

01/2014



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— PRESS RELEASE —

Monday, January 6, 2014

BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTEES

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the hiring of 15 new Assistant District Attorneys.

The new ADAs began a one-week training program Monday, January 6, 2014, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Cari E. Ferreiro, Chief 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:

Elise Benninghofen	Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
Christopher G. Binns	New York Law School
William R. Browne	George Washington University Law School
Michael M. Duffy	New York Law School
Corey R. Forster	SUNY @ Buffalo School of Law
Jennifer E. Goldman	Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
Michael H. Gross	Brooklyn Law School

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Elizabeth L. Kamens

Drexel University School of Law

Allison Kline

Pace University School of Law

Jacob Kutnicki

Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center

John G. Marck

St. John's University School of Law

Heather McMahon

St. John's University School of Law

Ramandeep Singh

Penn State University, Dickinson School of Law

Rachel E. Taverna

Pace University School of Law

Brian Valerio

American University, Washington College of Law



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Wednesday, January 15, 2014

**FORMER PASTOR CONVICTED OF RAPING TWO TEENAGE GIRLS WHO
HAD ATTENDED HIS CHURCH OR ITS AFFILIATED SCHOOL WHERE HE HAD
SERVED AS PRINCIPAL**

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the conviction of a 41-year-old minister who had sexual relations with two teenage girls, one of whom belonged to his former congregation. The second victim attended the church affiliated school where the defendant had served as principal.

The Reverend Michael Clare, of West Harrison, New York pled guilty to two counts of Rape in the 2nd degree before State Supreme Court Justice Margaret Clancy who set sentencing for Friday, January 30, 2014 in Part H 79. Under the terms of the plea agreement, the former pastor of the Harvest Worship Center International will be sentenced to concurrent terms of 5 years imprisonment, waive his right to appeal, and will register as a sex offender.

Clare admitted to engaging in sexual intercourse with the first victim, a 13-year-old member of his congregation on March 9, 2007. The incident occurred at Clare's residence at the time at 325 Quincy Avenue. He also admitted to having sexual intercourse at the Quincy Avenue home with a 14-year-old girl sometime between September 8 and September 30, 2009.

The wishes of both victims and the fact that Clare is facing deportation upon the

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completion of his prison term were taken into consideration when negotiating the plea agreement. Clare, who is not a citizen of the United States, will be facing deportation to Jamaica and has been in the custody of federal immigration authorities since August 2012.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Elizabeth Brandon and Kimberley Burgess Capers, Deputy Chief of the Child Abuse / Sex Crimes Bureau.



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Wednesday, January 29, 2014

**BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR THE
ATTEMPTED MURDER OF PAROLE OFFICER**

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 25-year-old man who violated parole was sentenced to life imprisonment for the attempted murder of his parole officer.

Jonathan Lee, of 1381 Crotona Avenue, was found guilty on one count of Attempted Murder in the first degree, two counts of Assault in the second degree, one count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the second degree, and one count of Resisting Arrest.

Lee, a mandatory persistent violent felony offender with prior convictions for attempted robbery and illegal gun possession, was sentenced to terms of up to life imprisonment by Acting State Supreme Court Justice John Carter.

The judge imposed consecutive sentences of 25 years to life imprisonment for the attempted murder and 15 years to life imprisonment for one of the two assault charges. Lee was sentenced to concurrent terms of 16 years to life on the gun charge, 12 years to life on the second assault charge, and 1 year for resisting arrest. Lee will not become eligible for parole until he has served at least 40 years in prison.

The incident for which Lee was sentenced today occurred on September 2, 2011 a little

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over one month after his July 29, 2011 release from prison on a gun charge. Three officers from the New York State Division of Parole went to an apartment at 1381 Crotona Avenue, the Bronx, in order to take Lee into custody for violating his parole by failing to report. During the scuffle that ensued when the officers attempted to execute the warrant Lee seized one of their firearms and began striking one of the officers with it. Lee then attempted to fire the weapon which failed to discharge when one of the officers grabbed the slide. Lee also bit all of the officers during the melee.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Dominick DiMaggio and Assistant District Attorney Timothy Collins of the Trial Division.



