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001/2005

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, January 13, 2005

BRONX MAN IS SENTENCED TO A TERM OF UP TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR THE 2002 SEXUAL ASSAULT OF TWO YOUNG GIRLS

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that 53 year-old Harry Brooks has been sentenced to a term of up to life imprisonment for sodomy and other related charges involving two young girls in July 2002.

Brooks, of 2010 Bruckner Boulevard, was found guilty October 25, 2004 of two counts of Sodomy in the 1st degree, three counts of Sexual abuse in the 1st degree and two counts of Endangering the welfare of a child, for sexually assaulting two young girls, six and eight years of age.

The incident occurred on July 30, 2002, when the defendant lured the two young victims to the rooftop of an apartment building, where Brooks hit the eight year-old girl, and ordered both victims to undress, then orally sodomized them. After the victim's escaped, they reported the incident to their family members who called the police. Brooks remained at large until an August 5, 2002 incident. Brooks was later identified by his victims in a line-up.

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Barbara Newman sentenced Brooks to consecutive terms of twenty-five years to life for each count of sodomy, and concurrent terms of twelve and one-half years to twenty five years for each count of sexual abuse. Brooks was also sentenced to

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one year each, on the charge of child endangerment, for a total of fifty years to life imprisonment.

Brooks was also sentenced today for a separate trial held in December 2003, in which Brooks was convicted of two counts of endangering the welfare of a child, stemming from an attack on two other pre-pubescent girls in the August 2002 incident. Acting State Supreme Court Justice Ira R. Globerman sentenced Brooks to a term of one year imprisonment for each count of child endangerment.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Astrid Borgstedt of the Child Abuse / Sex Crimes Bureau.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, January 28, 2005

FORTY ONE YEAR OLD BRONX MAN CHARGED AS INTERNET PREDATOR SEEKING TO HAVE SEXUAL RELATIONS WITH A THIRTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 41 year old Bronx man is being charged with attempted rape and other offenses in connection with an alleged attempt to have sex with someone whom he believed to be a thirteen year old girl from the Midwest.

Don Stephens, of 1218 Boston Road, was arrested last night when he arrived at the Milford Plaza Hotel in Manhattan to allegedly to engage in sexual activity with an undercover investigator whom he presumed to be a thirteen year old Internet "chat buddy" from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Stephens has been charged with Attempted Rape in the 2nd degree and Attempted Dissemination of indecent material to minors in the 1st degree. Both are Class E felony offenses punishable by a maximum sentence of up to four years imprisonment. Additional charges may be filed pending a forensic examination of the defendant's computer for images of child pornography.

Stephens was arrested by Detective Owen Soba with NYPD's Computer Investigations

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and Technology Unit as a result of an investigation by Special Agent Eric Szatkowski with the State of Wisconsin's Department of Justice. Szatkowski was online, posing as a thirteen year old girl, in an Internet chat room entitled "I Love Older Men." The defendant allegedly solicited sex from his new under age "chat buddy" and asked her to send him email containing nude photographs. During the chat, the "girl" said that she would be accompanying her mother to a convention in New York. Stephens then allegedly arranged to meet the victim at her hotel in order to have a sexual encounter.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robert Bergida.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, January 28, 2005

GRAND JURY CHARGES MANHATTAN MAN WITH THE ATTEMPTED MURDERS OF THREE PEOPLE INCLUDING AN OFF DUTY NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a grand jury has charged Michael Robinson with the attempted murders of an off duty New York City Police Officer and two other people.

Robinson, 20 of 140 Columbus Avenue, was indicted today on three counts of Attempted Murder in the 2nd degree, three counts of Attempted Assault in the 1st degree, one count each of Criminal possession of a weapon in the 2nd and 3rd degrees, and one count of Criminal use of a firearm in the 2nd degree. The most serious offense, Attempted Murder in the 2nd degree, is a Class B felony offense punishable by a maximum sentence of up to twenty five years imprisonment.

The incident occurred shortly after midnight on January 3, 2005 when the defendant allegedly fired several shots at three men while attempting to engage them in a verbal confrontation. None of the men were injured. One of the intended targets, however, was off duty detective Pedro Lopez who returned fire and wounded the defendant. The shooting occurred in front of 1309 Clinton Avenue, where Lopez had parked his high end luxury car while waiting for

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a girl friend. Lopez was sitting in the car with two other friends when the defendant allegedly accosted them demanding to know why they were parked in that particular spot. Robinson, according to court papers, walked toward the car and began "firing multiple shots at all three men as they sat in the vehicle, striking the driver's side door and front tire."

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Rachel Singer of the Rackets Bureau.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

CASELOAD CAPACITY IN BRONX MENTAL HEALTH COURT TO BE EXPANDED – THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AWARDS 1.5 MILLION DOLLAR GRANT TO COVER THE COST

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded the Bronx District Attorney's Office a grant of $500,000 per year for three years to be used to expand the capacity of the Bronx Mental Health Court. The court diverts from jail to treatment, defendants who suffer from either mental illness by itself or mental illness combined with substance abuse problems.

Region II Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Deborah Konopko presented the first installment of the three year grant and said: "We know that many people who enter the criminal justice system have substance abuse and mental health problems and they may have HIV/AIDS or be at risk of infection. Assisting individuals who have these kinds of problems is a priority of President Bush and Secretary Leavitt. This $500,000 grant will provide the Bronx County District Attorney with much needed resources to address the needs of these individuals".

The Bronx District Attorney's Office works in partnership with the not for profit

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organizations Research Triangle Institute and Treatment Alternative to Street Crime, a subsidiary of Education and Assistance Corporation. Together, they identify, evaluate, place in treatment, provide case management, and arrange for court monitoring services, for defendants who do not pose a danger to the community. This collaboration includes the active participation of the Administrative Judge for the Criminal Division of Bronx Supreme Court, John P. Collins, who presides over the Mental Health Court Part. Other key participants are the Legal Aid Society and Bronx Defenders whose clients stand to benefit from the disposition of cases in the Bronx Mental Health Court.

District Attorney Johnson said: "Our goal is to provide effective, individualized treatment and aftercare for these defendants, thereby increasing the likelihood that they will complete treatment, reduce their criminal behavior and thereby diminish the risk of harm the community."

Bronx defendants with substance abuse problems have had the option of treatment through alternative-to-incarceration programs since 1993. Over time it became clear that some of these defendants also had problems with mental illness and could not be effectively treated in programs that focused solely on substance abuse. In 2002 SAMHSA awarded a three year grant for $1,500,000 to the Bronx District Attorney's Office to fund a Mental Health Court that would place in appropriate treatment defendants who had problems with both mental illness and substance abuse. The new grant will enable the Court to expand its capacity and place special focus on the sub-group of defendants who in addition to mental illness, have HIV/AIDS or are at

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risk for HIV contraction or transmission.

The new SAMSHA grant provides funding for screening, case management, compliance monitoring (i.e., drug testing), psychiatric services, bilingual services and program evaluation. Combined with state and local funding for mental health and substance abuse treatment and other services, this grant will enable the court's services to be available to some of the neediest individuals who come into the criminal justice system.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, February 08, 2005

VETERAN NEW YORK CITY CORRECTION OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO PETIT LARCENY AND OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a New York City Correction Officer has been convicted of stealing money from the mail sent to Rikers Island inmates over a three month period in 2002.

Michael Cook, 43, of Queens, pled guilty to one count each of Petit larceny and Official misconduct, both class "A" misdemeanor offenses.

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett set sentencing for Wednesday, March 30, 2005 in Part M60. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Cook, a thirteen year veteran of the New York City Department of Correction, will be ordered to pay restitution in the amount of $1,000 and must resign immediately.

The incidents occurred at the George Motchan Detention Center on Rikers Island between August 1, 2002 and October 31, 2002. An investigation by the New York City Corrections Department and the Department of Investigations began following inmate claims of mail tampering. During the investigation, Cook was observed on video tape and in still photos, opening mail, and stuffing money into his pockets.

Assistant District Attorney Rachel Singer of the Rackets Bureau is prosecuting this case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, February 18, 2005

MANHATTAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ASSAULT AND RELATED CHARGES FOR A " HIT AND RUN" IN WHICH TWO PEDESTRIANS WERE SERIOUSLY INJURED

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that Korey Bullock, 19, of Manhattan has pled guilty to assault and related charges for the January 2004 "hit and run" accident which left two pedestrians seriously injured.

Bullock, of 157 West 123rd Street, Manhattan, pled guilty to two counts of Assault in the 1st degree, one count each of Criminal possession of stolen property in the 4th degree, Reckless endangerment in the 2nd degree and Leaving the scene of an accident without reporting.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, State Supreme Court Justice Robert A. Sackett will sentence Bullock to a term of 15 years imprisonment when he appears on Thursday, March 10, 2005 in Part T24. The People had recommend that the defendant be sentenced to a term of 23 years imprisonment.

The incident occurred on January 19, 2004, near Bryant and Westchester Avenues. Police officers Michael Parchen, John Caruso and Ellis Deloren, on routine patrol in the 40th Precinct, spotted the defendant driving a vehicle with a broken tail light and missing rear view mirror. When they attempted to pull the driver over, the defendant fled and ran a red light on

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Westchester Avenue. The defendant lost control of the vehicle as he made a left turn onto Bryant Avenue striking Zanaida Rodriguez, 45, and her grandson Jonathan Garcia, 4, as they waited at a bus stop.

Bullock, according to court papers, got out of the vehicle and ran. Two of the Police Officers chased and apprehended the defendant. The impact of the crash nearly severed both of Rodriguez's legs. Her left leg was later amputated and she nearly lost her right leg. Garcia was thrown 12 to 15 feet and wedged underneath a bench. He suffered lacerations to his face and spleen and lost most of his teeth.

Assistant District Attorney Adam Oustatcher of the Child Abuse / Sex Crimes Unit is prosecuting this case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, February 18, 2005

BRONX MAN CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER IN THE FATAL SHOOTING OF A THIRTEEN YEAR OLD BOY

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a Bronx man has been convicted of manslaughter in the death of a thirteen year old boy.

Demetrius James, 28, of 630 Pugsley Avenue, was found guilty on one count of Manslaughter in the second degree and one count of Criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree, in the fatal shooting of Brandon Marcus in 2002. Both of the crimes are Class C felony offenses, punishable by a maximum sentence of up to fifteen years imprisonment. District Attorney Johnson said he would recommend that James be sentenced to consecutive fifteen year terms for a total of thirty years imprisonment. Acting State Supreme Court Justice Michael Gross set sentencing for Wednesday, March 16, 2005 in Part T11.

James shot and killed Brandon Marcus during a confrontation in an elevator at 630 Pugsley Avenue, shortly after midnight on December 27, 2002. The young boy was shot in the eye and brain following a heated verbal exchange minutes earlier between the defendant and an older cousin of the deceased.

The confrontation began in the building's lobby. When the defendant and two women friends entered the lobby they walked past the deceased, two of his cousins, a girlfriend of one of

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the cousins and her two young daughters. Defendant James, who is six feet tall and 350 pounds, took offense when the dead boy's older cousin, William Smallwood, 21, remarked that James resembled a rapper known as "Freeway". James and Smallwood, who is six feet five inches tall and 220 pounds, began arguing and challenging one another to fight. When the two men's girlfriends diffused the escalating confrontation, Smallwood and his group left the building. Thirteen year old Marcus and his ten year old cousin got on the elevator to go back upstairs to his apartment and were confronted by James who demanded to know who Smallwood was. While threatening to harm Smallwood, James grabbed Marcus, pushed him against the elevator wall and fatally shot the boy in front of his ten year old cousin.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Allen Karen and Assistant District Attorney Kathryn Salensky.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, February 18, 2005

SIXTEEN YEAR OLD BRONX YOUTH INDICTED FOR MURDER IN SHOOTING DEATH OF HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STAR

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the indictment of a sixteen year old youth for allegedly shooting to death a high school football star in the Throggs Neck section of the Bronx.

The grand jury indicted Quindell Francis on one count of Murder in the 2nd degree, one count of Manslaughter in the 1st degree and one count of Criminal possession of a weapon in the 2nd degree. If convicted on the murder charge, Francis would be facing a maximum sentence of 25 years to life imprisonment.

Francis, of 2774 Dewey Avenue, allegedly shot and killed Fernando Correa, 16, on February 1, 2005, behind a building at 352 Brinsmade Avenue.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christine Scaccia, Director of the Gang Prosecution Unit.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, February 24, 2005

BRONX MAN HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO A TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR A FEBRUARY 2004 ROBBERY

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that 38 year-old Jose Davila, has been sentenced to a determinate term of fourteen years imprisonment for the February 3, 2004 robbery of a 24 year-old woman. State Supreme Court Justice Martin Marcus imposed the sentence.

Davila, a predicate felon, of 3196 Villa Avenue, was convicted last month of one count of Robbery in the 1st degree for robbing Syreeta Johnson of her valuables.

The incident occurred when Davila approached Johnson in the laundry room of her building, asked her a question and then pretended to leave the building. The defendant re-entered the laundry room a few moments later, pushed a sharp object against the victim's back and demanded her belongings. Davila snatched Johnson's watch, ring, necklace, earrings and $18 in coins.

Davila fled and was chased by a good samaritan, until police apprehended Davila ten blocks away.

Assistant District Attorney's Asit S. Panwala, and Tania Stark of the Trial Bureau prosecuted this case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Monday, February 28, 2005

BRONX MAN IS SENTENCED TO A TERM OF TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR THE RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A SIX YEAR-OLD GIRL

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 47 year-old Bronx man has been sentenced to a term of twenty five years imprisonment for the rape and sexual abuse of a six year old girl.

George Medlin, of 620 Trinity Avenue, was found guilty on January18, 2005 of six counts of Criminal sexual act in the 1st degree and three counts of Rape in the 1st degree, both class "B" felony offenses, for sexually assaulting his girlfriend's six year-old daughter.

State Supreme Court Justice Caesar Cirigliano sentenced Medlin to nine concurrent terms of twenty five years imprisonment for each count of criminal sexual act and rape. Medlin must also serve five years post release supervision, and register as a sex offender. The level of his sex offender status will be determined fifteen days prior to discharge.

The incidents began around November 28, 2003 and continued to occur until February 6, 2004. On each occasion the child was left in the defendant's care while her mother went shopping. The defendant's actions were discovered after his victim told a friend what had happened. The friend then told her mother, who then told the victim's mother. Upon hearing

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what happened, the child's mother took her to a hospital, where the child was diagnosed with sexual abuse syndrome and vaginal lacerations.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Julia Chariott of the Child Abuse / Sex Crimes Bureau

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTEES

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the hiring of three new Assistant District Attorneys.

The new ADAs began a one-week training program under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Cari E. Ferreiro, Director of Litigation Training. The intensive program combines courtroom observation with lectures in criminal court practice.

The following is a list of the new Assistants and their law schools:

Elizabeth Brandon	Suffolk University Law School
Penelope Campoli	The Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University
Danielle Simone	Brooklyn Law School

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

BRONX WOMAN CONVICTED IN CONNECTION WITH A DEATH THAT OCCURRED DURING A "RITUAL CLEANSING"

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the conviction of a 62 year old woman in the death of a 32 year old client who had gone to the defendant's apartment for a "ritual cleansing."

