



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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(Hartford) STATE VICTIM ADVOCATE MICHELLE CRUZ PRAISES THE BROOKLYN CARES PROGRAM OF THE BROOKLYN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS.

“The Brooklyn Cares Program has provided the funding for the publication of more than 2,000 “Domestic Abuse Arrest/Incident Best Practices Cards” which are provided to the law enforcement community to assist in their response to incidents of domestic violence,” stated Ms. Cruz. “The laminated cards have been distributed to more than forty-five law enforcement departments.”

The Brooklyn Cares Program, through collection of inmate funds at the facility’s canteen, has been able to support various outreach programs within the community. In collaboration with the Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA), the Brooklyn Cares Program arranged for the publication of laminated cards that direct law enforcement officers as to what information should be obtained to successfully arrest and prosecute domestic violence cases, with additional collaboration from the Office of the Chief State’s Attorney, Domestic Violence Unit.

"An essential element of corrections is restorative justice, giving the inmates the opportunity to give back to society and make amends," said Commissioner Leo C. Arnone. "This is the latest example of this facility's efforts to give offenders that opportunity."

The Brooklyn Correctional Institution is a model of how inmates can essentially pay back the surrounding communities with various public service projects, including programs as the one demonstrated with the collaboration of the Brooklyn Cares Program and the OVA that emphasize combating domestic violence. “This type of partnership with the OVA, the Department of Correction, the Office of the Chief State’s Attorney and the community is a win-win proposition—inmates are paying back society and through these funds, together we can enhance safety within our communities,” added Cruz.

Contact the Office of the Victim Advocate at (860) 550-6632 to obtain the laminated cards.

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