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Wednesday, January 29, 2014

**GUILTY VERDICT IN 1993 COLD CASE MURDER – 53-YEAR-OLD
DEFENDANT ARRESTED IN 2012 FOLLOWING EXTRADITION FROM THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the murder conviction of a 53-year-old man for the brutal murder of a 24-year-old Bronx woman in March 1993.

Angel Guridy, (aka Angel Guridy Cabral), was found guilty on one count of Murder in the second degree in the death of Altagracia Valdez, whom he had been dating. Guridy was convicted after two days of deliberations following a three week trial. The jury found that the defendant had intentionally caused the victim's death by stabbing her multiple times with a knife.

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Martin Marcus set sentencing for March 5, 2014 in Part H78. Guridy is facing a maximum sentence of up to 25 years to life imprisonment.

The murder occurred in Valdez's Gerard Avenue apartment where Guridy stabbed her repeatedly in the neck and right shoulder. Her partially nude body was discovered when police responded to reports of an unrelated altercation in the building and heard the victim's 7-month-old son crying, who was found unharmed.

Although forensic evidence was recovered by the medical examiner as a result of the



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autopsy there was no DNA Databank at the time of the murder to compare the DNA profile of the suspect. The investigation also revealed that the victim had been dating a cab driver named Angel at the time of her death but no further information about him was uncovered.

In 2003, Detectives Mark Tebbens and Anthony Padilla of the NYPD Cold Case Apprehension Squad re-opened the investigation as part of police initiative to look into cold case homicides where there might be DNA evidence. The detectives contacted the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and requested a new analysis from vaginal swabs taken from the victim using new DNA techniques.

In 2008, the Forensic Biology Laboratory reported a “hit” from the DNA Databank to Guridy’s DNA profile. Detectives Tebbens and Padilla located Guridy in the Dominican Republic and travelled there to speak to him. Guridy was asked about the victim; he denied knowing her and claimed not to recognize her photograph.

Guridy was indicted in September 2010 but was not returned to the Bronx until May 2012 following a lengthy extradition process involving the United States Department of Justice, the United States Department of State, and the government of the Dominican Republic.

The case was developed by Assistant District Attorney Rachel Singer, Director of DNA Prosecutions and tried by Assistant District Attorney Thomas Kapp of the Gangs/Major Case Bureau.



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Thursday, January 30, 2014

**BRONX MAN CHARGED WITH GRAND LARCENY, FORGERY AND OTHER
OFFENSES AFTER AUTHORITIES SEIZE COUNTERFEIT TICKETS FOR SUPER
BOWL XLVIII VALUED AT NEARLY \$114,000**

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the arrest of a 42-year-old Bronx man and the seizure of 124 counterfeit tickets for Super Bowl XLVIII as a result of an investigation by the National Football League, the New York City Police Department, and the Gangs / Major Case Bureau of the Bronx District Attorney's Office.

Kevin Walker, of 937 Croes Avenue, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the second degree, Trademark counterfeiting in the first degree, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the second degree, and Criminal Possession of Forgery Devices. If convicted of the most serious charges, Grand Larceny in the second degree and Trademark Counterfeiting in the first degree, both Class C felony offenses, Walker would be facing a maximum sentence of up to 15 years imprisonment.

Walker was arraigned before Criminal Court Judge Kim Wilson who set bail at \$15,000.

District Attorney Johnson said: "The sale of these tickets would have potentially deprived fans of their hard earned dollars and crushed the dreams of young and old expecting to attend the



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much anticipated annual climax to the football season. Kudos to the resourceful investigators.”

Anastasia Danias, the NFL’s chief litigation officer said: “We are grateful for the hard work of the NYPD and the Gangs /Major Case Bureau of the Bronx District Attorney’s Office. This investigation is significant step in protecting fans from scams that will leave them out of pocket and out of the stadium.”

It is alleged in court papers that Walker was detained after investigators observed him leave his apartment building carrying a shoebox which he placed in a van parked outside. Investigators went to a third floor apartment where a woman who rented the apartment and also owned the vehicle parked outside, told them that Walker also lived there. After obtaining written permission to search the apartment and the van, investigators recovered the counterfeit tickets, holographic paper, gold leaf paper, laminate glue, two packages of 4 by 6 photo paper, a cutter, and a hot press.