Mildred Sanchez, of 51 North Street, the Bronx pled guilty to one count of Criminally negligent homicide in the death of Minerva Perez on February 24, 2004. Perez was killed during a ritual which involved the use of a candle, highly flammable Florida Water, and an alcoholic beverage. Perez was naked and bathing in the flammable liquid when it ignited. The victim sustained 2nd and 3rd degree burns over most of her body. The Medical Examiner ruled that the cause of death was a combination of the critical burns and a subsequent asthma attack that was triggered by the traumatic incident.

State Supreme Court Justice Troy Webber set sentencing for April 14, 2005 in Part T40. The judge indicated that she would impose a sentence of five years probation.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Nadia Chanza.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

FORMER HIGH RANKING OFFICIAL OF THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION CONVICTED OF GRAND LARCENY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the conviction of Anthony Serra on charges of grand larceny and conflict of interest.

Serra, a former Department of Correction Bureau Chief, pled guilty to one count of Grand larceny in the 3rd degree, a Class D felony offense, and one count of Conflict of Interest, a Class A misdemeanor offense.

The conviction is the culmination of a joint investigation by the Bronx District Attorney's Office and the New York City Department of Investigation.

District Attorney Johnson said: " Our goal in prosecuting this case vigorously was to maintain the integrity of public service. We believe that the efforts of all who were involved in the investigation and prosecution of these crimes, send a clear message that there is a price to pay for any public servant who places personal gain above the public good."

Department of Investigation Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said: "Anthony Serra's job was to enforce the law. Instead, he considered himself above the law. The depth and breadth of his misconduct is an insult the Department of Correction and the many dedicated, hardworking employees there. This case was investigated swiftly and successfully because my investigators

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worked with vigor and integrity despite difficult, trying circumstances. The Federal, State and City charges belie the suggestion that this case could not and would not be made. I am extremely proud of the work of DOI."

Executive Director Mark Davies of the NYC Conflicts of Interest Board said: "The New York City conflicts of interest law is designed to protect the integrity and efficiency of government operations, and is vital to the good functioning of our government. Public service is a public trust and public servants who violate that trust may be subject to criminal prosecution."

Under terms of the plea agreement, Serra will be sentenced to one year in jail and required to pay restitution to the City of New York. Serra will pay the City a minimum of $50,000 and could pay as much as $75,000 in restitution. A check in the amount of $25,000 was turned over today with the understanding that an additional $25,000 is to be paid on the date of sentencing. In the event that Serra is unable to make the second $25,000 payment when he is sentenced, he is to make arrangements with the NYC Department of Finance to pay an additional $50,000 over the next ten years. The City will collect the money through automatic deductions from Serra's pension benefits.

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett set sentencing for Tuesday, July 19, 2005 in Pt. 60. Serra's one year jail term on the state charges is to be served concurrently with his federal sentence for income tax evasion.

Serra, in pleading guilty to the single count of grand larceny, admitted that while serving as a high ranking official at the City jail on Rikers Island, he used Department of Correction personnel on construction projects at his home in suburban Mahopac, New York in Putnam

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County. The work was performed at taxpayers' expense by correction officers as well as civilian employees who were supposed to be on duty at Rikers Island. The work included the remodeling of a bathroom and kitchen, the construction of a basketball court and the installation of stereophonic loud speakers in a ceiling at Serra's home.

Serra, in pleading guilty to the Conflict of Interest charge, admitted that he had improperly used his influence to recruit subordinates ranging from wardens, assistant deputy wardens, captains, correction officers and civilian employees of the Department of Correction, to work as "volunteers" in a poll watching operation on behalf of Governor George Pataki's primary election campaigns to win the Conservative Party and Independence Party nominations for governor.

District Attorney Johnson thanked Commissioner of Investigation Rose Gill Hearn and her staff, DOI Assistant Commissioner Michael Caruso of the Correctional Services Unit, New York City Conflicts of Interest Board Executive Director Mark Davies and his staff, members of the Bronx DA's Investigations Division, Deputy Chief Bronx D.A. Detective Investigator Frank Viggiano, and Senior Bronx D.A. Detective Investigator John Wall, for their hard work on this investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Donald Levin, Assistant District Attorney Samuel Ramer, Assistant District Attorney Amir Toossi, and DOI Deputy Commissioner of Investigations Daniel Brownell who was cross designated as a Bronx Assistant District Attorney.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, March 10, 2005

MANHATTAN MAN IS SENTENCED TO A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR A "HIT AND RUN" INCIDENT THAT LEFT TWO PEDESTRIANS SERIOUSLY INJURED

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that 19 year-old Korey Bullock , of Manhattan, has been sentenced to a term of fifteen years imprisonment for the January 2004 "hit and run" accident that left two pedestrians seriously injured.

State Supreme Court Justice Robert A. Sackett, sentenced Bullock of 157 West 123rd Street, Manhattan, to a term of fifteen years imprisonment. Bullock pled guilty last month to two counts of Assault in the 1st degree, one count each of Criminal possession of stolen property in the 4th degree, Reckless endangerment in the 2nd degree and Leaving the scene of an accident without reporting.

The incident occurred on January 19, 2004, near Bryant and Westchester Avenues. Police officers Michael Parchen, John Caruso and Ellis Deloren, on routine patrol in the 40th Precinct, spotted the defendant driving a vehicle with a broken tail light and missing rear view mirror. When they attempted to pull the driver over, the defendant fled and ran a red light on Westchester Avenue. The defendant lost control of the vehicle as he made a left turn onto Bryant

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Avenue striking Zanaida Rodriguez, 45, and her grandson Jonathan Garcia, 4, as they waited at a bus stop.

Bullock, according to court papers, got out of the vehicle and ran. Two of the Police Officers chased and apprehended the defendant. The impact of the crash nearly severed both of Rodriguez's legs. Her left leg was later amputated and she nearly lost her right leg. Garcia was thrown 12 to 15 feet and wedged underneath a bench. He suffered lacerations to his face and spleen and lost most of his teeth.

Assistant District Attorney Adam Oustatcher of the Child Abuse / Sex Crimes Unit prosecuted this case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, March 15, 2004

BRONX MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MANSLAUGHTER IN THE FIRST DEGREE IN CONNECTION TO THE "CONTRACT KILLING" OF A 21 YEAR-OLD RETAIL CLERK

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 30 year-old Bronx man has been convicted of manslaughter and other unrelated charges.

Gilberto Adames, of 2307 Morris Avenue, pled guilty to one count of Manslaughter in the 1st degree in the stabbing death of Talina Bryant, a twenty-one year old retail clothing store sales clerk. Bryant died of multiple stab wounds on September 5, 2000. Acting State Supreme Court Justice Megan Tallmer set sentencing for Wednesday, March 23, 2005 in Part T22. The judge indicated that the defendant will be sentenced to a term of 17 ½ years imprisonment, with five years post release supervision. Adames will also be sentenced to a concurrent term of 4 ½ to 9 years imprisonment on an unrelated drug conviction. In that case, Adames pled guilty to one count of Attempted criminal sale of a controlled substance in the 5th degree.

Co-defendant David Mundo, of 1654 Monroe Avenue, the Bronx, pled guilty last October to one count of Murder in the 1st degree. Mundo is currently serving a term of 20 years to life imprisonment. Mundo, in pleading guilty to the first degree murder charge, told the court that the victim's landlord had paid him to kill the woman and that he had enlisted the assistance of

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Adames. The unidentified landlord has never been charged because of insufficient evidence.

Mundo, who admitted killing Bryant, said he and Adames bound Bryant with duct tape and stabbed her, before wrapping her body in plastic garbage bags. The pair then buried the victim's body near the Metro North Railroad tracks at 237th Street and Bullard Avenue.

Bryant had been living in a basement apartment on Hull Avenue in the Norwood section of the Bronx, when she was reported missing on September 6, 2000. Detectives found traces of blood in the apartment but the victim's body was not recovered. After nearly three years passed, police received information which linked Mundo to the crime. The defendant was arrested and charged with the murder.

This case is being prosecuted by Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Paul Rosenfeld of the General Crimes Division.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

CAREER CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO A MAXIMUM TERM OF UP TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR THE BRUTAL ASSAULT OF A NURSE IN A BRONX HOSPITAL

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a violent career criminal was sentenced to a maximum term of up to life imprisonment for brutally assaulting a nurse at Bronx Lebanon Hospital.

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Martin Marcus sentenced Andre Jeffries to a term of fourteen years to life imprisonment for the attack which occurred on March 2, 2002 in the hospital Emergency Room. Jeffries, aka "Jerry Miles," of 1704 Morris Avenue, the Bronx, was sentenced as a mandatory persistent violent felony offender. Jeffries was eligible for the life sentence in light of three prior felony convictions, for attempted armed robbery and illegal drug possession while serving time in state prison.

Jeffries pled guilty on November 5, 2004 to one count of Assault in the 2nd degree for attacking Charina Adamos, a 35 year old nurse who was treating a patient when the attack occurred. Adamos was getting the patient a glass of water when Jeffries followed her into a room where the water and ice were kept. When the door slammed shut behind them, Jeffries grabbed the nurse's clothing and demanded money. He punched the victim repeatedly head and face. When Adamos started screaming, Jeffries shoved his hand down her throat to silence her

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and ripped her tonsils and soft pallet in the process. Jeffries kicked the victim in the stomach, head and chest before leaving. As a result, Adamos sustained permanent damage to her throat despite surgery to repair her injuries.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Michele Rodney.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, March 22, 2005

THIRTEEN YEAR OLD GIRL CHARGED WITH MURDER IN THE DEATH OF HER NEWBORN CHILD - DEFENDANT TO BE PROSECUTED IN FAMILY COURT

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today, after a thorough assessment of the facts and circumstances, that a charge of Murder in the 2nd degree has been filed against a thirteen year old girl who allegedly pushed her baby boy through a window minutes after giving birth. The alleged crime occurred several hours before dawn at the defendant's home on January 14, 2005 approximately one month after her birthday.

Mabelin F. was arraigned before Criminal Court Justice Ira Margulis who granted a motion by the People to prosecute the case in Family Court.

District Attorney Johnson said: "Our objective is to see that the defendant is punished for taking a life while at the same time, given her age, mental state, and circumstances of the birth, we believe that the Family Court procedure has all of the appropriate sentencing options."

The maximum penalty upon conviction in Family Court is five years restrictive placement with the possibility of extending the period of confinement until the defendant turns twenty-one.

The case is being prosecuted in Family Court by Assistant District Attorney Kimberly Capers of the Child Abuse / Sex Offense Bureau.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Wednesday, March 23, 2005

GRAND JURY FILES MURDER AND RAPE CHARGES AGAINST A BROOKLYN MAN IN THE STABBING DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT OF ONE WOMAN AND THE SEXUAL ASSAULT OF ANOTHER - A FORMER GIRLFRIEND

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 48 year old Brooklyn man has been indicted on murder and other offenses in connection with the fatal stabbing of a 53 year old Bronx woman.

The grand jury indicted Marvin Byer, of 101 Woodruff Avenue, Brooklyn, on two counts of Murder in the 2nd degree, one count of Manslaughter in the 1st degree, one count of Rape in the 1st degree, one count of Sodomy in the 1st degree, and one count of Criminal possession of a weapon in the 4th degree. The most serious offense, murder, is punishable by a maximum sentence of 25 years to life imprisonment. Rape and sodomy are punishable by a maximum sentence of up to 25 years imprisonment for each offense. Byer is being held without bail and is scheduled to be arraigned on the indictment on May 9, 2005 in State Supreme Court, Part A2.

The charges of intentional murder, "depraved indifference" murder, and manslaughter concern the death of Eleanor Jackson whom the defendant allegedly stabbed in the chest during a heated argument. The rape and sodomy charges concern the defendant's alleged actions in sexually assaulting his former girlfriend.

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The brutal crimes occurred when Byer allegedly went to the former girlfriend's apartment in an effort to reconcile the relationship. While Byer was waiting for her to arrive home, Jackson entered the apartment. It is alleged that Byer stabbed Jackson, put her body in the bathtub, and wiped up the blood before his former girlfriend returned home. When she did arrive at the apartment, Byer allegedly ordered her into the bedroom where she was threatened, raped and sodomized. The body was later dismembered, placed in plastic bags and discarded. Some body parts were placed in several public trash cans and some were disposed of in a dumpster across the street from the building where the murder occurred.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Suzanne McElwreath.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Wednesday, March 30, 2005

BRONX MAN CONVICTED OF MURDER IN THE STABBING DEATH OF ELDERLY RETIRED SCHOOL TEACHER

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the conviction of a 24 year old defendant in the stabbing death of a 71-year old retired high school teacher and an unrelated armed robbery of a 29 year old victim.

Andre Jon-Hope, of 653 Britton Street, the Bronx, pled guilty to one count of Murder in the 2nd degree in the death of Carl Dunat and one count of Robbery in the 1st degree in a mugging several hours after the murder. Both crimes occurred on September 10, 2004 in Pelham Bay Park.

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Denis Boyle set sentencing for Wednesday, April 27, 2005 in Part 20. Under terms of the plea agreement Jon-Hope will be sentenced to serve 20 years to life imprisonment.

Dunat, a retiree who had taught for many years at Evander Childs High School, was brutally beaten and stabbed in the abdomen with a screwdriver, after being robbed in a heavily wooded area in Pelham Bay Park. Several hours later, Jon-Hope beat and robbed a second victim in the park. The defendant took cash, a watch and a cellular phone from Christopher McLaughlin, 29, who managed to escape and later sought treatment at a nearby hospital. Jon-

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Hope was arrested two days later when detectives traced calls that he had made using the stolen cell phone. During questioning about that robbery, Jon-Hope also admitted that he had murdered Dunat.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Thomas Kapp

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

FATHER INDICTED FOR MURDER IN BEATING DEATH TWO YEAR OLD TODDLER

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the indictment of a 24 year old Bronx man in the beating death of his two year old son.

The grand jury charged Angelo Vanterpool with three counts of Murder in the second degree, and two counts of Manslaughter in the first degree, in the death of Vision Redick, and one count of Endangering the Welfare of a Child. Vanterpool was charged with intentional murder, depraved indifference murder, and murder under another provision of the statute that pertains to a victim under eleven years of age when a defendant is over eighteen. Conviction on any one of these counts is punishable by a maximum sentence of 25 years to life imprisonment. Conviction on either charge of Intentional Manslaughter, or Manslaughter in which a victim is under eleven and the defendant is eighteen or older, is punishable by a maximum sentence of up to 25 years imprisonment.

The toddler had been left in his father's care and was killed on March 29, 2005 in their apartment on Barnes Avenue.

Vanterpool, who's being held without bail, is to be arraigned on the indictment on Thursday, May 26, 2005 in State Supreme Court Part A. Assistant District Attorney Adam Oustatcher of the Child Abuse / Sex Offense Bureau is prosecuting the case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, April 7, 2005

BRONX MAN CONVICTED OF HATE CRIME IN STICKER PASTING INCIDENT AT THROGGS NECK JEWISH CENTER

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the "hate crime" conviction of a Bronx man who was responsible for the placement of Nazi stickers on a Jewish Community Center last summer. The stickers were obtained from the website of a hate group based in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Thomas Zibelli, 34, of 1811 Radcliffe Avenue, in the Morris Park section of the Bronx, pled guilty to one count of Aggravated Harassment in the 2nd degree as a "hate crime." State Supreme Court Justice Troy Webber set sentencing for Tuesday, May 17, 2005 in Part 40. The judge indicated that she would impose a sentence of five years probation and require Zibelli to complete an ethnic sensitivity program. The People will recommend a sentence of six months in jail followed by probation. Ordinarily, Aggravated Harassment in the 2nd degree is a misdemeanor offense, but since a bias against Jews was the motive, the crime rises to the level of a felony offense

The incident occurred on August 28, 2004 at the Throggs Neck Jewish Center at 2918 Lafayette Avenue. Zibelli admitted that he recruited three young men from his neighborhood to

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blanket the outside areas of the center with stickers containing Swastikas and racist slogans. Zibelli said that he bought beer for the young men, gave them the anti-Jewish stickers, and drove them to the vicinity of the center. Zibelli said he directed two of the three recruits to place the stickers on the fence, door and message board.

