

The La Mont Dottin Foundation

MEDIA ADVISORY

DATE: 03/01/2014

"The State of Missing Persons" in New York

"Don't Count Them Out"

THE LA MONT DOTTIN FOUNDATION WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO PAUSE IN ITS DELIBERATIONS TO REMIND ALL TO PRAY FOR "OUR MISSING PERSONS"...BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS...AND THE FAMILIES OF MISSING LOVED ONES.

WHAT: The La Mont Dottin Foundation will hold a press conference at Queens Borough Hall to reaffirms its commitment to address the issues of "no transparency", "no accountability", "no access" and ultimately "no closure" for families of missing and exploited children/adults across New York and its' burial ground known as Potter's Field.

- Re-introduce **The La Mont Dottin's Law** Assembly Bill 5137 & Senate Bill 2239 which eliminates the age restriction and prevents NYC from arbitrarily excluding person from being reported as missing simply because they are between 19-64. The law assures that all families of missing loved have complete access to both local and statewide agencies and receive full cooperation and assistance of the City of New York regardless of age.
- Memorialize May 25th as "National Missing Person's Day" in the state of New York. **Commemorate Missing Person's Day with a ceremony** (Children and Families Committee, Public Safety Committee, Department of Justice (DOJ)) highlighting New York's missing and honoring the heroic and exemplary efforts of agencies, organizations, and individuals that goes above and beyond to protect children and all loved ones.
- Establish inter-precincts database that connects all precincts across the state of New York to local and state agencies thus act as a repository for missing persons to facilitate **proactive and transparent** communications between families and appropriate agencies.
- Adopt a 21st century **best-in-practice existing database** (i.e. <http://hartisland.net>) of burials on Potter's Field to facilitate communication and access necessary to expedite the search period.

WHO: Dr. Arnita Fowler, Founder & CEO, The La Mont Dottin Foundation
Assemblyman Scarborough

WHEN: **March 01, 2014**

WHERE: Queen Boro Hall, Front Steps

National Level: Proposed Legislation for Congressional action

- Introduce The La Mont Dottin's Law to eliminate the age restriction and prevents states from arbitrarily excluding persons from being reported as missing simply because they are between 19-64. The law assures that all families of missing loved have complete access to both local/statewide agencies and receive full cooperation and assistance regardless of age.
- Memorialize May 25th as “National Missing Person’s Day” across the United States **Commemorate Missing Person’s Day with a ceremony** (Children and Families Committee, Public Safety Committee, Department of Justice (DOJ)) highlighting New York’s missing and honoring the heroic and exemplary efforts of agencies, organizations, and individuals that goes above and beyond to protect children and all loved ones.

City Council Level: Recent & Proposed Legislation for action NYC Council

Fire & Criminal Justice Services Committee:

INT 803-2012: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the Department of Correction to make its electronic database of people buried at Hart’s Island since 1977, available on its website.

INT 804-2012: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring the Department of Correction to put its Hart’s Island visitation policy in writing, post it on its website, and make it available to anyone who requests a copy.

INT 805-2012: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to ferry service to Hart’s Island.

INT 848-2012: A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to a transfer of jurisdiction over Hart Island from the department of corrections to the department of parks and recreation.

Public Services Committee

Request Police Department, Missing Children Public Hearing to address the state of our Missing persons, ensuring transparency of up-to-date information regarding our missing person’s population.

Doing so will....

- Confirm to the families, who deserve to know, that their loved ones are remembered and not forgotten

- Give hope to the families, stand in the gap for the families of our missing loved ones....never forget them...never give up, and never count them out
- Address the issues of missing and exploited children/adults on National Missing Children Day every day and throughout the year
- Eliminate the Myths that every missing person 18 years old is a runaway or are far more likely to have chosen to be absent themselves from their home as stated in the veto message 14

BACKGROUND:

La Mont Dottin disappeared from St. Albans, New York, October 16, 1995. His body was found floating in the East Harlem River six days later and buried in pauper's grave in potter's field. As a result of existing law, a variety of unfortunate and tragic circumstance, this was not known to his family and it was not until four years later and years of searching that they were able to exhume his body and give him a proper burial.

The AB5137 passed the New York State Assembly however, the SB2239 was held up.

HISTORY:

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed May 25 as National Missing Children's Day. Each year the Department of Justice (DOJ) commemorates Missing Children's Day with a ceremony honoring the heroic and exemplary efforts of agencies, organizations, and individuals to protect children.

1999 - Campus Safety Act Established

In 2002 – Governor Pataki proclaimed May 25, 2002, as National Missing Children Day in the state of New York.