According to the National Football League, the 124 counterfeit tickets seized have a street sale value of \$113,900 and are believed to be the largest single recovery of counterfeit Super Bowl XLVIII tickets in the New York City area to date.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christine Scaccia of the Gangs /Major Case Bureau.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Monday, February 10, 2014

CONSECUTIVE LIFE SENTENCES FOR 53-YEAR-OLD SEXUAL PREDATOR

CONVICTED OF ASSAULTING TWO YOUNG WOMEN

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a registered sex offender was sentenced to maximum terms of up to life imprisonment for sexually assaulting two young women in May 2009.

53-year-old Stephen Robinson was convicted last month on 6 counts of Predatory Sexual Assault and 4 counts of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree. Robinson was found guilty after two days of deliberations following a two month long trial.

State Supreme Court Justice Margaret Clancy sentenced Robinson to two consecutive terms of 25 years to life imprisonment, after hearing impact statements from the defendant's two victims. One victim addressed the court in person while the other prepared a written statement which was read into the record.

The judge said Robinson, a mandatory persistent felony offender, was clearly an "unrelenting and unrepentant" sexual predator and ordered that the sentences run consecutive which means that Robinson must serve a minimum of 50 years in prison before he'll become eligible for parole.

The rapes for which Robinson was sentenced today occurred just seven months after he was released from prison on an unrelated sex crime that he committed in 1999. Before that Robinson had served time for several other rapes committed in 1980s.

The first of Robinson's most recent sex crimes occurred on May 10, 2009 when he accosted his 18-year-old victim at approximately 2:30 a.m. as she was returning home from work. The defendant approached her in the vicinity of Kingsbridge Road and the Grand Concourse. The second attack occurred a little over a week later on May 19, 2009 at approximately 12:30 a.m. This time a 17-year-old victim was accosted on East Kingsbridge Road between Creston Avenue and the Grand Concourse as she was on her way home from the gym. In both cases Robinson told the young women that he had a gun and forced them to walk with him to an abandoned house at 2516 Grand Avenue where they were then raped and released.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jill Starishevsky and Assistant District Attorney Serena Barnett of the Child Abuse / Sex Crimes Bureau.



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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, February 20, 2014

BRONX MAN FACING 14 YEARS IN PRISON AFTER ADMITTING GUILT IN
“LATIN KING GOONIES” GANG ASSAULT

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the conviction of Idelfonso Mendez, a reputed leader of the Latin Kings Goonies street gang, for his role in a gang assault which occurred on October 3, 2010.

Mendez, 26, of 319 East 197th Street, the Bronx, pled guilty to one count of Gang Assault in the first degree, a Class B felony offense.

The plea was entered before Acting State Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett who set sentencing for Monday, March 31, 2014 in Part 60. Under the plea agreement Mendez will be sentenced to a term of fourteen years imprisonment followed by post release supervision for five years. Mendez also waived his right to appeal the conviction.

Mendez admitted that he “acted-in-concert with others with intent to cause serious physical injury to Victor Pellot, and being aided by two or more other persons actually present, did cause serious physical injury to Victor Pellot.” The assault occurred in a basement apartment at 1910 Osbourne Place where the gang members congregated.

Six other defendants were previously convicted in connection with this incident which involved three victims at two separate locations. The case against a seventh defendant, Luis



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Garcia, is still pending.

David Rivera, 24, of 1975 Sedgwick Avenue, pled guilty to one count of Burglary in the first degree, a Class B felony offense, for his role in the gang related incident. Rivera admitted that he, acting in concert with other gang members, entered the home of two of the victims, displayed what appeared to be a gun, and took cash, credit cards, and personal property, including a television. Rivera also pled guilty to one count of Robbery in the third degree, a Class D felony offense, stemming from an unrelated crime. Rivera was sentenced to thirteen years in prison.

Nelson Falu, 20, of 1932 Hennessey Place, pled guilty to one count of Robbery in the first degree, a Class B felony offense, for his involvement in the October 3rd incident during which he admitted stealing personal property after threatening one of the victims with a baseball bat. Falu was sentenced to seven years in prison.

Elmer Confresi, 26, of 1866 Loring Place, pled guilty to one count of Attempted Gang Assault in the 1st degree, a Class C felony offense. Confresi admitted that he acted-in-concert with the others to cause serious physical injury to one of the victims. Confresi was sentenced to four years in prison.