Similar bias related charges also were filed against Zibelli by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

Assistant District Attorney Adam Oustatcher is prosecuting the case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

DISPOSITION OF CHARGES IN HIGH SCHOOL CONFRONTATION INVOLVING THE PRINCIPAL, A SCHOOL AIDE, AND A NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER

On February 3, 2005, the Bronx Guild High School was the scene of an unfortunate and unnecessary confrontation between school and police authorities. The incident was precipitated when a student, Ashley Vega, began screaming at a school aide in a corridor. When Police Officer Juan Gonzalez intervened and attempted to issue a summons to Ms. Vega, she retreated into a classroom. Thereafter, inside the classroom a confrontation ensued between Officer Gonzalez, School Principal Michael Soquero, and school aide James Burgos, which led to the filing of criminal charges.

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced that after assessing, individually, the motives and actions of each defendant, and taking into consideration statements in court by Soquero and Burgos, the charges were resolved as follows: Misdemeanor offenses of Assault in the 3rd degree, Obstructing Governmental Administration in the 2nd degree and Refusing to Aid a Peace or a Police Officer were dismissed against school principal Soquero, and adjourned in contemplation of dismissal in the case against school aide Burgos.

Mr. Johnson, in announcing the dispositions said: "Disrespect for the authority of police officers is one of my pet peeves, and there is no excuse for the conduct of the defendants in this

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case, which, as they acknowledge, set a terrible example for the rest of the school. Police Officers assigned to public schools must be allowed to do their jobs, and we are fortunate that this police officer did not suffer a serious injury. What is most unusual about this situation is that the principal and his aide were under the impression that they were acting in the best interests of the school, and with some authority. Considering that and all of the other circumstances, in my discretion these cases will be handled outside of the courts. It is now up to the educational authorities to decide if further sanctions are warranted against either of the school officials.

It is vital that confrontations like this one do not arise again. School safety and a proper educational environment are not inconsistent. The educational authorities recognized that when they invited the police into the schools. I would like to use this opportunity to serve notice that in the future, those who interfere with a police officer in a school will indeed be prosecuted."

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

ANNUAL SURVIVORS TRIBUTE AND DISPLAY OF 'BRONX CLOTHESLINE PROJECT' SHINE SPOTLIGHT ON WIDE VARIETY OF SERVICES FOR CRIME VICTIMS

The Bronx District Attorney's Crime Victims Assistance Unit, in collaboration with The Bronx Committee for National Crime Victims' Rights Week, is sponsoring the ninth annual Survivors Tribute and display of The Bronx Clothesline Project to help raise awareness of a myriad of services that are available to victims of crime. The theme for this year's observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week is "Justice Isn't Served Until Crime Victims Are."

District Attorney Johnson said: "Some in their zeal to punish offenders inadvertently overlook the needs of victims. The annual observance of National Crime Victims' Right Week helps to ensure that the scales of justice are more balanced and that we also do everything possible to enable victims to rebuild their lives. Although we in law enforcement have accomplished much in these past 25 years since the first observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, much more remains to be done."

The display is a striking visual presentation of numerous T-shirts hanging side by side on a clothesline. The T-shirts containing messages, poems, photographs and drawings, have been

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decorated by survivors of domestic violence, rape, child abuse, assault, elder abuse and other crimes of violence. Some T-shirts are memorials to homicide victims, but they all tell the stories of tragic, painful events in the lives of people who have been victimized by crime and their heroic struggle to recover and thrive in spite of their loss. With the Clothesline display serving as a backdrop, some survivors will share verbal testimonials about their victimization and subsequent struggle to prevail.

The Director of the Bronx DA Crime Victims Assistance Unit, Beth Ann Holzhay said: "This event is all about the empowerment of people who have victimized by crime. Whether through the artistic expression of the Clothesline or the verbal testimonials, survivors have an opportunity to "break their silence about what happened and have their voices heard, in order to begin the process of healing."

People attending the Survivors Tribute and Information Fair will be able to obtain a comprehensive booklet of numerous services offered by dozens of Bronx based providers that are available for victims of crime, including those offered directly by the Bronx DA Crime Victims Assistance Unit.

The event's sponsor, The Bronx Committee for National Crime Victims' Rights Week, is composed of the Bronx District Attorney's Office; Safe Horizon; the NYPD Special Victims Unit; St. Barnabas Hospital / Child Advocacy Center; the Office of State Senator Ruth Hassell-

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Thompson; SCAN- Support Children's Advocacy Network; Kingsbridge Heights Community Center; Aging in America; Institute for Puerto Rican / Hispanic Elderly; Jewish Board for Family & Children Services; Fordham Tremont Community Mental Health; North Central Bronx - Rape Crisis Intervention Program; Bronx Independent Living Services; LIFT - Legal Information for Families Today; East Harlem Neighborhood Based Alliance; NYC Human Resource Administration; Bronx Mental Health Council; NY Institute for Special Education; Center for Court Innovation; Child and Adolescent Witness Support Program.

The display of Bronx Clothesline Project and the Survivors Tribute are part of an Information Fair that will be held on Thursday evening, April 14, 2005, at the Evander Childs High School Campus Auditorium, at 800 East Gunhill Road, Bronx, New York.

The two hour program is scheduled to begin at 6:00 P.M.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, April 14, 2005

BRONX WOMAN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS PROBATION IN CONNECTION WITH A DEATH THAT OCCURRED DURING A "RITUAL CLEANSING"

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that 62 year-old Mildred Sanchez, has been sentenced to a term of five years probation by State Supreme Court Justice Troy K. Webber, in the death of a 32 year old client who had gone to the defendant's apartment for a "ritual cleansing."

Sanchez, of 51 North Street, the Bronx, was convicted last month of one count of Criminally negligent homicide in the death of Minerva Perez on February 24, 2004. Perez was killed during a ritual which involved the use of a candle, highly flammable Florida Water, and an alcoholic beverage. Perez was naked and bathing in the flammable liquid when it ignited. The victim sustained 2nd and 3rd degree burns over most of her body. The Medical Examiner ruled that the cause of death was a combination of the critical burns and a subsequent asthma attack that was triggered by the traumatic incident.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Nadia Chanza of the General Crimes Division.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Monday, April 18, 2005

DISPOSITION OF CHARGES IN HIGH SCHOOL CONFRONTATION INVOLVING A STUDENT, THE PRINCIPAL, A SCHOOL AIDE, AND A NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER

On February 3, 2005, the Bronx Guild High School was the scene of an unfortunate and unnecessary confrontation between school and police authorities. The incident precipitated when a student, Ashley Vega, began screaming a a school aide in a corridor. When Police Officer Juan Gonzalez intervened and attempted to issue a summons to Ms. Vega, she retreated into a classroom. Thereafter, inside the classroom a confrontation ensued between Officer Gonzalez, School Principal Michael Soquero, school aide James Burgos and student Ashley Vega, which led to the filing of criminal charges.

Vega, charged with one count of Criminal Mischief in the 4th degree, a Class "A" misdemeanor, and one count of Disorderly conduct, a violation, appeared before Acting State Supreme Court Justice Steven L. Barrett, who adjourned the case in contemplation of dismissal. The defendant apologized, stating that: "Michael Soquero and James Burgos have always supported me. I'm sorry that what happened went this far. I apologize for my language and conduct. What I did was wrong. I hope that I can learn from this."

Last Tuesday, Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced that after assessing,

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individually, the motives and actions of each defendant, and taking into consideration statements in court by Soquero and Burgos, the charges were resolved as follows: Misdemeanor offenses of Assault in the 3rd degree, Obstructing Governmental Administration in the 2nd degree and refusing to aid a Peace or a Police Officer were dismissed against Principal Soquero, and adjourned contemplation of dismissal in the case against school aide Burgos.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christopher Clarke.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

BRONX MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO SEVERAL COUNTS OF MAKING GRAFFITI

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 36 year-old Bronx man has been convicted of making graffiti on four different buildings last month.

John Bethea, aka "John Wayne" pled guilty to four counts of Making graffiti, a class "A" misdemeanor offense. Acting State Supreme Court Justice John N. Byrne set sentencing for Thursday, May 5, 2005 in Part A. Under the terms of the plea agreement Bethea will be sentenced to a term of nine months in jail.

The first incident occurred on March 4, 2005 at 3471 Fenton Avenue, where the defendant was observed by a police officer writing on the side of the building. The second incident occurred on March 13, 2005, when an eyewitness called the police after observing the defendant writing on the side of a building at 3479 Boston Road. When the police arrived, the defendant was still in the vicinity and was arrested.

The third incident, on March 22, 2005, occurred at 3443 Boston Road, where Bethea was observed by a police officer spray painting his tag on side of the building. The fourth and final incident occurred on March 29, 2005. Police Officers from the 47th Precinct, observed the defendant spray painting a bus that had just pulled into the bus-stop on the corner of Laconia

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Avenue and 225th Street.

Assistant District Attorney April Cohen of the General Crimes Division is prosecuting this case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, April 28, 2005

BRONX MAN IS CONVICTED OF MURDER IN THE 2003 SHOOTING DEATH OF AN UNARMED FATHER OF THREE

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 22 year-old Bronx man has been convicted of murder and related weapons charges for the 2003 shooting death of a 40 year-old Bronx father of three at a local laundromat.

A jury found Raymond Ramirez, of 3300 Tieman Avenue, the Bronx, guilty of one count of Murder in the 2nd degree and one count of Criminal possession of a weapon in the 2nd degree, in the shooting death of Willie Brunson. Acting State Supreme Court Justice Seth Marvin set sentencing for Wednesday, May 25, 2005 in Part T27. Ramirez faces a term of up to 25 years to life imprisonment.

The murder occurred on the evening of November 30, 2003, after Ramirez became angry with Brunson for not holding a door open for an elderly lady who was exiting a Laundromat located at 3563 Boston Road. Following a brief argument between Ramirez and Brunson, Ramirez shot the victim once in the chest and fled. A witness testified that Ramirez later bragged about shooting Brunson after the deceased called him "little man."

The defendant was apprehended at his home a short time later. A 25 caliber semi-automatic weapon was recovered in the defendant's backyard. Ballistic tests concluded it

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was the murder weapon.

Assistant District Attorney Debra A. Guarnieri of the General Crimes Division is prosecuting this case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, May 6, 2005

DEFENDANT CONVICTED OF MURDER IN THE BEATING DEATH OF HIS SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD GIRLFRIEND WHEN ARGUMENT ESCALATES INTO JEALOUS RAGE

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 37 year old man was convicted of murder in the death of his 17 year old girlfriend whose dismembered body parts were discovered in three separate locations.

Robert Foster pled guilty to one count of Murder in the 2nd degree in the beating death of Lisa Lennon on August 14, 2000. Acting State Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett set sentencing for Monday, May 23, 2005 in Part 60. The judge indicated that Foster would be sentenced to a term of 15 years to life imprisonment to be served consecutive to a four year sentence for an assault conviction in California.

Lennon, the mother of the couple's then infant son, died as a result of "homicidal violence with multiple blunt force trauma to the head" according to the Medical Examiner. The murder occurred at the couple's Ward's Avenue apartment where they had been arguing over the issue of the victim going out on a date with another man.

Foster admitted that he put the victim's body in the bathtub where he dismembered it before stuffing the body parts into three suitcases for disposal. The suitcases were discovered at

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locations in the Hudson River, East River and on Rikers Island where one of the suitcases washed ashore. The victim was identified from fingerprints.

Foster fled the jurisdiction following the murder traveling first to Mexico and then to California where he was arrested in May, 2003 for assaulting another girlfriend. Authorities in California then discovered that Foster was wanted for murder in the Bronx. He was convicted on the California assault charge, sentenced to four years imprisonment and subsequently returned to the Bronx.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robert Bergida of the Investigations Division.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Monday, May 9, 2005

BROOKLYN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHARGES OF CONSPIRING TO COMMIT MURDER

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that 34 year-old Edmund Melendez, of Brooklyn, has been convicted of conspiring to commit murder and set fire to a neighborhood pizza shop at 173 Hemlock Street, Brooklyn.

Melendez, of 22 Adler Place, Brooklyn, pled guilty to one count of Conspiracy in the 2nd degree, a class "B" felony offense. Under the terms of the plea agreement Acting State Supreme Court Justice Steven L. Barrett is expected to sentence Melendez a predicate felony offender, to a term of nine to eighteen years imprisonment.

The incident occurred on June 8, 2004, in the vicinity of White Plains Road and Bruckner Boulevard, when Melendez met with an undercover police officer from the Bronx DA's Office whom he believed could assist him in getting a gun to commit a robbery and murder. While plotting the crime, Melendez told the undercover detective that there would be $50,000 at the location that the two of them can split. The defendant then gave the detective a diagram of the pizza shop.

According to the Criminal Court Complaint, and in a videotaped statement, Melendez described in detail how the crime should take place. Melendez stated that he would "kill the

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owner and everyone who works there. I will cut their throats, kill them and burn the place". Melendez was then immediately arrested.

Mr. Johnson thanked the Officers of the NYPD Conditions Unit of the 43rd Precinct, and the members of the Bronx District Attorney's Detective Investigator's Squad for the expeditious conclusion.

Assistant District Attorney Dennis Consumano of the Rackets Bureau prosecuted this case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, May 12, 2005

FORMER FUGITIVE CONVICTED IN THE STABBING DEATH OF A LIVERY CAB DRIVER

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a man, who led authorities in an international game of "cat and mouse," has been convicted of manslaughter in the stabbing death of a 22 year old livery cab driver.

Robin Valentin, 27, formerly of 244 Kingsbridge Road, the Bronx, pled guilty to one count of Manslaughter in the 1st degree, a Class B felony offense, in the death of Jose Gutierrez. Gutierrez was an auxiliary police officer and a senior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He was driving a cab in order to pay his tuition.

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett set sentencing for Wednesday, June 8, 2005 in Part M60. Under terms of the plea agreement, the Judge will sentence Valentin to serve 22 years in prison with post release supervision for five years.

Gutierrez was pronounced dead at Jacobi Hospital after being stabbed in the neck on April 22, 2001. The fatal confrontation with Valentin and four other people began when the vehicle that Gutierrez was driving accidentally bumped into the motorcycle that belonged to one of Valentin's co-defendants. Valentin and the others chased Gutierrez and caught up with him at the intersection at Middletown Road and the Bruckner Expressway, where Gutierrez was

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surrounded when his car stalled. Valentin stabbed the victim once in the neck through the open driver's side window of the livery cab.

Valentin fled first to the Dominican Republic immediately after the homicide and later to Belgium where he was arrested in November 2003 after eluding authorities for nearly two and a half years. In April 2004, the defendant was extradited to the United States with the assistance of U.S. Senator Charles Schumer.

