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## PRESS RELEASE

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## **CITING JAILHOUSE TAPE, NEW YORK'S PROSECUTORS ANNOUNCE EFFORT TO MONITOR RESULTS OF NEW DRUG LAWS**

*\*\*\*DAASNY President, Staten Island D.A. Dan Donovan, Introduces Jail House Tape of  
Inmate Discussing "Drug Dealers' Protection Law", Names Committee Members\*\*\**

New York State District Attorneys Association President Daniel M. Donovan, Jr., of Richmond County, said:

"In months of recent debate over what would be the result of weakening New York's drug laws, we heard predictions from the Governor, legislators, academics, lobbyists, the media, and my fellow prosecutors.

The one perspective we have been missing is the opinion of those who have the most to gain from these changes – the drug dealers.

This recording, of an inmate in a local jail in New York State, which was legally intercepted by law enforcement on March 29, 2009 – just four days after published reports of a deal between the legislature and Governor to change our laws, offers the clearest perspective to date of the threat these changes pose to the law abiding citizens of this state. (*link to audio: <http://rcda.nyc.gov/psa/AudioCall.htm>*)

This inmate, awaiting trial on drug sale and possession charges, has a "rap sheet" that is 27 pages long. He bluntly predicts how the new changes to the drug laws will allow him to remain on the streets and in business. Referring to the new laws as "*The Drug Dealers' Protection Law,*" the inmate explains to an acquaintance in raw and vivid language – almost apocalyptic terms – what he will do to our neighborhoods when he is released. Citing specific provisions of the law, the inmate explains how these provisions will benefit his drug dealing "business," and how the new laws will keep him in business even after yet another arrest. This inmate is not alone in this thinking. *This is nothing less than a declaration of war on our children and our neighborhoods.*

Today, in response to this message that I am certain has penetrated county jails and state prisons across this state, I am announcing the formation of a group of my fellow prosecutors and their staffs that will track trends in drug related crimes in New York, and monitor the effect the new drug laws will have on our state."

*-Over for List of Committee Members-*

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## **Drug Law Revision Impact Committee**

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