Jose Dominguez, 26, of 1920 Loring Place pled guilty to one count of Attempted Assault in the first degree and was sentenced to four and a half years in prison.

Ruddy Vargas, 26, of 2925 Colden Avenue, pled guilty to one count of Robbery in the third degree and was sentenced to 2 to 6 years in prison.

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In urging the court to accept the plea agreements in each case, Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Theresa Gottlieb told the court the pleas were offered after lengthy consultation with the victims who wished to avoid having to testify, which might have had the effect of victimizing them again. ADA Gottlieb told the court that the People believed that the pleas served the interest of justice from society's perspective as well as that of the victims.

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



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— PRESS RELEASE —

Friday, March 07, 2014

FOUR NEW YORK CITY CORRECTION OFFICERS INDICTED FOR
ALLEGEDLY ASSAULTING AN INMATE AND ATTEMPTING TO COVER UP THE
UNJUSTIFIED BEAT DOWN

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the indictment and arrests of four New York City Correction Officers for allegedly assaulting an inmate at a Rikers Island facility and filing false reports in order to justify their use of force against the inmate.

The grand jury has returned a 19-count indictment charging Correction Officers Michael Dorsainvil, Christopher Huggins, and Mark Anglin with Attempted Gang Assault in the first and second degrees, Attempted Assault in the first degree, Assault in the second degree, Official Misconduct, Falsifying Business Records in the first degree, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the first degree.

If Dorsainvil, Huggins, and Anglin are convicted of the most serious charges, Attempted Gang Assault in the first degree and Attempted Assault in the first degree both Class C felony offenses they would be facing a maximum sentence of up to 15 years imprisonment.

A fourth Correction Officer, Ronald Donnelley, has been charged only with Official Misconduct, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the first degree and Falsifying Business Records in the first degree. Donnelley would be facing a maximum sentence of up to four years in prison if convicted of the most serious Class E felony charges dealing with falsifying official reports.



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The charges in the indictment are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

All of the defendants were arraigned in State Supreme Court Part 60 before Acting Justice Steven Barrett.

Three defendants are charged with “Acting-in-Concert” in the alleged beating of Carl Williams on March 15, 2013 at the George Motchan Detention Center on Rikers Island. The incident occurred as Williams was being escorted back to the facility following a court appearance. Williams reportedly began cursing the officers when they confiscated a bag containing food that he was carrying and threw it in the garbage. It is alleged that three of the defendants placed Williams into a holding cell held him down on the floor and struck him repeatedly while Donnelley observed from outside the cell. Williams later received medical attention for contusions, bumps and cuts to his face and head including nine stitches to his mouth.

It was during a routine review of the Department of Correction use of force and witnesses reports in connection with this incident that discrepancies were discovered. The defendants allegedly claimed that they intervened because Williams was threatening to hang himself. Those alleged written official accounts were contradicted by Department of Correction video recordings of the incident.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Pishoy Yacoub of the Rackets Bureau.



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— PRESS RELEASE —

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALLEGED FILING OF FRAUDULENT
PETITIONS WITH THE NEW YORK CITY BOARD OF ELECTION HAS BEEN
CLOSED WITH THE ARRESTS OF THREE CAMPAIGN WORKERS FOR CITY
COUNCIL MEMBER MARIA DEL CARMEN ARROYO**

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a nine month-long investigation into fraudulent petitions filed with the New York City Board of Elections has resulted in the arrests of three former campaign workers for New York City Council Member Maria Del Carmen Arroyo.

The investigation uncovered no evidence of any criminal conduct by any other persons.

Elbin Lopez, 49, of 290 Alexander Avenue, Betty Julien, 47, of 925 Bruckner Boulevard of 40 Richman Plaza, and Luis Vargas, 45, of 925 Bruckner Boulevard, have been charged with multiple felony counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, Forgery in the Second Degree, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. The defendants are facing maximum terms of up to seven years imprisonment if convicted.

The charges stem from the defendants' alleged conduct as employees of Council Member Arroyo's campaign for re-election in 2013. The defendants were hired by the Council Member's



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campaign to gather signatures on petitions to have her name placed on the ballot in the Democratic Primary Election which was held in September 2013.

The defendants were arraigned before Criminal Court Judge Carol Sharpe and were released on their own recognizance.