Four other people in addition to Valentin, have been convicted of various offenses in connection with this killing. Densil Vasquez, 24, of 1770 Andrews Avenue, and Fidel Genoa, 25, of 782 Pelham Parkway, pled guilty in May 2004 to 1 count of Reckless endangerment in the 2nd degree. Both are to be sentenced next month. A third co-defendant, Algeny Capellan, 24, of 31 Mosholu Parkway, pled guilty in March 2003, to 1 count of Reckless endangerment in the 1st degree. Capellan, who was also charged in an unrelated indictment with possessing stolen property, was sentenced to time served. In February 2003, a fourth defendant, Alphonso Sanchez, 23, of 185 East 163rd Street, pled guilty to 1 count of Attempted Assault in the 1st degree and was sentenced to a term of three and a half years imprisonment.

Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Theresa Gottlieb is prosecuting the case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, May 13, 2005

GRAND JURY INDICTS TWO TEENS ON CHARGES OF GANG ASSAULT IN THE BEATING OF A BRONX PRIEST

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a grand jury has indicted two teenagers on multiple counts of assault in the brutal beating of a Roman Catholic priest.

John Burgos, 15, of 681 Courtlandt Avenue, the Bronx and Othoniel Saez, 17, of 2200 Walton Avenue, the Bronx, were charged with Gang Assault in the 1st degree, Assault in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd degrees, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 4th degree in the May 2, 2005 attack that resulted in serious physical injury to the Reverend Jorge Fernandez. If convicted of the most serious charges of Gang Assault in the 1st degree or Assault in the 1st degree, Burgos, a juvenile offender, would face a maximum sentence of 3 1/3 to 10 years imprisonment; Saez, an adult, would face a maximum sentence of 5 to 25 years imprisonment.

Reverend Fernandez allegedly was accosted by Burgos, Saez and other young men, in the vicinity of Borough Hall Park near Third Avenue and East Tremont Avenue. The priest was returning to the Church of Our Savior from his morning jog when the teens allegedly punched and kicked him repeatedly in the face, head, and body. Reverend Fernandez was hospitalized with a broken jaw, which required surgery, and also was treated for substantial pain, swelling, bruising, and soreness.

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A third defendant, Angel Cespedes, 16, is facing similar charges which are still pending before the grand jury.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Adrienne Giunta.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

TWO BRONX MEN ARE SENTENCED ON ROBBERY AND WEAPONS CHARGES FOR THE GUNPOINT ROBBERY OF A CO-OP CITY MAN

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that 25 year-old Larry Jones, and 24 year-old Willie Green of Co-op City, have been sentenced to terms of thirteen and eleven years respectively, for crimes committed during the January 2004 gunpoint robbery of 24 year-old Robert Moore, a Co-op City resident.

A jury found Jones, of 100 Donizetti Place, guilty last month of one count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd degree, with intent to use unlawfully, a class "C" felony offense. Jury deliberations on the charge of Robbery in the 1st degree against Jones ended in a hung jury. Acting State Supreme Court Justice Michael A. Gross sentenced Jones to a determinate term of thirteen years imprisonment.

Co-defendant Willie Green, of 140 Dekruif Place, pled guilty last March to one count of Robbery in the 1st degree. Under thc terms of the plea agreement, Acting State Supreme Court Justice Michael A. Gross sentenced Green, a predicate felon, to a term of eleven years imprisonment.

The robbery, according to testimony, occurred on January 17, 2004, when Jones and Green approached Moore as he entered 140 Dekruif Place. Moore was pistol whipped before the

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gun was placed in his mouth as his possessions were taken, including $90 in cash, a cell phone and his jacket.

Moore called 911 and within minutes armed security officers Carmelo Perez and Daniel Garcia from the Co-op City Department of Public Safety responded. The two Officers canvassed the area, and spotted the defendants who then fled. During the chase Peace Officer Perez observed Jones reach into his jacket and pull out a gun. Officer Perez tackled Jones and held him until assistance arrived. Officer Garcia continued to chase Green and captured him a short time later.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney's Lawrence D. Piergrossi and Raniece Medley of the General Crimes Division.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

BRONX MAN FACING NINE MONTHS IN JAIL FOR BRUTALIZING A SIX MONTH OLD KITTEN

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 32 year old parolee is facing a nine month jail sentence for administering a brutal beating to a six month old kitten.

Robert Cabassa, of 693 East 189th Street, the Bronx, pled guilty to one count of Torturing and Injuring Animals. The kitten survived but suffered a fractured eye socket, missing and fractured teeth, and singed whiskers. Cabassa said he became enraged because he thought the kitten had urinated on his computer.

Acting State Supreme Court Justice John Byrne set sentencing for Tuesday, May 31, 2005 in Part A. Cabassa's arrest on the animal cruelty charge violated the terms of his parole. As a result Cabassa has to serve the remaining five months on a sentence of one and a half to three years imprisonment for a forgery conviction in Dutchess County, New York. The sentences will run concurrent. In addition to the nine months in jail for animal cruelty, Cabassa also is prohibited from owning a pet for five years.

Assistant District Attorney Kiran Vashishta is prosecuting the case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, May 20, 2005

FORMER NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER IS CONVICTED OF ATTEMPTING TO FILE A FRAUDULENT ACCIDENT REPORT IN CONNECTION WITH A SCAM TO DEFRAUD AUTO INSURANCE COMPANIES

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a former NYC Police Officer, 37, has been convicted of official misconduct for attempting to file a fraudulent accident report in 2002 in connection with a scheme to defraud insurance companies.

A jury found Irvin Maldonado, of the Bronx, guilty of one count of Official Misconduct, a class "A" misdemeanor offense. Maldonado faces a term of up to one year in jail when he appears before Acting State Supreme Court Justice Peter J. Benitez for sentencing on Friday June 10, 2005, in Part T3.

According to testimony, Maldonado, a thirteen year veteran, assigned to the New York City Housing Police section PSA6, prepared and attempted to file a fraudulent accident report between November 1, 2002 and November 6, 2002.

Three other former police officers were also convicted on various charges in connection with the automobile insurance scam. Trinidad Martinez, 32, pled guilty to one count of Grand larceny in the 2nd degree on March 15, 2005. Julian Martinez, 32, pled guilty to once count of Bribe receiving in the 3rd degree on January 26, 2005 and Ernesto Colon, 35, pled guilty to one count of Grand larceny in the 3rd degree on October 19, 2004. All three defendants were

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sentenced to five years probation.

The four former police officers, along with twelve civilians, were charged following a joint investigation by the Bronx District Attorney's Office, NYPD's Internal Affairs Bureau and the New York State Department of Insurance.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Larry Hartsetin, and Assistant District Attorney Gregory Cho, of the Investigations Division.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, May 26, 2005

BRONX MAN IS SENTENCED TO TWENTY YEARS IMPRISONMENT ON ASSAULT CHARGES

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that 38 year-old Delroy Pitterson has been sentenced to a term of twenty years imprisonment for the June 2003 assault of his ex-girlfriend Eunice Deacon.

Pitterson, aka "Spaghetti", of 3034 Holland Avenue, was found guilty on May 10, 2005 of two counts of Assault in the 1st degree, and one count of Attempted Assault in the 1st degree, and one count each of Criminal possession of a weapon in the 2nd and 3rd degrees. He was acquitted on the charge of Attempted Murder in the 2nd degree.

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Judith Lieb sentenced Pitterson to five concurrent terms of twenty years imprisonment for each count of assault, a term of fifteen years imprisonment on the charge of attempted assault, and terms of fifteen and seven years imprisonment respectively on the weapons charges. Pitterson must also serve five years post release supervision.

The assault occurred around 7:00AM, on June 11, 2003, when Pitterson confronted Deacon as she entered the lobby of her building demanding to know where she had been. Unsatisfied with her answer, Pitterson pulled out a 9mm handgun and fired four shots at Deacon

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striking her once in the left hand before his gun jammed. Deacon ran out of the building screaming while Pitterson, who had jumped into his van, chased Deacon down the sidewalk and ran her over as she reached Burke Avenue. The defendant fled and turned himself in later that morning. Deacon suffered a fractured elbow, shoulder and ribs, a punctured lung and internal bleeding.

This case was prosecuted by Senior Trial Assistant district Attorney Bruce Birns of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, May 26, 2005

BRONX MAN IS SENTENCED TO ELEVEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR THE 2004 ATTEMPTED MURDER OF TWO VARIETY STORE OWNERS

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 20 year-old Bronx man has been sentenced to a term of eleven years imprisonment for the attempted murder of an elderly couple during a thwarted robbery attempt.

Julius Pena, of 1140 Clay Avenue, pled guilty last May to one count of Attempted Murder in the 2nd degree, for the 2004 slashing of Don and Young Sang. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Acting State Supreme Court Justice William Mogulescu sentenced Pena to a determinate term of eleven years imprisonment. Pena was also sentenced to a concurrent term of six years imprisonment for an unrelated case here in Bronx County for Robbery in the 1st degree. The People had asked for a term of twenty years imprisonment.

Co-defendant Alfa Reid, of 1140 Clay Avenue, pled guilty to one count of Attempted Robbery in the 3rd degree. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Reid, a predicate felon, will receive an indeterminate term of between two and four years imprisonment when he appears for sentencing on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 in Part A.

The incident occurred on January 12, 2004, when Pena and Reid entered the "Sangs Gift & Beauty Supply" store at 190 East 167th Street and announced a hold up. Pena took out a gun

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and immediately struck Young Sang about her head and face as she stood near the cash register. Don Sang pushed Reid out of the store and returned to help his wife. When Don Sang tried to take the gun from the defendant, Pena took out a box cutter and started slashing the Sangs.

A fellow merchant, Soo Shin, heard the commotion and was also slashed across his face by the defendant when he intervened. Both the Sangs and Mr. Shin held Pena until the police arrived. Don Sang and Soo Shin both sustained multiple facial lacerations and contusions. Young Sang required surgery to repair the lacerations to her face.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Sara I. Jacobson of the General Crimes Division.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

SUMMER INTERNS RETURN TO THE BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that 24 law school and college students began an eight-week summer internship program this past Monday, June 6, 2005.

The interns will help attorneys prepare cases for trial and provide research and other assistance in the following bureaus: Criminal Court, Appeals, Gang Prosecutions, Investigations, Narcotics, Domestic Violence, Child Abuse / Sex Crimes, General Crimes Division and Felony Trial Bureaus. Interns have also been assigned to the Complaint room / Arraignment Bureau, the Community Affairs Unit and the Crime Victims Assistance Unit.

The law school students will work under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Maria T. Rivero, Director of Legal Recruitment. The college students will work under the supervision of Lawrence M. Young, Deputy Administrative Chief.

The summer interns and their schools are as follows:

Kerri-Ann Anderson	Harvard Law School
Patricia Arce	Brooklyn Law School
Patrick Butler	New England School of Law
Nadia Falzarano	Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center

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Jina Gouraige	New York Law School
Raed Issa	Vermont Law School
Colleen Kilfoyle	Brooklyn Law School
George Klidonas	Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center
Allyson Kohlmann	Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center
Aurelia Martinez	Pennsylvania State University, Dickinson School of Law
Laura Mullaney	St. John's University School of Law
John O'Callaghan	Brooklyn Law School
Leslie Rosen	Brooklyn Law School
Paige Saperstein	Albany Law School
Jason Scheu	Brooklyn Law School
Latrice Walker	Pace University School of Law
Jenny Wang	Pace University School of Law
Kristin Weinberger	New York Law School

College Students

Telisha Campbell	Pace University
Racheal Clarke	John Jay College
Cristina Gomez	Monroe College
Aaron Palash	Carleton College
Dylan G. Rosenberg	John Jay College
Dominique Winters	Bronx Community College

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

FORMER INTERNATIONAL FUGITIVE SENTENCED TO 22 YEARS IMPRISONMENT IN THE STABBING DEATH OF A LIVERY CAB DRIVER

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that former fugitive Robin Valentin was sentenced to a term of 22 years imprisonment in the stabbing death of livery cab driver Jose Gutierrez in May 2001.

Valentin pled guilty last month to one count of Manslaughter in the 1st degree and admitted that he had caused Gutierrez' death by stabbing the victim in the neck during a confrontation following a car chase.

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett imposed the sentence of 22 years in prison followed by post release supervision for five years after hearing from several relatives of the victim including his mother and sister. Gutierrez was an auxiliary police officer and a senior at John Jay College of Criminal Justice when he was killed. Gutierrez was driving a cab in order to pay his tuition. Judge Barrett also heard from defendant Valentin who expressed remorse to the family of the victim and apologized to his own family for the pain that he has caused.

Gutierrez was stabbed to death on April 22, 2001 during a confrontation with Valentin and four other people after his car accidentally bumped into a motorcycle that belonged to one of Valentin's co-defendants. Valentin and the others chased Gutierrez and caught up with him at

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the intersection of Middletown Road and the Bruckner Expressway, where Gutierrez was surrounded after his car stalled. Valentin stabbed Gutierrez once in the neck through the open driver's side window of the livery cab.

Valentin fled following the homicide and led authorities on an international chase, first to the Dominican Republic and later to Belgium where he was arrested in November 2003. He was extradited to the United States in April 2004 with the assistance of U.S. Senator Charles Schumer.

Four other people, in addition to Valentin, have been convicted of various offenses in connection with this killing. Densil Vasquez, 24, of 1770 Andrews Avenue, and Fidel Genoa, 25, of 782 Pelham Parkway, each pled guilty in May 2004 to 1 count of Reckless endangerment in the 2nd degree. Both are scheduled to be sentenced June 28, 2005. A third co-defendant, Algeny Capellan, 24, of 31 Mosholu Parkway, pled guilty in March 2003, to 1 count of Reckless endangerment in the 1st degree. Capellan, who was also charged in an unrelated indictment with possessing stolen property, was sentenced to time served. In February 2003, a fourth defendant, Alphonso Sanchez, 23, of 185 East 163rd Street, pled guilty to 1 count of Attempted Assault in the 1st degree and was sentenced to a term of three and a half years imprisonment.

Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Theresa Gottlieb is prosecuting the case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, June 8, 2005

FORMER CITY MARSHAL'S CLERK PLEADS GUILTY IN THEFT OF NEARLY $172,000 FROM HER EMPLOYER

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that 32 year-old Marcia Skeffery, a former clerk for a city marshal, has been convicted of attempted criminal possession of stolen property, for embezzling nearly $172,000 from her employer, Marshal Ruth Burko.

Skeffery, of 1704 Bussing Avenue, the Bronx, pled guilty to one count of Attempted criminal possession of stolen property in the 2nd degree. Acting State Supreme Court Justice Seth Marvin set sentencing for Wednesday, July 13, 2005, in Part T-27. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Skeffery is expected to be sentenced to a term of between one and three years imprisonment. In addition, Skeffery was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of $25,000.

The Department of Investigations (DOI) began an investigation after Marshal Burko reported "redemption" money, payments made by car owners to redeem towed vehicles, was missing. DOI investigators discovered that Skeffery, had skimmed approximately $171,483 from about 296 vehicle owners. Skeffery, was responsible for receiving and recording payments, issuing receipts, depositing collected money in the marshal's official bank account, and preparing checks for the Department of Finance to pay the car owner's parking fines.

Mr. Johnson thanked Rose Gill Hearn, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation,

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along with her staff for bringing this case to our attention. Mr. Johnson also acknowledged Department of Finance Commissioner Martha E. Stark and her staff for their assistance in this case.

Assistant District Attorney Earamichia N. Brown of the Arson / Economic Crime Bureau is prosecuting this case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, June 10, 2005

LARGE SCALE COCAINE DISTRIBUTOR ARRESTED FOLLOWING FOUR MONTH INVESTIGATION

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the arrest of an alleged wholesale cocaine distributor following a four month joint investigation with the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor.

