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**QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY RICHARD A. BROWN, FORMER MAYOR DAVID N. DINKINS, THE UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION AND THE NEW YORK JUNIOR TENNIS LEAGUE HOST 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL “SAY YES TO TENNIS, NO TO VIOLENCE” DAY**  
*Over 650 Far Rockaway Students Attend Event At National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, joined by former Mayor David N. Dinkins, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and the New York Junior Tennis League today hosted more than 650 Far Rockaway public school students at the ninth annual “Say Yes to Tennis - No to Violence” Day at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in Queens.

“Tennis is a great sport with important lessons for the game of life that include the principles of fair play and self-control. Today’s tennis event is meant to encourage our young people to make positive choices such as sports as an alternative to violence,” said District Attorney Brown. “I want to congratulate the students who have participated in our STAR Track program this year.”

The students are enrolled in nine public schools in Far Rockaway where they participate in the District Attorney’s STAR Track (Straight Talk About Risks) anti-violence program. The schools include: Far Rockaway High School, Middle School 53, and Public Schools 42, 43, 104, 106, 197, 215 and 333 which enroll more than 7,000 students in grades four to twelve.

STAR Track sends dozens of Assistant District Attorneys and other QDA staffers, as well as attorneys and staff members from the City’s Corporation Counsel and the Legal Aid Society, into these schools to teach children about the risks of drugs and guns in partnership with educators and parents. The program uses a curriculum designed to drive down the crime rate and build up self-esteem, confidence and the quality of life.

The day-long event features on-court activities for the students with National Tennis Center pros, as well as a tennis demonstration by the District Attorney and former Mayor Dinkins. The children also received T-shirts to commemorate the event along with introductory tennis instruction and lunch.

The event was made possible by the following groups: USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, USTA, USTA Eastern Section, the New York Junior Tennis League, Harcourt School Publications, Modell’s Sporting Goods, Queens Borough Public Library, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, the New York Hall of Science, American Red Cross, Queens College, Project Safe Neighborhoods, New York City Police Department, Patrol Borough Queens North, 110<sup>th</sup> Pct., the Corporate Edge and the New York Mets.

The USTA is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the United States and the leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis at every level – from local communities to the highest level of the professional game. It owns and operates the US Open, the largest annually attended sporting event in the world, and launched the US Open Series linking 10 summer tournaments to the US Open. A not-for-profit organization with more than 665,000 members, the USTA invests 100% of its proceeds in growing the game. In addition it owns 94 Pro Circuit events throughout the United States, and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic Games.

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**Note to Editors: E-version of this press release – with photos – is posted on [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**