Problem-Solving Justice

“Outcomes – not just process and precedents – matter. Protecting the rights of an addicted mother is important. So is protecting her children and getting her off drugs.”

— New York State Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye
Problem-Solving Justice

NEW GOAL
Courts should address the problems of victims, communities and defendants.

NEW METHODS
- Creative partnerships
- Access to more information
- Judicial monitoring
- Using data to track impacts
SENTENCING

The Justice Center has reduced the use of short-term jail and “walks”
ACCOUNTABILITY

The Justice Center’s emphasis on immediacy and monitoring has improved compliance with court orders.

Red Hook Community Justice Center
PAYING BACK THE COMMUNITY

Each year, the Justice Center contributes nearly 69,000 hours of community service to Red Hook – $465,000 worth of labor

Red Hook Community Justice Center
PUBLIC TRUST

- 78 percent of residents have a positive view of community court
- The percentage of residents who say they are afraid to go to parks or subway has dropped 45 percent
- 85 percent of criminal defendants say their case was handled fairly by the Justice Center – regardless of race, class or case outcome
U.S. Community Courts
An International Movement

Community courts are in operation or planning in England, South Africa, Scotland, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, and Ireland.
What Mayors Can Do

• USE THE BULLY PULPIT
  – The mayors of San Francisco, Los Angeles and Newark have jump-started planning efforts

• PROVIDE SEED FUNDING
  – Planning and construction in Red Hook was underwritten by the City of New York

• COMMIT CITY AGENCIES
  – Community courts require numerous executive branch agencies: police, social services, probation, etc.