Miguel Ramirez, 44, of 2030 Valentine Avenue, the Bronx, has been charged with multiple counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th degrees. The most serious charges are Class A-I and A-II felony offenses punishable by maximum sentences of 8 to 20 years imprisonment and 3 to 10 years imprisonment respectively for non-predicate offenders.

Ramirez allegedly sold approximately 1250 grams (one and a quarter kilos) of cocaine to an undercover detective on three separate occasions during the course of the investigation. The first sale occurred on March 29, 2005. The defendant allegedly was paid $2,500 for a little over two ounces of cocaine. A second "undercover buy" occurred on April 18, 2005 when more than four ounces of cocaine were purchased for $3,750. A third delivery of a kilo of cocaine was arranged for June 9, 2005. The defendant, according to court papers, informed the undercover detective that the weight was a little short, approximately 900 grams of cocaine that would cost

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$23,500. All three transactions occurred in a parked car in front of 1065 Jerome Avenue where Ramirez was arrested following the third and final sale. The defendant's automobile was seized and the "buy money" $23,500 in cash was recovered.

Mr. Johnson thanked Bronx DA Detective Investigators for their efforts in developing the case; Chief Stephen Nasta, Deputy Chief Frank Viggiano, Lieutenant Rocco Galasso, Senior Detective Investigator Daniel Donovan, and Detective Investigators Larry Hinrichs, Modesto Acevedo, John Tierney, Bradford Waterman, Anthony Rambazis, Brian O'Loughlin, and Walter Lopez. Mr. Johnson also acknowledged Detective Investigators "John Doe" and Thomas Devine from the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor.

The case is being prosecuted by the Rackets Bureau of the Bronx DA Investigations Division.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, June 10, 2005

STATEN ISLAND MAN CAUGHT IN STING OPERATION AND CHARGED WITH SOLICITING SEX WITH A "13 YEAR OLD GIRL" THROUGH AN INTERNET CHATROOM

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 54 year old Staten Island man has been arrested and charged with attempting to have sexual relations with a "13 year old girl" whom the defendant met in an Internet chat room.

Harold Davis, of 451 Willow Road East, Staten Island, was charged with Attempted Promoting a Sexual Performance by a Child, a Class E felony offense punishable by a maximum sentence of up to four years imprisonment, Attempted Disseminating Indecent Material to minors in the 1st degree, also a Class E felony offense, Attempted Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a Class B Misdemeanor offense punishable by a maximum sentence of up to sixty days in jail, and Criminal Possession of a weapon in the 4th degree, a class "A" misdemeanor offense.

Davis was arrested by Detective Investigators from the Bronx District Attorney's Office after arranging to meet "the girl" in the vicinity of Yankee Stadium, then proceed to a motel for the purpose of having sex with "her". Investigators confiscated a gravity knife, two dozen roses and a digital video camera that were in the defendant's possession at the time of his arrest.

The arrest was the culmination of a series of conversations between the defendant and a

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Detective Investigator from the Bronx District Attorney's Office who met the defendant in an Internet chat room while pretending to be a thirteen year old girl. During their chats, the defendant allegedly made it clear that he wanted to have sexual relations with the person he believed to be a minor and even described specific sexual acts that he wanted to perform.

During the course of the investigation, the undercover detective arranged to meet with the defendant for the express purpose of having sex. Davis, who used the screen name Drluvhsdnyc, first initiated conversation with the undercover detective and began making sexual advances in an Internet chat room entitled "I like older men".

This arrest is the result of an ongoing initiative of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. The Bronx District Attorney's Office is part of a satellite task force that is funded by a grant from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robert Bergida of the Investigations Division.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, July 8, 2005

CROWBAR RAPIST PLEADS GUILTY TO RAPE AND OTHER RELATED CHARGES

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 35 year-old Bronx man has been convicted of rape, robbery and other related charges in connection with a three month crime spree in 2004.

Otis Powell, of 3459 Eastchester Road, pled guilty to 2 counts of Rape in the 1st degree, 1 count of Burglary in the 1st degree, 1 count of Robbery in the 1st degree and 2 counts of Burglary in the 2nd degree, for attacks on three women and three children.

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Peter J. Benitez set sentencing for Monday, August 22, 2005 in Part T6. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Powell will be sentenced to a term of forty years imprisonment.

The conviction covers a crime spree that began on March 18, 2004 and ended on May 19, 2004. In the first incident, Powell kicked in the door, hit the victim over the head with a crowbar and raped her. Powell made his victim take a shower in an attempt to destroy evidence of the rape. Once left alone the victim ran to the kitchen where she got a knife and stabbed the defendant who fled. Police recovered Powell's DNA at the scene.

The second incident occurred on April 15, 2004 when the defendant convinced a 12

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year-old boy at home with his sisters to let him enter their house. Powell used duct tape to restrain the hands and feet of the 12 year-old boy and, his 7 and 14 year-old sisters. The defendant locked the two youngest children in the bathroom and took the older sister to the basement. When the children's mother came home, Powell bound her hands and feet with tape, and pulled her pants down but did not sexually assault her. Powell fled after stealing jewelry, a play station and a computer.

The third incident occurred on May 19, 2004 when Powell kicked in the victim's front door, struck her over the head with a crowbar, tied her up and raped her. The defendant then stole cash and credit cards before leaving. Powell, whose DNA was in a state data bank because of a prior weapons possession conviction, was arrested on May 22, 2004 in the vicinity of 204th Street and Bainbridge Avenue after it was discovered that his DNA matched the DNA samples recovered from the March 18th and May 19th incidents.

Assistant District Attorney's Adam Oustatcher and Sarah Crabtree, of the Child Abuse / Sex Crimes Bureau are prosecuting this case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, June 8, 2005

FORMER RESIDENCE MANAGER OF A GROUP HOME FOR MENTALLY CHALLENGED ADULTS IS CONVICTED OF GRAND LARCENY AND RELATED CHARGES

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that 45 year-old Yvette Belmar, a former Residence Manager of the Sedgwick Group Home, managed by Episcopal Social Services has been convicted of grand larceny and related charges, for embezzling more than $50,000 from her employer.

A jury found Belmar, of 2175 Fifth Avenue, Manhattan, guilty of one count each of Grand larceny in the 3rd degree, and Falsifying Business Records in the 1st degree. State Supreme Court Justice Harold Silverman set sentencing for Friday, September 16, 2005 in Part T18. Belmar is facing a term of up to seven years imprisonment.

Belmar, whose salary was approximately $37,080, embezzled small sums of money from the petty cash account beginning in January 1999, continuing undetected until October 2001. Belmar was terminated following an internal audit. The audit concluded that Belmar misappropriated funds earmarked for the clients at the Sedgwick Group Home by making withdrawals from the ATM. Belmar submitted false information on petty cash receipts and reimbursement forms to justify the ATM withdrawals.

Mr. Johnson thanked the following members of Episcopal Social Services for their help with

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this case; Steven Chinlund, Executive Director, Claude Meyers, Associate Executive Director, Steve Viafore, Chief Fiscal Officer, Robert Nugent, Director of the OMRDD program and Donald Johnson and Patrick Murphy of the NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. Mr. Johnson also acknowledged the hard work of Bronx District Attorney's Senior Detective Investigators Wilfred Melendez and Peter Moro.

Assistant District Attorney Bert M. Oberlander of the Arson / Auto / Economic Crimes Bureau is prosecuting this case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Monday, July 25, 2005

BRONX ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY HONORED BY HIS PEERS

Assistant District Attorney Daniel McCarthy, Chief Trial Counsel and Director of Trial Training at the Office of the Bronx County District Attorney, has been recognized by his peers for his deep commitment to public service in representing the People of the State of New York.

The New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI) honored ADA McCarthy with its Trial Advocacy Award, which is given to a prosecutor who "consistently demonstrates dynamic trial skills, leadership, and selfless dedication to criminal prosecutions in New York State".

McCarthy received the award at the award at the annual meeting District Attorneys Association of New York State (DAANYS), which was held recently in upstate Cooperstown, New York, home of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

The outgoing President of DAANYS, Putnam County District Attorney Kevin Wright, said, in presenting the award, that McCarthy "has devoted his life to public service - possessing a unique blend of personal traits that enable him, not only to connect with juries, but also to inspire his fellow prosecutors, both young and old. In addition, his ethical standards serve as a model to both experienced and inexperienced prosecutors".

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson said: "It is an honor to be able to call Dan McCarthy a colleague. He is a tremendous asset to our office and to the community at large. The people of Bronx County are well served by his presence on our staff".

McCarthy, a career prosecutor in New York City since 1981, has tried over 150 felony cases to verdict including kidnaping, serial murder, bias murder, police corruption and charges related to various organized crime enterprises. McCarthy joined the staff at the Bronx County District Attorney's Office in January 1992 after serving for eleven years as an Assistant District Attorney in Queens County.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, July 28, 2005

HOMELESS MAN FACING LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR STABBING ANOTHER MAN DURING AN ARGUMENT OVER LITTERING

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 40 year old homeless man is facing a maximum sentence of up to life imprisonment after being convicted of assault in the stabbing of another homeless man earlier this month.

Romero Anderson, who was charged with attempted murder following the July 14, 2005 incident, pled guilty before indictment by the grand jury, to 1 count of Assault in the 2nd degree in the stabbing of Ronald Brown, 48.

Under terms of the plea agreement, Anderson will be sentenced as a persistent violent felony offender to a term of 12 years to life imprisonment when he appears before Acting State Supreme Court Justice John Byrne on Wednesday, August 10, 2005 in Part A. Anderson served 4 to 8 years on a 1993 attempted robbery conviction, and 6 years imprisonment before that on an attempted burglary conviction in 1985.

Anderson's most recent crime occurred at the site of a construction job in front of 366 East 160th Street. As a security measure, the victim, Ronald Brown had been allowed to spend his nights at the sight with his two dogs. The bloody altercation occurred when Brown reprimanded Anderson for littering the area with a container of leftover Chinese food that he had

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been eating. Brown was preparing cans of dog food for his pets as the argument with Anderson escalated. When Brown put down the knife that he had been using to open the cans and mix the dog food, Anderson picked up the knife and plunged it once into Brown's chest. Brown remains hospitalized in good condition after undergoing surgery to repair damage to a tiny piece of his heart as a result of the stabbing.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Gary Weil.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, July 28, 2005

BRONX MAN CHARGED WITH PROMOTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY VIA THE INTERNET

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 35 year old man has been arrested and charged with posting on the Internet hundreds of images of children engaging in sexual acts with adults. Some of the children were as young as 3 years old, according to court papers.

Seth Ritchie, of 1268 Findlay Avenue, the Bronx, is facing numerous counts of Promoting a sexual performance by a child, a Class D felony offense, and Possessing a sexual performance by a child, a Class E felony offense. He is facing maximum sentences of up to 7 years imprisonment on each count if convicted of the Class D felony offense, and up to 4 years imprisonment on each count if convicted of the Class E felony offense.

Ritchie is charged with uploading the pornographic images to a site entitled "You Send It," which allows for the transfer of large files over the Internet. The site administrators contacted the National Center For Missing and Exploited Children and reported the illegal images. Once investigators determined that the material in question was "Child Pornography" they traced the source of the material to Ritchie's address in the Bronx and contacted the NYPD Computer Crimes Squad. Detectives executed a search warrant at the defendant's home and

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seized a computer hard drive, floppy discs and compact discs containing hundreds of images of children engaging in sexual acts with adults.

Assistant District Attorney Robert Bergida of the Investigations Division is prosecuting the case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Monday, August 1, 2005

GRAND JURY INDICTS BRONX MAN ON CHARGES OF MURDER FIFTEEN YEARS LATER

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the indictment of a 39 year-old Bronx man for the alleged murders of three young girls between 1988 and 1990 in the Parckchester section of the Bronx.

The grand jury indicted James Johnson, aka James Buie on six counts of Murder in the 2nd degree, under two different legal theories. Johnson is charged with intentional murder and causing the deaths of the victims during the commission of a felony offense.

Johnson, currently incarcerated at the Great Meadow State Correctional Facility on unrelated charges, allegedly stabbed Joanna Acosta, 13, to death on September 15, 1988. It is further alleged that Johnson stabbed Michelle Ross, 15, and Sharon Sadhoo, 17, to death on November 6, 1990.

Johnson was remanded at his arraignment today before Acting State Supreme Court Justice John N. Byrne. Johnson is next scheduled to return to court on Friday, September 2, 2005 in Part M60. If convicted, Johnson faces a maximum sentence of up to life imprisonment.

District Attorney Johnson said: "The persistent and thorough work of New York City Police Detectives is greatly appreciated. Our office intends to follow through to see that the

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family and loved ones of the decedents receive complete justice".This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Edward Talty, Chief of the Gang / Major Case Bureau.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, August 4, 2005

THIRTY PEOPLE ARRESTED FOLLOWING THREE YEAR INVESTIGATION OF ILLEGAL NUMBERS OPERATION -- GRAND JURY CHARGES SEVEN OF THE DEFENDANTS WITH ENTERPRISE CORRUPTION

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the indictment of seven people on charges of Enterprise Corruption and gambling offenses in connection with a $10,000,000 dollar a year illegal numbers operation. In addition to the seven people taken into custody pursuant to the indictment, investigators also arrested 23 other individuals during the execution of search warrants at fourteen locations in the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, and New Jersey.

Mr. Johnson said the Grand Jury returned a 24 count indictment charging seven of the defendants with one count of Enterprise Corruption, 19 counts of Promoting gambling in the 1st degree, 1 count of Promoting gambling in the 2nd degree and 3 counts of Possession of gambling records in the 2nd degree. Enterprise Corruption is a Class B felony offense punishable by a maximum sentence of up to 25 years imprisonment. Promoting gambling in the 1st degree is a Class E felony offense punishable by a maximum sentence of up to 4 years imprisonment. Promoting gambling in the 2nd degree and Possession of gambling records in the 2nd degree are Class A misdemeanor offenses punishable by a sentence of up to one year in jail.

Mr. Johnson said that a conviction on the charge of Enterprise Corruption would pave the

way for the initiation of criminal forfeiture proceedings to seize assets that were acquired with the profits from the illegal numbers operation.

This indictment is the result of a three year joint investigation by the New York City Police Department's Bronx Vice Enforcement Squad and the Bronx DA's Rackets Bureau. The undercover investigation, dubbed "Operation Numbers' Up", included the extensive use of court ordered wiretaps, visual surveillance, and examination of telephone records.

It is alleged that the nerve center of this criminal enterprise was a policy bank located in a 5th floor apartment at 125 West Tremont Avenue where bets were either transmitted via fax machine or hand delivered by couriers or "number runners". The runners' job was to collect policy slips from the dozens of storefront locations where bets were placed (beauty salons, barbershops, bodegas and dry cleaners). It was also the runners' responsibility to distribute the cash payouts on all winning bets. The operation allegedly also maintained a smaller, secondary policy bank at 49 Cooper Street in the Inwood section of Manhattan where the ring also did business.

Named in the indictment, unsealed this afternoon in State Supreme Court, were the following defendants: Jose Camacho, 56, of 1670 East 174th St., Bronx; Gertrude Felix, 44, of 250 Morris Ave., Bergen, New Jersey; Nelson Fernandez, 36, of 2-12 Seaman Ave., Manhattan; Antonio Garcia,64, of 140 West 71st St., Manhattan; Rodolfo Matta, 45, of 170 Reservoir Rd, New Britain, Connecticut; Bruno Medina, 58, of 754 Mace Ave., Bronx. Those defendants taken into custody who were not named in the indictment are also facing gambling related charges.