It is alleged that Lopez, Julien, and Vargas forged nearly one hundred signatures on the candidate's petitions which were then filed with the New York City Board of Elections. The alleged forgeries included the signatures of New York Yankees team captain Derek Jeter, sports announcer Joe Buck, New York Giants defensive tackle Rocky Bernard, and actress Kate Moss. The petitions also contained phony addresses accompanying some signatures including a Citibank branch location and a location for the drug rehabilitation program Odyssey House.

The charges announced today are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

District Attorney Johnson thanked the following for their hard work which resulted in the charges being announced today: Assistant District Attorney Stuart Levy, Chief of the Rackets Bureau; Assistant District Attorney Pishoy Yacoub of the Rackets Bureau who is prosecuting the case; Chief Detective Investigator Frank Chiara; Lieutenant Doris Amador; Senior Detective Investigator Merrybet Tavaréz; Detective Investigator John Wall; and the New York City Department of Investigation for its assistance.

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Contacts:

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DOZENS OF REPUTED MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES OF THE 'BLOODS'
STREET GANG 'MAC BALLAS' ARE INDICTED ON CHARGES OF CONSPIRING
TO COMMIT MURDER, ATTEMPTED MURDER, ASSAULTS, AND SELL ILLEGAL
NARCOTICS AMONG OTHER OFFENSES

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson and New York City Police Commissioner William Bratton announced today the arrests and indictment of 63 reputed 'Bloods' gang members and associates following a two-year-long joint investigation which began following an increase in shooting incidents. The spike in shootings occurred in the vicinity of 169th Street and Washington Avenue, an area known as 'The Nine' in the Morrisania section of the Bronx. Much of the gang affiliated violence occurred in and around two New York City Housing Authority developments, the Webster Houses and the Gouverneur Morris Houses.

All 63 'Bloods' affiliated 'Mac Ballas' named in the 109 count indictment are charged with multiple counts of conspiracy to traffic in illegal narcotics including heroin, crack cocaine,

powdered cocaine, and the prescription drugs Oxycodone and Percocet. Transactions involving the illegal drugs occurred not only in the Bronx but in Chelsea, East Harlem and the Lower East Side in Manhattan, Binghamton, New York, and Tuckahoe, New York.

The defendants are also charged with conspiring to commit two murders, four attempted murders, a kidnapping, several assaults, home invasion robberies and burglaries, as well as criminal possession of firearms on numerous occasions.

The charges in the indictment are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson said, “All law enforcement personnel involved in this investigation should be very proud of what has been accomplished with these arrests and this indictment which alleges an extensive catalogue of violent crimes. Our continued cooperative efforts should go a long way in helping to secure convictions of these defendants and thereby improve the quality of life for the residents of Morrisania by eradicating the murder and mayhem in their streets.”

Police Commissioner William J. Bratton said, “Today’s indictments send a very clear message to those criminals who prey upon our communities and recruit our youth into a culture of violence; we will work tirelessly to track you down and hold you accountable for your illegal actions. We hope the families of the victims affected by these criminals will get some comfort in knowing that the Mac Balla Family (MBF) and their associates will be brought to justice. I want to thank all of the agencies involved in this extensive investigation for dismantling one of

the city's most violent criminal enterprises.”

The lengthy investigation involved the use of court ordered wiretaps, video surveillance, GPS technology, as well as monitored telephone calls from gang leaders directing gang business from city and state correctional facilities. There were also purchases of various narcotic and prescription drugs by undercover investigators.

According to the indictment the defendants are accused of engaging in the conspiracy from approximately April 3, 2009 through April 7, 2014.

Each of the defendants is facing a maximum sentence of up to life imprisonment if convicted of the most serious of the conspiracy counts, Conspiracy in the First Degree, a Class A-I felony offense.

One defendant, Larry Calderon, is facing a maximum sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole if found guilty of Murder in the First Degree in the contract killing of Frank Russell in October 2011.

It is alleged that Calderon ordered the ‘hit’ because reputed gang member Russell attempted an unauthorized home invasion robbery in which an accomplice was shot and left behind to die, in violation of the Mac Balla’s code of conduct.

Calderon has also been charged with Murder in the Second Degree while ‘acting-in-concert’ with three men Akive Rivera, Adam Kinley, and a third un-apprehended individual, in causing Russell’s death on October 28, 2011. If convicted of Murder in the Second Degree the defendants would be facing a maximum sentence of up to 25 years to life imprisonment.

