Civic Consulting USA

Urban Innovation: Partnerships, Technology, & Systems Change

example projects

⇒ The Power of Culture: Delivering Success During Government Transition
⇒ NYC Moonshots & Co-Lab Challenges
⇒ US Conference of Mayors: Smart Cities Leadership Institute
Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez

Elected on the promise to make the Brooklyn DA’s office a national model of what a progressive prosecutor’s office can be

Overseeing 1,300 lawyers & professional staff

Serving 2.5 million residents — 47% speaking a language other than English at home
Keep Brooklyn safe & strengthen community trust by ensuring fairness & equal justice for all

Action plan to achieve the vision developed by:

70 community members, criminal justice reform experts & advocates, faith leaders, formerly incarcerated people, NYPD on planning committees

194 staff on implementation committees

In every case, we must be asking ourselves: What resolution is best for this particular defendant, for the victim, and for the community? Would this intervention keep us safer or not? Would it strengthen community trust or potentially undermine it?

Eric Gonzalez, Brooklyn District Attorney
Justice 2020: Action Plan

1. Reduce incarceration — make jail the "alternative"
2. Engage communities as partners in justice
3. Focus resources on the drivers of crime
4. Invest the DA's people & data to drive the mission
Policy initiatives change how the system works

Change the **office culture** so that ADAs consider non-jail resolutions at every juncture in the case.

Empower community residents and leaders through **neighborhood safety partnerships**

Establish a transformation office & **data / analytics** team to drive metrics & reform.

Train all staff in **cultural competency**

Realign **staffing** so that each case is the responsibility of a single ADA.

Promote **accountability** by establishing an office of professional responsibility & ethics.

Streamline case handling & enhance fairness & **transparency** with e-discovery.
Daily admissions to NYC jails from Brooklyn
After a few years . . .  

Change takes *much* more patience than expected  

People can embrace change — *if* you let them  

Leaders *themselves* feel the change