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Four defendants are also facing illegal weapon and drug possession charges.

Investigators seized nearly $100,000 in cash, numerous gambling records, including policy slips and tally sheets, telephones, cellular telephones, fax machines, computers, quantities of marijuana and ecstasy, and a .38 caliber handgun. Five vehicles also were seized – a 2002 Nissan Quest Van, a 1996 Jeep Cherokee, a 2002 Toyota Highlander, a 1998 Dodge Caravan, a 1998 Honda Civic, a 1995 Chevy Monte Carlo, and a 1999 Ford Explorer.

District Attorney Johnson thanked members of his staff and the New York City Police Department for their hard work on the investigation; Chief Douglas Zeigler, NYPD Organized Crime Control Bureau, Inspector James O'Neil, Commanding Officer NYPD Vice Enforcement Division, Captain Richard Green, Bronx Vice Enforcement Division, Lt. James Kimmel, Bronx Vice Enforcement Division, Assistant District Attorney Stephen Bookin, Chief, Investigations Division, and Assistant District Attorney Thomas Leahy, Chief, Rackets Bureau.

Mr. Johnson expressed special appreciation for the effort and dedication of Sgt. Eric Finkelstein, Detectives Joanne Tierney, Jose Romero, and Christopher Fleming, NYPD Bronx Vice Enforcement Division, Assistant District Attorney Denise Kodjo, Rackets Bureau, Assistant District Attorney Rachel Singer, Rackets Bureau, and Julio Santiago and David Laskey, Forensic Accountants, Investigations Division.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Monday, August 8, 2005

GRAND JURY INDICTS BRONX MAN IN THE DEATH OF A THREE YEAR OLD BOY CRUSHED BY AN OUT OF CONTROL MACK TRUCK

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the indictment of Freddy Rodriguez in the death of a three year old boy who was struck by a truck that was being driven by the defendant.

The grand jury indicted Rodriguez, 55, of 909 Kelly Street, the Bronx, on one count of Manslaughter in the 2nd degree and two counts of Driving while under the influence of alcohol. Additional charges are still pending before the grand jury. Manslaughter in the 2nd degree is a Class C felony offense punishable by a maximum sentence of up to 15 years imprisonment. Rodriguez is scheduled to be arraigned on the indictment on Thursday, September 8, 2005 in Part A.

Saquann Williams, 3, was struck and killed on August 1, 2005 in the vicinity of Mount Eden Avenue and East 173rd Street. The defendant, according to court papers, allegedly struck the child, his mother, Tasha Gibbs, and another woman, Giselle Buie, after driving the truck through a red light. Gibbs suffered a fractured skull, punctured lung and broken pelvis. Buie suffered severe brain trauma. Four other people were injured in the incident in which the truck also slammed into several occupied vehicles before coming to a stop.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Gary Weil.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, September 1, 2005

MONEY LAUNDERING CHARGES FILED AGAINST JORDANIAN NATIONALS WHO ALLEGEDLY SOLD UNTAXED CIGARETTES ON THE BLACK MARKET AND FUNNELED THE PROFITS TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson and Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced today that 28 people have been indicted by a grand jury on charges of money laundering and other offenses stemming from the trafficking and sale of untaxed cigarettes obtained from Native American reservations on Long Island.

It is alleged that an estimated half million dollars in profits from the illegal scheme were sent to Amman, Jordan by way of crew members for Royal Jordanian Airlines. Individuals believed to be Jordanian Air Marshals are also suspected of acting as couriers in the money laundering operation.

Mr. Johnson said the indictments were the result of a year and a half long joint investigation conducted jointly with the NYPD Citywide Vice Enforcement Division, the New York State Division of Taxation and Finance, and the New York State Police.

The defendants, primarily Jordanian Nationals, are charged in three separate indictments containing 1,237 counts against members of three distinct networks that supplied untaxed cigarettes to commercial establishments and independent distributors in and around Bronx

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County. The three groups, according to investigators, sold a combined total of nearly 25,000 cartons of untaxed cigarettes a week. Annually, that would amount to a loss of more than $38,000,000 in tax revenue to the State and City.

Mr. Johnson said: "A major concern is to determine for what purpose this money was being shipped out of the country. That will be one priority in this continuing investigation. There is also the impact of the loss of millions of dollars in tax revenues. At a time when government funds are being appropriately diverted to assist victims in the Gulf Coast and when the City's children are in need of more equitable funding for their schools, the impact of these uncollected cigaret taxes cannot be minimized."

Commissioner Kelly said: "This ring engaged in the wholesale diversion of millions of dollars worth of cigarettes from Indian reservations to undermine legitimate commerce through tax avoidance, money laundering, and the sale of both counterfeit cigarettes and counterfeit tax stamps. Detectives and prosecutors are to be commended for their tenacity in identifying the suspects and bringing them to justice".

New York State Department of Taxation and Finance Commissioner Andrew S. Eristoff said: "The Tax Department and its enforcement agents vigorously pursue those who traffic in the illegal cigarette trade. Working with other law enforcement agencies and district attorneys, we're sending a clear message that those who engage in this activity will be apprehended, prosecuted and pay a high price for their actions."

Mr. Johnson said the investigation involved the extensive use of court ordered wiretaps,

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physical surveillance, and the use of Global Positioning Systems on the vehicles belonging to the targets of the probe. The defendants were taken into custody during the execution of thirty search and arrest warrants at their homes as well as several commercial establishments in the Bronx. In addition to those individuals already charged by the grand jury, investigators also arrested seven other people, and seized 6,500 cartons of cigarettes and $584,147 in cash. On prior occasions during the undercover operation, investigators recovered an additional 8700 cartons of untaxed cigarettes, $155,000 in cash and two 9 MM guns. Two defendants, said to be principals in the black market sale of cigarettes, were observed on five occasions this year (March 4, April 5, May 3, July 27, and August 3) delivering money to individuals known to be crew members for Royal Jordanian Airlines who were staying at hotels in Manhattan and Queens prior to their flights back to Amman.

It is alleged that the cigarettes were purchased on Long Island in Suffolk County at the Shinnecock Reservation in Southampton and the Poospatuck Reservation in Mastic. The untaxed cigarettes were then delivered to bodegas, delis and a number of independent distributors. While most of the untaxed cigarettes were purchased at the reservations, evidence uncovered during the investigation revealed that a small percentage of the "smokes" were counterfeit tobacco products were manufactured abroad and sold locally as American brand cigarettes.

Charges in the indictments are as follows:

Money Laundering in the 2nd degree, Class C felony, 4 counts

Money Laundering in the 3rd degree, Class D felony, 1 count

Criminal Poss. of a forged instrument in the 1st degree, Class C felony, 14 counts

Trademark Counterfeiting in the 2nd degree, Class E felony, 16 counts

Violation of NYS Tax Law, Class D or E felonies depending on the dollar amount, 601 counts

Violation of New York City Administrative Code, Class D or E felonies depending on the dollar amount, 601 counts.

A Class C felony offense is punishable by a maximum sentence of up to 15 years imprisonment: A Class D felony offense is punishable by a maximum sentence of up to 7 years imprisonment; A Class E felony offense is punishable by a maximum sentence of up to 4 years imprisonment.

Several of the key defendants named in the indictments, unsealed this afternoon in State Supreme Court, include the following: Faiz Haddad, of 270 Longstreet Avenue, Bronx; Emad Al-Naimat, of 2936 Hone Avenue, Bronx; Ahmad Alnuaimat, of 1816 Delancey Place, Bronx; Abdelmajid Labaḃneth, of 267 E. 202nd Street, Bronx; Brian Bess, of 12 Old Soldiers Road, Shinnecock Indian Reservation, Southampton, New York; Saed Alnuaimat, of 1669 Holland Avenue, Bronx; Salem Alnaemat, of 1669 Holland Avenue, Bronx; Adel Alnashash, of 2436 Buck Street; Ibrahim Alateesh, of 1958 Mulliner Avenue, Bronx; Abdo Saidi, of 43-23 Colden Avenue, Flushing, New York; Mustafa Mohsin, of 1619 Hone Avenue, Bronx; and Chen Xin Zeng, of 84-25 Elmhurst Avenue, Elmhurst, New York.

District Attorney Robert T. Johnson and Police Commissioner Kelly thanked members of

the Bronx District Attorney's Office, the New York City Police Department, New York State Police, and Department of Taxation and Finance, for their hard work on the investigation, including: Inspector James O'Neil, CO, NYPD Vice Enforcement Division, Captain Pasquale Morena, Citywide Vice Enforcement Division; Lieutenant George Nohey and Senior Investigator Leslie Millington of New York State Police, Thomas Stanton, Director, and Paul Rossi, Deputy Director of the Enforcement Division, the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, and Assistant District Attorney Stephen Bookin, Chief, Investigations Division, and Assistant District Attorney Thomas Leahy, Chief, Rackets Bureau.

Special appreciation to: Sgt. Carlos Marroquin, Det. Gerard McMahon, Det. Louis Belovin, and interpreters Daniel Mufaddi, Jamiel Altaheri, and Bobby Hadid of the NYPD; Investigators Eric McCartney and Frank Vitko of the NY State Police; Suffolk County Police Department; Investigators Thomas Fedele and Jose Silverio of NY State Dept. of Taxation and Finance, Detective Investigator Ahmed Hosin, Assistant District Attorney Kristen Bowes, Assistant District Attorney David Kirschner.

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Thursday, September 8, 2005

BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTEES

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the hiring of forty-five new Assistant District Attorneys. Forty-three of the new ADAs are recent law school graduates, and two, Roger Canaff and Joshua Gradinger, are experienced attorneys.

ADA Canaff was a senior attorney at the National Center for the Prosecution of Child Abuse, American Prosecution Research Institute, Alexandria, Virginia. Prior to that, Canaff served for six and a half years as an Assistant Commonwealth Attorney at the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney in Alexandria, Virginia. ADA Gradinger was a prosecutor for six years at the Miami-Dade County, State Attorney's Office in Florida.

The new ADAs began a three-week training program under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Cari E. Ferreiro, Director of Litigation Training, on Tuesday, September 6, 2005. The intensive program combines courtroom observation with lectures in criminal court practice.

The following is a list of the new Assistants and their law schools:

Imran Ahmed	St. John's University School of Law
Phan Alvarado	St. John's University School of Law
Rebecca Ballas	New York Law School

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Carl Benincasa	St. John's University School of Law
Rita Bieniewicz	New York Law School
Kristen Bitetto	Fordham University School of Law
Roger Canaff	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law
Stephanie Catros	Suffolk University Law School
Eric Chartan	Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
Ann Cherry	Brooklyn Law School
Daniel Chung	American University, Washington College of Law
Eryn DeFontes	CUNY School of Law at Queens College
Jacqueline DeVore	CUNY School of Law at Queens College
Nikki Faldman	Pace University School of Law
Constance Gonzalez-Hood	Hofstra University School of Law
Wayne Gosnell, Jr.	St. John's University School of Law
Joshua Gradinger	Fordham University School of Law
Remi Groner	New York Law School
Dawn Guglielmo	Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center
Jennifer Hard	St. John's University School of Law
Diego Hernandez	Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
Andrew Holland	Rutgers University School of Law - Newark
Cynthia Isales	Fordham University School of Law

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Rebecca Johannesen	New York Law School
Alex Johnson	American University, Washington College of Law
Jared Kasschau	Brooklyn Law School
Marissa Kay	Fordham University School of Law
Peter Kennedy	Pace University School of Law
Christian Klossner	Fordham University School of Law
David Lazarus	Seton Hall University Law School
Janice Lorde	Rutgers University School of Law - Newark
Timothy Lynch	Fordham University School of Law
Ellen Magid	CUNY School of Law at Queens College
Chandra Menon	Tulane Law School
Michael Paleudis	George Washington University Law School
Dara Royer	Howard University School of Law
Katherine Ruzenski	St. John's University School of Law
Lakshmi Singh	Brooklyn Law School
Katherin Slimak	Tulane Law School
Natasha Turner	St. John's University School of Law
Penney Vachiraprapun	Brooklyn Law School
Kayonia Whetstone	Howard University School of Law
Charlayne White	Rutgers University School of Law - Newark

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Jason Whitehead	University of Maryland School of Law
Pishoy Yacoub	St. John's University School of Law

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, September 8, 2005

BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES THE BEGINNING OF THE 2005 PROSECUTION CLINIC

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that seven students from St. John's University School of Law will begin participating in the Bronx DA's annual Prosecution Clinic. The prosecution clinic consists of approximately 12 - 15 hours a-week of office / court work, as well as weekly seminars at the law school.

Students assigned to the Appeals Bureau are: Ann Carroll, Kerry Jardine and Dana Levin. These students will work under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Joseph Ferdenzi, Chief of Appeals, Assistant District Attorney Nancy Killian, Deputy Chief of Appeals, and Assistant District Attorney Joseph McCormack, Deputy Chief, Criminal Court Bureau. These law students will handle appeals in a variety of felony and misdemeanor cases. Where appropriate, they will assemble or supplement the record on appeal. They will read and analyze the record on appeal and the defendant's brief, crystallize the issues and the legal approach to the issues, research the law and write the brief. The students' names will appear on the briefs. The students will also assist in the preparation of the oral arguments and will be present during the oral arguments. They will not be permitted to make oral arguments.

Students assigned to the Criminal Court Bureau are: Elizabeth Brown, Alexander Gilbert,

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Brian Murphy and Matthew Sotirhos. These students will be under the supervision of ADA Joseph McCormack. They will be responsible for a case load of misdemeanor prosecutions through all stages of the criminal process - interviewing witnesses, drafting accusatory instruments, drafting responses to motions, negotiating with defense counsel, court appearances, pre-trial hearings and bench and/or jury trials.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, September 9, 2005

RIKERS ISLAND INMATE IS SENTENCED FOR THE ASSAULT OF ANOTHER INMATE

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 33 year-old man has been sentenced to a term of up to life imprisonment for assaulting 28 year-old Noel Morales while both were inmates at the Rikers Island Correctional Facility.

Alkim Billip, currently incarcerated on Rikers Island on unrelated charges, was convicted last December of one count of Assault in the 2nd degree. Acting State Supreme Court Justice Robert Sackett sentenced Billip, a persistent felony offender, to a term of fifteen years to life imprisonment.

The assault occurred on November 8, 2001, when Morales, standing by a central command post at the Anna M. Kross Center, was approached from behind by the defendant. Billip punched Morales in the head and face causing Morales to have permanent scarring.

Assistant District Attorney's Daniel DeFilippi and Kevin Mailman of the General Crimes Division, Trial Bureau prosecuted this case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, September 9, 2005

BRONX MAN IS CHARGED WITH MURDER AND OTHER RELATED CHARGES IN THE SHOOTING DEATH OF A 10 YEAR-OLD BRONX GIRL

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that 20 year-old Rene Bonilla of the Bronx, was charged with allegedly shooting and killing 10 year-old Naisha Pearson, and critically wounding 19 year-old Leonardo Deaza.

Bonilla, of 526 East 138th Street, was charged with two counts of Murder in the 2nd degree, one count of Attempted Murder in the 2nd degree and one count of Criminal possession of a weapon in the 2nd degree.