A second homicide charged in the indictment involved the shooting death of Mathew Simmons on June 26, 2013. Simmons, an alleged marijuana dealer, was the target of a robbery allegedly committed by Mattyias Letang, Tyrell Nash, and a third un-apprehended individual. They are facing a top count of Murder in the Second Degree, while ‘acting-in-concert’ in causing Simmons’ death. Conviction on the top count is punishable by a maximum sentence of 25 years to life imprisonment.

The indictment includes charges against eight defendants in four attempted murders and a kidnapping. All four attempted murders were shootings at various street locations involving ‘beefs’ with members of rival gangs. Damien Matos allegedly shot Jeffrey Bolden on May 17, 2012. Russell Clark and an un-apprehended individual were charged in the shooting of Jason Rivera on June 12, 2012. Tyrell Nash was charged with the attempted murder of Jerome Roman and the assault of India Scarborough in shootings on July 1, 2012. Scarborough was a bystander caught in the line of fire. Nash was also charged in a second attempted murder, along with Mattyias Letang, in the shooting of another rival gang member, on August 13, 2013. Adam Kindley, Michael Herbin and Michael Monroe were charged with kidnapping the son of a reputed drug dealer and rapper on June 14, 2012. These defendants are facing a maximum sentence of up to 25 years imprisonment if convicted on the attempted murder, assault, and kidnapping charges.

27 of the 63 defendants named in the indictment were already in custody on other matters when investigators began executing arrest warrants on Monday, April 7, 2014. A number of the

defendants named in the indictment being announced today are also facing federal charges announced last month by the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District.

This investigation is continuing and additional arrests are expected. 15 of the 63 people indicted are still being sought by law enforcement.

District Attorney Johnson and Commissioner Bratton said the indictment and arrests announced today were the result of hard work and cooperation by multiple law enforcement agencies including: The Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District; The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations; and The New York City Department of Correction Gang Intelligence Unit.

D.A. Johnson and Commissioner Bratton also thanked members of their staffs for their dedication and hard work: The NYPD Bronx Homicide Task Force, in particular Lieutenant Sean O'Toole, and Detectives Carlos Infante, Nicholas Ciuffi and Mitchell Geist; Bronx District Attorney Detective Investigators and Chief Detective Investigator Frank Chiara; and the Bronx District Attorney Gangs / Major Case Bureau, Assistant District Attorney Edward Talty, Chief, Assistant District Attorney Edward Friedenthal, Counsel, and Assistant District Attorneys Christine Scaccia, Eric Hirsch, and KellyAnne Holohan.

Assistant District Attorney Scaccia is prosecuting the case.

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Monday, April 14, 2014

DISTRICT ATTORNEY ROBERT T. JOHNSON ANNOUNCES THE
APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today the appointment of Terry Raskyn as Director of Public Information. Ms. Raskyn, a veteran news executive, business woman and public relations specialist, brings more than 40 years of experience to her new assignment.

Prior to being hired by Mr. Johnson, Ms. Raskyn worked in various capacities for a number of news organizations WCBS News Radio, ABC News One, WNBC Radio, Good Morning America, and Globe Communications. Ms. Raskyn has a wide range of experience as a reporter, special events producer, news manager and managing editor. She has also provided commentary on media, law and current events for CNN, the BBC, MSNBC and Fox News.

Ms. Raskyn grew up in the Bronx where she attended Walton High School. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Herbert H. Lehman College and a Juris Doctor Degree from the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law.

Ms. Raskyn succeeds Steven Reed who is retiring on April 30, 2014 after serving as spokesman for the Office of the Bronx District Attorney for nearly 24 years.

12/2014



ROBERT T. JOHNSON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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— PRESS RELEASE —

Thursday, April 17, 2014

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Bronx District Attorney's Office

(718) 590-2234

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(646) 610-6700

INDICTMENT BY THE NUMBERS: 80 COUNTS, 34 DEFENDANTS

Felons Foiled by Facebook in Gang vs. Gang Attempted Murder and Assault Case

Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson and New York City Police

Commissioner William Bratton announced today a takedown this week, during which nearly three dozen members of the rival gangs Six Four Goons (SFG) and Forest Over Everything (FOE) have been arrested and charged in a massive 80-count indictment.

