2017-2018, \$4.2 million was appropriated to salary reimbursement. For the 2018-2019 budget years we strongly request increasing the funding by \$1.7 million to cover the salary increase. This would bring total funding to \$5.9 million.

### **Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE)**

The Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative focuses on the reduction of firearm-related homicides and shootings in communities in 17 counties outside of New York City that collectively report 86% of violent crime. This program under the leadership of DCJS Commissioner Michael Green has been very successful in both reducing gun violence in many counties and enhancing gun involved crime reduction strategies. Despite the program's success and New York's leadership in gun safety, this program has, unfortunately, seen repeated cuts in funding. From a high of \$15.6 million in 2010-2011, GIVE received \$14.39 million in last year's budget. This shortfall will continue to impact the success of GIVE. DAASNY recommends an appropriation of \$15.5 million for GIVE.