Bonillia was arraigned before Bronx Criminal Court Judge Ira Margolies and remanded. Bonilla is scheduled to be arraigned on the indictment in Bronx Supreme Court on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 in Part A. If convicted of the most serious charge, Bonilla faces a maximum term of up to life imprisonment.

The incident occurred on Monday, September 5, 2005, as the defendant allegedly pointed a handgun at Deaza and fired several shots. Deaza was critically wounded and Pearson was struck once in the chest by a stray bullet and killed.

Chief Trial Counsel Assistant District Attorney Daniel T. McCarthy, and Assistant District Attorney Lolita Lukose of the Intake Bureau will be prosecuting this case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, October 6, 2005

FORMER CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION OFFICIAL, ANTHONY SERRA, SENTENCED FOLLOWING HIS CONVICTION ON GRAND LARCENY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST CHARGES

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that former New York City Department of Correction Bureau Chief Anthony Serra was sentenced to a term of one year in jail and must pay the City an additional $50,000 in restitution following his conviction on charges of grand larceny and conflict of interest. The City has already received $25,000 in restitution from Serra. The remaining $50,000 will be collected through automatic deductions from Serra's pension benefits over the next ten years. Sentence was imposed by Acting State Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett and is to run concurrent to Serra's federal sentence of one year in prison for income tax evasion.

Serra pled guilty in State Supreme Court on March 8, 2005 to one count of Grand larceny in the 3rd degree, a Class D felony offense, and one count of Conflict of Interest, a Class A misdemeanor offense. The conviction was the culmination of a joint investigation by the Bronx District Attorney's Office and the New York City Department of Investigation. Serra admitted that while serving as a high ranking Department of Correction official, he used Riker's Island Department of Correction personnel on construction projects at his home in Mahopac, New

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York. Serra also admitted that he had improperly used his influence to recruit subordinates to work as "volunteers" in a poll watching operation on behalf of Governor George Pataki's primary election campaigns.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Donald Levin, Assistant District Attorney Amir Toosi, and Department of Investigation Deputy Commissioner Daniel Brownell, who was cross designated as a Bronx Assistant District Attorney.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, October 13, 2005

THIRTY SIX YEAR OLD BRONX MAN CONVICTED OF KILLING HIS FIVE MONTH OLD DAUGHTER

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the conviction of 36 year old Leslie Martin in the death of his five month old daughter in May 2003. Martin was found guilty of Criminally negligent homicide and Endangering the welfare of a child, Brianna Martin who was born on December 12, 2002.

Martin was convicted by State Supreme Court Justice John Moore following a non-jury trial. The judge set sentencing for Monday, October 31, 2005 in Part 70. Martin is facing a maximum sentence of up to four years imprisonment on the charge of Criminally negligent homicide, a Class E felony offense. Endangering the welfare of a child is a Class A Misdemeanor.

This trial was the first ever in the Bronx in which the defense sought to challenge and discredit the validity of "Shaken Baby Syndrome" as a cause of death. The defendant was found guilty after Judge Moore weighed the testimony of nine different medical doctors , called by either the prosecution or defense as "expert witnesses" in the fields of pediatrics, forensic pathology, neuropathology, neurosurgery, and opthamology. The witnesses included the nationally recognized experts Dr. Rendell Alexander with the University of Florida, Jacksonville,

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Department of Pediatrics, Division of Child Protection and Forensic Pediatrics, and Dr. John Plunkett, Forensic Pathologist and Medical Education Director at Regina Hospital in Hastings, Minnesota. Dr. Alexander testified for the People. Dr. Plunkett testified for the defense.

Brianna Martin died at Jacobi Hospital on May 16, 2003 four days after being taken to the Emergency Room when her father called 911 and reported that the child had stopped breathing. The baby was diagnosed with a subdural hematoma and bi-retinal hemorrhages in the eyes. Doctors testified at trial that both conditions were classic signs of shaken baby syndrome. The child's mother, Rasida Bennett, had left her alone in her father's care in the Watson Avenue apartment that the couple had shared at the time.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney David Birnbaum, Trial Counsel to the Domestic Violence Bureau.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, October 14, 2005

GRAND JURY CHARGES FORMER NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER WITH HAVING SEX WITH A 15 YEAR OLD BOY

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a twenty- five year old Bronx man has been indicted by a grand jury on charges of engaging in sexual acts with a 15 year old boy.

Corey Jefferson, a former New York City Police Officer, has been charged with two counts of Criminal sexual act in the 3rd degree, a Class E felony offense and one count of Endangering the welfare of a child, a Class A misdemeanor. Jefferson is facing a maximum sentence of up to four years imprisonment on each count if convicted of the more serious felony charges. He is scheduled to be arraigned on the indictment on Monday, December 12, 2005 in State Supreme Court, Part A.

Jefferson resigned from the New York City Police Department before he was arrested on October 8, 2005, following an investigation by the NYPD Internal Affairs Bureau. The defendant, according to court papers, touched the victim's anus and also persuaded the victim to perform oral sex on him. The alleged sexual encounter occurred on September 26, 2005 in the defendant's car which was parked at a location on West 168th Street in the Bronx. The defendant allegedly met the victim, who was born in February 1990, in an Internet chatroom.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kathleen McGee of the Child Abuse / Sex Offense Bureau.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Monday, October 24, 2005

BRONX MAN CONVICTED OF ASSAULTING HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SECURITY OFFICER DURING STUDENT PROTEST

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 35 year old Bronx man has been convicted of assaulting a security officer at Hostos Community College during a student protest in August, 2001.

Miguel Malo was convicted by a jury on one count of Assault in the 3rd degree and one count of Disorderly Conduct . Malo was President of the Student Senate when the incident occurred. He is facing a maximum sentence of up to one year in jail when he appears before Criminal Court Judge Catherine Bartlett on Wednesday, November 9, 2005 in Part 21. Malo had been released on his own recognizance while the case was pending, but after the guilty verdict was read, the judge set bail, pending sentencing, at $1000 bond or $500 cash.

The charges against Malo were filed following a student protest at the college on August 15, 2001 when Malo kicked a uniformed security officer at Hostos Community College in the groin while resisting arrest. He was found guilty of "recklessly causing physical injury to another person" and of "disturbing a lawful assembly or meeting without lawful authority" to do so. Malo had been part of a larger group of students who were distributing leaflets urging students not to register for classes in order to protest budget cuts affecting the school's bilingual and Spanish programs. When Malo left an area that had been set aside for protesters and

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attempted to disrupt the registration process he was arrested after ignoring repeated warnings to leave.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Terri Gensler.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL AIDE PLEADS GUILTY TO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 22 year-old Board of Education School Aide has been convicted of sexual misconduct for engaging in a sexual relationship with a fifteen year-old student.

Jessie Lozada, of 1230 Webster Avenue, appeared before Acting State Supreme Court Justice John N. Byrne and pled guilty to one count of Sexual misconduct, a class "A" misdemeanor offense.

Under the terms of the plea agreement Lozada will receive a term of six years probation. The defendant must also voluntarily provide a DNA sample, register as a sex offender for a period of ten years, and waive his right to appeal. Sentencing is set for Tuesday, January 10, 2006 in Part A.

Lozada had sexual intercourse with the victim on four separate occasions this year inside Jane Adams High School.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Roger Canaff of the Child Abuse / Sex Crimes Bureau.

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Thursday, November 3, 2005

A 17 YEAR OLD MAN IS CONVICTED OF ASSAULT

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 17 year-old Bronx man has been convicted of assaulting a Dean at the Bronx High School of Science last January.

Josue Lopez, of 2233 Hunter Avenue, was found guilty following a bench trial, of one count of Assault in the 3rd degree, for punching Evan Frankl, 30, in the face. Acting State Supreme Court Justice Harold Adler set sentencing for Monday, January 9, 2006 in Part T12. Lopez, an adjudicated youthful offender, is facing a maximum term of up to six months imprisonment.

The assault took place while Frankl, on patrol of the hallways, discovered Lopez smoking in a bathroom. When Lopez was asked to come to the Deans' office, he left the building. In an attempt to block Lopez from leaving the school grounds, Frankl stood in front of Lopez blocking his exit. Lopez punched the victim in the face and fled. The defendant was apprehended the following day when he reported to school. The victim was hospitalized for two days with a fractured left temporal bone, short termed hearing loss and temporary blurred vision.

Assistant District Attorney Jonathan S. Strongin of the Trial Bureau is prosecuting this case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, November 4, 2005

BRONX MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MANSLAUGHTER

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 23 year-old Bronx man has been convicted of manslaughter in stabbing death of a 48 year-old Bronx man.

Mark Lewis, aka "Finess", of 2760 Grand Concourse, pled guilty to one count of Manslaughter in the 1st degree, in the death of Gerald Gilliard. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Lewis was promised a determinate sentence of 25 years imprisonment. Acting State Supreme Court Justice Megan Tallmer set sentencing for Monday, November 28, 2005 in Part T22.

Co-defendants Priscilla Ortega, 21, of 2522 University Avenue and Taylor Colon, 19, aka "Alize", of 2760 Grand Concourse, are currently awaiting trial, and have each been charged with one count of Murder in the 2nd degree and one count of Burglary in the first degree.

Gilliard was killed in his apartment on March 1, 2004. Lewis admitted stabbing Gilliard multiple times during an attempted robbery. According to the investigation, Gilliard had invited Ortega, a female acquaintance, to his apartment for a visit. Ortega allegedly went to Gilliard's home accompanied by a second woman, her friend Colon. When the two women left the apartment they allegedly contacted Lewis and devised a plan to rob Gilliard of his valuables. Colon allegedly returned to the victim's apartment that same night after calling him to ask if he

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would like company. Colon's assignment was to distract Gilliard while Lewis and Ortega entered the apartment to remove the valuables. Gilliard was stabbed seven times when he heard a noise in another room and left Colon to investigate.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Troy Smith and Laura Perlman of the Trial Bureau.

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Monday, November 7, 2005

GRAND JURY INDICTS TWO BRONX YOUTHS ON MURDER CHARGES IN THE SHOOTING DEATH OF A MAN IN THE AFTERMATH OF A HALLOWEEN WEEKEND EGG THROWING INCIDENT

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a grand jury has filed murder charges against two youths in the shooting death of motorist Joseph Padro during an altercation stemming from an egg tossing incident on Friday night, October 29, 2005.

The grand jury charged Jeffery Ivey, 15, and Erik Fuller, 17, with Murder in the 2nd degree in the death of Joseph Padro. The two defendants were also charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd degree.

Ivey and Fuller were charged under two different legal theories with "acting in concert" in causing Padro's death. Each was charged with the intentional murder of the victim, as well as with causing his death "in a manner evincing a depraved indifference to human life." If convicted of murder, Fuller would be facing a maximum sentence of 25 years to life imprisonment. Because co-defendant Ivey is only 15, fifteen years to life imprisonment is, by law, the maximum sentence that he would be facing if he is found guilty of murder.

Padro was killed when he confronted the defendants and demanded that they clean his van which was pelted with eggs as he drove past a building at 2595 Third Avenue in the Morrisania section of the Bronx.

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Ivey and Fuller are being held without bail and are to be arraigned on the indictment on Monday, November 28, 2005 in Part A.

Assistant District Attorney David Greenfield is prosecuting the case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, November 10, 2005

GRAND JURY INDICTS ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE VIOLENT 'TREYSIDE GANG' ON CHARGES OF CONSPIRACY TO SELL AND DISTRIBUTE HEROIN AND COCAINE IN AND AROUND THE DIEGO BEEKMAN HOUSES

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson and Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly announced today the arrests and indictment of twenty-eight alleged members and associates of The Treyside Bloods on charges of conspiracy to sell and distribute narcotics, as well as assault, attempted assault, and weapons possession in and around the Diego-Beekman Houses.

The charges were the result of a year long joint investigation by the Bronx DA's Gang Unit and the New York City Police Department's Bronx Gang Squad. The investigation began in November 2004 and involved more than 30 drug sales to undercover detectives, visual surveillance and the use of court ordered wiretaps. Six of the twenty-eight defendants indicted were already in custody when detectives executed arrest warrants pursuant to the grand jury's action. In addition to those defendants under indictment, detectives arrested three other people during the execution of search warrants issued by the court in connection with this investigation.

Mr. Johnson said: "These defendants allegedly attempted to fill the void created by prior investigations that shut down drug dealing operations at Diego-Beekman twice in the last ten years. We hope that these charges against yet another new crop of alleged 'drug dealing wannabes' sends a reassuring message to the community that we in law enforcement will be back

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again and again, if necessary."

Commissioner Kelly said: "Our officers conducted a painstaking investigation. Thanks to their thoroughness over the past year, the entire operation - from the boss to street dealers - was removed in one day. Congratulations to the members of the Gang Division for their terrific work."

The gang, according to investigators, earned more than $1,500,000 a year from street level drug sales in a 24 square block area bounded by St. Mary's Park on the north, East 138th Street on the south, St Ann's Avenue on the west and Jackson Avenue on the east. The overwhelming majority of the drug transactions occurred in the Diego-Beekman Houses, a complex of approximately 30 buildings in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. The gang peddled heroin and crack cocaine under numerous different brand names including G-Unit, Shaft, Paradise, Funny Money, and Freeway. Marijuana was also sold in small quantities.

The indictments charge the defendants with Conspiracy in the 2nd and 4th degrees, Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 2nd and 3rd degrees, Criminal Sale of Marijuana in the 5th degree, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd and 4th degrees, Unlawful Possession of Marijuana, Assault in the 1st and 2nd degrees, Attempted Assault in the 1st and 2nd degrees, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th degrees.

Dwayne Thompson, 31, (aka Dime) of 805 East 213th Street, the Bronx, has been identified as the "key player" in the Treyside organization and is facing up to 62 years imprisonment if convicted of all of the most serious charges against him, which includes one

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Class A-II and four Class B felony drug sales.

Most of the other defendants, including Thompson's alleged partners Bryant Lee, 30, (aka Pretty B) and Victor Baker, 28, are facing maximum sentences of up to 25 years imprisonment if convicted of either Conspiracy in the 2nd degree or Assault in the 1st degree. Class B felony drug offenses are punishable by a maximum sentence of up to 12 years imprisonment on each count.

Joshua Fortune, 19, of 348 Beekman Avenue, believed to be a Treyside Bloods 'enforcer' and one of the main dealers at Diego-Beekman has also been charged with shooting two people on December 27, 2003 as they stood on a corner at Cypress Avenue and East 141st Street. In another incident of violence, the grand jury charged three alleged gang members with "acting in concert" in the stabbing of a Diego-Beekman resident on January 17, 2005. Charged in the stabbing were Delvin Lay, 22, of 685 East 140th Street, Hassan Mitchell, 25, of 354 Cypress Avenue, and Frank Blair, 21, of 600 East 141st Street. The indictment also charges alleged gang member Steven Curet, of being on the street in possession of a loaded gun on at least two separate occasions on July 19, 2004 and November 29, 2004. Curet is currently incarcerated having pled guilty earlier this year in connection with his role in the January 17th stabbing incident.

Undercover detectives, during the course of the investigation, purchased several hundred vials of crack cocaine and glassine envelopes containing heroin and cocaine in powder form. Investigators seized additional contraband during today's execution of the arrest and search warrants. Recovered were a loaded .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol, a loaded P85 Ruger

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handgun, an imitation pistol, approximately 25 grams of crack cocaine, 64 vials or bags containing crack cocaine, 7 bags of powder cocaine, 15 glassine envelopes containing heroin, over an ounce of marijuana, drug paraphernalia including scales and packaging items, and more than $10,000 in cash.

