NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, and NYC Digital Partners with Latino Technology Groups, Hosts Hackathon to Prevent Cyberstalking
The two-day event is now accepting registration: on.nyc.gov/dv-hackathon

(New York, NY) The NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV), Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT), NYC Digital, NY Latino Tech Meetup, and NYC Tech Latinas will host an anti-cyberstalking "Hackathon" on January 30-31, 2015, to develop and design a training model to increase online safety and privacy for domestic violence victims. The two-day event, which is free and open to the public, is a part of the City's ongoing effort to prevent and reduce intimate partner stalking cases. The New York City Family Justice Centers will offer the user-friendly, interactive training model to clients once fully developed.

"Developing tools to help empower and protect domestic violence survivors remains a top priority for the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence," said **Commissioner Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, OCDV**. "New York City continues to attract some of the leading software developers and engineers, and we are encouraging them to apply their talent to helping to increase the safety of vulnerable New Yorkers."

The Hackathon is the latest anti-stalking measure OCDV has implemented. Last year, OCDV expanded its Staten Island Coordinated Approach to Preventing Stalking (CAPS) initiative to all precincts within the borough. The CAPS program aims to increase the identification and reporting of intimate partner stalking incidents, and enhance stalking arrests and prosecution.

"Digital tools have changed the way we communicate, organize, and access resources," said **Jessica Singleton, Digital Director, City of New York**. "As we act on our mission of making New York the most digitally engaged city government in the world, NYC Digital supports efforts – like this Hackathon – that leverage the power of our civic technology community to develop resources that empower New Yorkers with tools to improve their own health, safety, and lives."

"Technology holds great power to improve lives – and to help heal them," said **Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications Commissioner Anne Roest**. "Successfully combating cyber-stalking requires dedicated partners within and beyond government, and I commend Commissioner Pierre-Louis and her team for pursuing the type of inclusive approach hackathons can offer in identifying collaborative, workable solutions."

In an increasingly growing cyber community, domestic violence abusers have been found to use technology to stalk victims. According to national statistics, fifty-four percent of homicide victims reported stalking to the police before they were killed by their intimate partner.

"We're excited to bring together a group of multidisciplinary designers, engineers, and web/mobile developers to help protect victims of domestic violence," said **Nic Santana, Organizer for NY Latino Tech Meetup**. "Through the course of 12 hours we are hoping this event will create solutions and suggestions that can help aid the Family Justice Center clients."

"Hack-a-thons can be fast-paced fun events but they also provide the space to come up with innovative solutions to important issues," said **Yvonne De La Peña, Organizer, NYC Tech Latinas**. "In organizing this event we are hoping this will be the case regarding such a critical social issue currently affecting our city."

Cyberstalking is wide ranging, from monitoring social media and email activity through spyware to tracking the movement of victims using navigation systems and cellular phone data. If you or someone you know is being stalked by an intimate partner, you can seek help at OCDV's NYC Family Justice Centers by calling 311 or visiting our website at www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence. In an emergency, dial 911.

The event will be held at the Manhattan Family Justice Center located at 80 Centre Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10013. To register or learn more information, visit: on.nyc.gov/dv-hackathon. Participants are required to bring personal laptop.

About the NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence
The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV), established in 2001, oversees the citywide delivery of domestic violence services, creates innovative policies, develops crisis intervention and prevention based programs, and works to increase awareness through broad and diverse outreach efforts throughout New York City. OCDV operates four Family Justice Centers (FJCs) in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens, with a fifth Center opening in Staten Island in 2015. The FJCs offer comprehensive wraparound services for victims of intimate partner violence, sex trafficking and elder abuse, including case management, civil legal and supportive services, as well as access to the District Attorney's Offices and the NYPD. The FJCs are walk-in Centers that provide free and confidential services regardless of the client's language, immigration status, income, gender identity or sexual orientation.

About the Department of Information Technology & Telecommunications
The Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT) ensures the sustained, efficient delivery of IT services, infrastructure and telecommunications services. DoITT works to modernize government technology, increasing digital literacy opportunities for New Yorkers, facilitating a more transparent and open government, and creating innovative partnerships with today's leaders in technology to improve IT infrastructure, service delivery, and civic engagement across the five boroughs.

About NYC Digital
NYC Digital's mission is to ensure the City of New York's place as the most digitally savvy and engaged city government in the world. Reporting to the Senior Advisor to the Mayor, this unit sets the City's digital engagement strategy and establishes usage standards and principles for digital tools and media across government. Core functions of the unit include producing and distributing digital content, identifying opportunities to improve New Yorkers' digital experience with government, and supporting the administration's work to make New York the most innovative and tech-friendly city in the world.

NY Latino Tech Meetup
Established in 2013 NYLTM promotes diversity within the NY tech community by supporting the next wave of technology leaders. The group strives to create a community for people working and interested in technology with meetings held throughout the year which include workshops, demo nights, and networking events. http://www.meetup.com/NY-Latino-Tech-Meetup/

NYC Tech Latinas
NYC Tech Latinas started in 2013 as a space for Latinas in the NYC tech community, and their supporters, to connect and grow. Its mission is to create a dynamic network of individuals, information, and ideas to help increase the representation of Latinas in the tech industry. The group meets once a month for networking events, workshops, and professional presentations. Stay connected and keep up with news: @NYCTechLatinas

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