

A support event for the families and friends of long-term missing persons

What: The first-ever New York City Missing Persons Day connects all New Yorkers with resources to help identify and find their long-term missing loved ones. Families and friends of long-term missing persons (missing for 60 or more days) will have direct access to interviews with professionals and the opportunity to provide information to aid in identification. Emotional and spiritual support services will also be available on site to all attendees.

All are welcome. Families and friends who wish to have an interview are strongly advised to schedule in advance by calling (212) 323-1201. Callers will be advised on what information to bring. Providing information is voluntary. Information will be used for identification purposes only.

- **When:** Saturday, November 8, 2014 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Where: NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) Hirsch Building 421 East 26th Street (at 1st Avenue) New York, NY 10016

Why: More than 13,000 people were reported missing in New York City last year, with some, including at least 200 children, missing long term. Nationwide, there are more than 87,000 active missing persons cases, while there are tens of thousands of unidentified persons for whom little to no information is entered into national databases. New York City has been conducting a comprehensive review of all the unidentified persons in its custody using new advances in technology, but new technology can only go so far. Identifications cannot be made unless adequate information about missing persons is available for comparison.

Who: Hosted by OCME, in partnership with the NYPD Missing Persons Unit, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, American Red Cross, and Disaster Chaplaincy Services, with support from the NYC Office of Emergency Management, NYC Human Resources Administration/Department of Social Services, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Center for HOPE, and the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), and assistance from the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit and the Mayor's Office for International Affairs.

For more information, visit <u>nyc.gov/ocme</u>.

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