District Attorney Johnson and Commissioner Kelly thanked the NYPD Bronx Gang Squad, Bronx DA's Squad, the 40th Precinct Detective Squad, NYPD Bronx Narcotics, PSA-7, New York State Division of Parole, Bronx DA Gang Prosecutions Unit, and Bronx DA Detective Investigators for the hard work and dedication that led to the indictment of these defendants.

The case is assigned to Assistant District Attorney Edward Friedenthal, Counsel to the Gang Prosecutions/ Major Case Unit, Assistant District Attorneys Christine Stover and Kimberly Baker of the Gang Prosecutions/ Major Case Unit.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

FORMER CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR A ONE TIME BRONX BASED MANUFACTURING COMPANY SENTENCED TO PRISON AND ORDERED TO MAKE FULL RESTITUTION OF EMBEZZLED FUNDS

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that convicted embezzler Robert Washko has been sentenced to a term of one to three years imprisonment provided that he makes full restitution of the nearly $400,000 that he stole from the Wonder Bra Company.

Washko, of Freeport, New York, was found guilty on September 30, 2005 on one count of Grand Larceny in the 2nd degree and one count of Criminal possession of stolen property in the 2nd degree. Washko was convicted of embezzling a total of $397,584 between January 1998 and May 1999 while serving as the Chief Financial Officer of the Wonder Bra Company which at the time was located at 385 Gerard Avenue, the Bronx.

State Supreme Court Justice Ethan Greenberg said that Washko's one to three year sentence was contingent on re-paying all of the money within three years. If full restitution is not made within that time frame Washko is to remain imprisoned until all of the money is repaid or until he has served 15 years, the maximum term for a Class C felony offense. The judge also imposed a concurrent sentence of one to three years imprisonment on the charge of Criminal possession of stolen property, and fines totaling $10,000.

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The theft, through the company's payroll system, was not detected until after Washko had left the company. Accounting discrepancies were uncovered when Washko's replacement as Chief Financial Officer ordered an audit. It was discovered that Washko had misappropriated payroll funds over a period of fifteen months by making double payroll direct deposit payments to himself in amounts that varied from $5,000 to $30,000. Also uncovered were two unauthorized wire transfers, each totaling more than $80,000.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Earamichia Brown of the Arson/Auto/Economic Crime Bureau.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, November 18, 2005

BRONX MAN IS SENTENCED TO A TERM OF UP TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT

FOR ROBBING A MAN AT GUNPOINT IN 2004

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 33 year-old Bronx man has been sentenced to a term of up to life imprisonment for the gunpoint robbery of a man in August 2004.

A jury, last month, found Tyrone Minton, of 735 Magenta Street, guilty of one count of Robbery in the 2nd degree, one count of Robbery in the 3rd degree, three counts of Grand larceny in the 4th degree, and two counts of Criminal possession of stolen property in the 4th degree. Acting State Supreme Court Justice Megan Tallmer sentenced Minton to an indeterminate term of twenty years to life imprisonment. Minton, a mandatory persistent violent felony offender, must serve a minimum of twenty years imprisonment before being considered for parole.

The robbery, according to testimony, occurred on August 16, 2004, when Minton approached John Brackett as he walked towards his home in the vicinity of Randall and Soundview Avenues. Minton held a gun to Brackett's back and began riffling through the victim's pockets. Minton stole Brackett's identification, credit and debit cards, $170 in cash and car keys before fleeing in the victim's car.

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Brackett flagged down a passing police car and told the officers what had happened. The officers took the victim in their patrol car and canvassed the area. Moments later Minton was spotted in the victim's car. He was apprehended without incident.

Assistant District Attorney Sara Jacobson of the Trial Division prosecuted this case.

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Friday, November 18, 2005

GRAND JURY FILES MURDER CHARGES AGAINST BRONX MAN WHO ALLEGEDLY CAUSED THE DEATH OF A PEDESTRIAN DURING THE ROBBERY OF A LIVERY CAB DRIVER

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a grand jury has filed murder and robbery charges, among other offenses, against a 22 year old Bronx man in connection with a pedestrian death during a knife-point robbery of a livery cab driver.

Kelvin Vazquez, of 1790 Prospect Avenue, has been indicted on two counts of Murder in the 2nd degree and one count of Manslaughter in the 2nd degree in the death of Rosa Roman, 51, on November 7, 2005. Vazquez was also indicted on one count each of Robbery in the 1st and 2nd degrees and one count of Assault in the 2nd degree involving his alleged crimes against cab driver Raul Juarez.

Vazquez is scheduled to be arraigned on the indictment on January 18, 2006 in State Supreme Court, Part A. He is facing a maximum sentence of 25 years to life imprisonment if convicted on the murder charge.

Vazquez was charged with murder under two different legal theories. It is alleged that he caused the death of the pedestrian Rosa Roman during the commission of another felony offense, the robbery of the cab driver. A second theory is that Vazquez " had acted with a depraved indifference to human life" when he allegedly attacked the cab driver with a knife while the

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driver was operating a motor vehicle. Juarez lost control of the cab which crashed into a parked car. Roman was crossing the intersection of University Avenue and West 166th Street when the crash occurred, pinning her between the two vehicles and severing her leg. It is alleged that the defendant, following the accident, got out of the cab and continued to attack the driver before taking his cash, wallet and jewelry.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Lawrence Piergrossi of the Trial Division.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Wednesday, November 23, 2005

JURY CONVICTS TWO MEMBERS OF A VIOLENT NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTION RING IN THE PATTERSON HOUSES

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that two members of a violent narcotics distribution ring in the Patterson Houses, a New York City Housing Authority development, have been convicted of conspiracy and other related charges. Seven other reputed members of the "Bloods" street gang have pled guilty.

Anthony Windley, aka "Tone" of 454 East 145th Street, the alleged ring leader, and a "Bloods" associate was found guilty of two counts of Criminal possession of a controlled substance in the 3rd degree, one count of Criminal possession of a controlled substance in the 7th degree and Conspiracy in the 4th degree. Windley, a persistent felony offender is facing a maximum term of up to life imprisonment when he appears before State Supreme Court Justice Richard Price on Friday, January 5, 2006, in Part T16.

Co-defendant Mohammed Jackson, aka "P-killa" of 2715 Third Avenue, has been found guilty of one count each of Criminal possession of a controlled substance in the 3rd and 4th degrees, Criminal use of drug paraphernalia in the 2nd degree and Conspiracy in the 4th degree. Jackson faces a maximum term of up to twenty-five years imprisonment when he appears before State Supreme Court Justice Richard Price on Wednesday, December 7, 2005, in Part T16.

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Seven other gang members arrested and charged with various crimes in April 2003 have since pled guilty and have been sentenced. Those gang members are as follows: Co-defendants Corey Stone, aka "CO", 26, of 2645 Third Avenue, Bronx, and Juan Sanchez, aka "Chelo", 25, of 281 East 143rd Street, Bronx, pled guilty to Conspiracy in the 4th degree. Stone was sentenced to an indeterminate term of 1 1/3 to 3 years imprisonment. Sanchez was sentenced to an indeterminate term of 2 to 4 years imprisonment. Jose Acevedo, aka "Stalloff", 20, of 360 Morris Avenue, Bronx, pled guilty to Attempted criminal possession of a controlled substance in the 3rd degree. Acevedo was sentenced to a determinate term of 1 year in jail. Richard Cruz, aka "Goose", 22, of 2715 Third Avenue, Bronx, pled guilty to Conspiracy in the 2nd degree, and was sentenced to an indeterminate term of 1 to 3 years imprisonment. Eric King, 21, of 281 East 143rd Street, Bronx, pled guilty to Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd degree. King was sentenced to a determinate term of 1 year in jail. Richard Perez, aka "Bone Thugs", 22, of 315 East 143rd Street, Bronx, pled guilty to one count of Criminal sale of a controlled substance in the 4th degree. Perez was sentenced to a term of 5 years probation. Brandy York, 30, of New Jersey, pled guilty to Attempted criminal possession of a controlled substance in the 3rd degree. York was sentenced to a term of 3 to 6 years imprisonment.

These convictions were the result of a nine month investigation that included the use of court authorized wire taps, other electronic surveillance techniques and analysis of records from several telephone companies, a utility company and the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. This investigation was the first by the Bronx District Attorney's Gang Prosecution

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Bureau which was formed in 2003.

During the Course of the lengthy investigation, authorities recovered 1,155 vials of crack, a one and a half ounce rock of crack, 527 bags of marijuana, $4,025 in cash and five guns, including two .45 caliber semi-automatic pistols, one .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol, one .40 caliber pistol and one .38 caliber revolver. Fifty three rounds of ammunition and a bullet proof vest was well as scales and other drug paraphernalia also were recovered.

These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Jeremy Shockett, Supervisor, and Joshua Gradinger of the Gangs Prosecutions Bureau.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday , November 29, 2005

BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY CROSSES A MILESTONE IN COUNTY HISTORY

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson broke new historical ground last month when he became the longest serving District Attorney in County history. Mr. Johnson has held the office since January 1, 1989 when he became the first African-American District Attorney in New York State. His tenure is the longest since Samuel Foley served from March 16, 1933 until December 31, 1949.

Mr. Johnson was first elected in November 1988 to fill the three years remaining on the term of District Attorney Mario Merola who died in office. Voters then re-elected District Attorney Johnson to consecutive full four year terms in 1991, 1995, 1999 and 2003. In each of those elections, Mr. Johnson, although a registered Democrat, was also endorsed at various times by the Republican, Conservative and Liberal Parties.

Reflecting on the broad base of support that he has enjoyed over the past nearly seventeen years in office, Mr. Johnson said that he is "humbled by the trust that the people of the Bronx have placed in him, and gratified to have been given the opportunity to serve" particularly at a time in which New Yorkers have worked so hard to reverse what had been a trend of rising crime. Noting that the Bronx is safer now than it has been in decades, Mr.

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Johnson pointed out that homicides and auto theft, to cite two categories of crime, have declined 81% since 1990. The overall decline in other violent crimes since 1990, excluding homicide, was 69%. The dramatic turnaround said Mr. Johnson, "certainly has helped in putting the shine back on the Bronx".

Mr. Johnson attributes his accomplishments in combating crime to "a balanced strategy in fighting crime that includes vigorous prosecution combined with innovative rehabilitative programs, anti crime education, and community outreach".

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Thursday, December 1, 2005

HOMELESS MAN INDICTED FOR A MURDER THAT HE ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED DURING AN ATTEMPTED ROBBERY 34 YEARS AGO WHEN HE WAS 20 YEARS OLD

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 54 year old homeless man has been indicted for murder 34 years after a shop keeper was shot to death during an attempted robbery at gunpoint.

A grand jury charged Larry McCoy with two counts of Murder in the death of Israel Pacht who was a 51 year old tailor. McCoy was charged with one count of Intentional Murder and one count of Felony Murder during an attempted robbery. McCoy is to be arraigned on the indictment on January 12, 2006 in Part A. He is facing a maximum sentence of up to life imprisonment if convicted.

It is alleged that McCoy shot Pacht to death on December 18, 1971, as the two men struggled during an attempted robbery at the victim's tailor shop at 492 Claremont Avenue. McCoy fled empty handed following the shooting, and remained at large until detectives from the NYPD 'Cold Case Squad' arrested him on November 14, 2005. The defendant was arrested at a homeless shelter in Stamford, Connecticut. Responding to an appeal by relatives of the victim, The 'Cold Case Squad' reopened the investigation of the Pacht's murder last April. Detectives

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spent six months looking for a witness who at the time of the fatal shooting was a 15 year old boy who worked in the victim's shop. The witness identified McCoy as the alleged gunman after examining police department mug shots.

Assistant District Attorney Gary Weil is prosecuting the case.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, December 1, 2005

BRONX MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHARGES OF CONSPIRING TO COMMIT MURDER

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that 27 year old Angel Aleman, has been convicted of conspiring to kill a former co-worker.

Aleman, of 15 Marcy Place, the Bronx, pled guilty to one count of Conspiracy in the 2nd degree, a class "B" felony offense. The people will be recommending a sentence of up to fifteen years imprisonment. However, State Supreme Court Justice David Stadtmauer has indicated that under the terms of the plea agreement, he will sentence Aleman to an indeterminate term of up to five years imprisonment when he appears in State Supreme Court on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, in Part T19. In addition, an eight year order of protection will be issued to the victim post release.

On February 23, 2005, following a month long investigation, Aleman met with an undercover detective from the New York City Police Department's Bronx Auto Crime Unit, whom he believed to be a "hit-man". Aleman agreed to pay the detective $5000 to kill a former co-worker for repeatedly rejecting his romantic advances.

According to the Criminal Court Complaint, Aleman provided the undercover detective with the name and address of his victim and paid a $100 deposit towards the proposed murder.

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Aleman was immediately arrested.

Mr. Johnson thanked lead Detective Martin Kuhl, and other members of the NYPD Bronx Auto Crimes Unit, and a concerned citizen, for bringing this matter to our attention.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Lisa Mattaway and Marc Brown of the Trial Bureau.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PROBATION FOR ASSAULTING HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SECURITY OFFICER DURING STUDENT PROTEST

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that Criminal Court Judge Catherine Bartlett sentenced Miguel Malo, 35, to ten days of community service and three years probation for assaulting a security guard at Hostos Community College during a student protest in August 2001. The People had recommended a sentence of thirty days in jail. In addition to the community service and probation, the judge also ordered Malo to complete a course in Anger Management.

A jury, on October 24, 2005, found Malo guilty of Assault in the 3rd degree and Disorderly conduct, both misdemeanor offenses.

Malo was President of the Student Senate when the crime occurred. The charges against him were filed following a student protest at the college on August 15, 2001 when he kicked a uniformed security officer in the groin while resisting arrest. Malo was found guilty of "recklessly causing physical injury to another person" and of "disturbing a lawful assembly or meeting without lawful authority." He had been part of a larger group of students who were distributing leaflets urging students not to register for classes. The students were protesting

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budget cuts that affected the school's bilingual and Spanish programs. When Malo left an area that had been set aside for protesters and attempted to disrupt the registration process, he was arrested after ignoring repeated warnings to leave.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Terry Gensler.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, December 15, 2005

GRAND JURY INDICTS ACCUSED KILLERS OF AN OFF DUTY POLICE OFFICER WHO INTERRUPTED THEM DURING AN ALLEGED BURGLARY

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a grand jury has indicted two Yonkers men in connection with the shooting death of Police Officer Daniel Enchautegui.

Steven Armento, 48, was charged with two counts of Murder in the 1st degree in that he allegedly intentionally caused the death of a New York City police officer who was acting in the line of duty. The grand jury also charges that Armento intentionally caused the officer's death during the course of committing a designated felony.

The grand jury also charged Armento, and co-defendant Lillo Brancato, 29, with Murder in the 2nd degree, Burglary in the 1st degree and Criminal Possession of a weapon in the 2nd degree. If convicted of the most serious offenses, Armento would be facing a maximum sentence of life imprisonment with the possibility of parole; Brancato would be facing a maximum sentence of 25 years to life imprisonment.

Armento and Brancato are scheduled to be arraigned on the indictment on Monday, January 9, 2006 in State Supreme Court, Part A.

Police Officer Enchautegui was shot and killed on Saturday, December 10, 2005 while

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investigating a burglary on Arnow Place in the Pelham Bay section of the Bronx.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Theresa Gottlieb.