The 15-month-long joint Bronx DA and NYPD investigation began as a result of the probe into the shooting death of 4-year-old Lloyd Morgan. Two of the defendants indicted today, Rondell Pinkerton, aka "Spyder" and Ronald Jeffrey aka "Tab Lucas", were previously charged with murder in Morgan's death in an indictment handed down on July 30, 2012. That murder case is still pending.



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During the course of the investigation of the child's death during a gang gun battle at the Forest Houses playground in the summer of 2012, police uncovered evidence that the gang rivalries were discussed on Facebook.

Among the charges in the indictment are Conspiracy and related crimes, including Attempted Murder and Criminal Possession of a Weapon. The top charges, Conspiracy in the First Degree, a Class A-1 felony offense is punishable by a maximum sentence of up to life imprisonment while Attempted Murder in the Second Degree, a Class B felony offense, carries a maximum term of up to 25 years behind bars if convicted.

It is alleged that the rival FOEs and SFGs used Facebook to conduct gang activity, purchase firearms, and also discuss shootings and gang rivalries. Investigators also relied on forensic evidence, including ballistics and DNA, as well as monitored telephone conversations of gang members being held on Rikers Island.

This indictment charges eight individuals with “acting-in-concert” in six separate incidents in allegedly committing five attempted murders and one attempted assault. All of the incidents allegedly involved gang rivalries.

The first of the attempted murders charged in the indictment occurred on June 21, 2011 when Kaashief Gresham allegedly approached someone near a playground on Caudwell Avenue, asked the target if he was affiliated with the Six Four Goons and opened fire.



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On August 26, 2011, shots fired at a rival gang member missed the intended target but shattered the glass at a bus stop shelter on Prospect Avenue and East 165th Street. No one was injured. Jamel Jones, aka Hollywood Mel, has been charged with attempted murder in that incident.

Jones and two other defendants, Ronald Jeffrey and Demetrius Johnson, were charged with attempted murder for another shooting incident in the vicinity of Prospect Avenue and East 165th Street on September 5, 2011. Shots were fired but no one was injured.

Five days later on September 10, 2011 Ronald Jeffrey and Kevin Watt allegedly fired shots at a member of a rival gang on the corner of Prospect Avenue and East 164th Street. A 20-year-old bystander was struck in the leg.

A fifth attempted murder charged in the indictment occurred on October 23, 2011 when shots were fired in front of 985 Prospect Avenue injuring the intended target, a member of a rival gang.

It is alleged that members of both rival gangs used Facebook to communicate their plans, their desire to acquire weapons, and gave instructions about how shootings were to be carried out:

“U hurd wat happen on 64th...mula got hit...yeaaa we goin to run down on them this week...head shots only bro”—in a July 2012 Facebook conversation that made references to shootings during that month that took place days later.



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In another Facebook conversation in March of 2011, another of the defendants posted: “I bang bang got da glock right here FOE stand up...”

In another from August of 2011, “Somebody gotta walk with me threw forest so I can...get ...to my crib...bout to get back on my shoot...idc [I don’t care] if they with they granny I’m dumping type sh**...”

The accused indicted today:

Kevin Watt a/k/a “Pook Murda”

Mike Jones

Donnelle Horn a/k/a “Don”

Kaashief Gresham a/k/a “Moneymaking Kaa”

Tyreek Gaston a/k/a “Ty Gaston”

Rahim Minkins a/k/a “Trillz Boss”

Dalon Williams a/k/a “ASAP Los”

Derrick Davis a/k/a “Dollaz Davis”

Jeremy Jones a/k/a “Mula Jones”

Ronald Jeffrey a/k/a “Tab Lucas”

Jaleel Hines a/k/a “Jah Da Boss”

Daniel Ramos a/k/a “Daniel SF Ramos”

William Waring a/k/a “William Charmy Waring”

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Domonique Graham a/k/a “Domonique D. Graham”

Dennis James a/k/a “Dee James”

Tynina Mitchell a/k/a “Miley Banks”

Zaron Samassi a/k/a “Zaron Nichols”

Isaac Rivera a/k/a “Stackz Street”

Jamel Jones a/k/a “Hollyhood Mel”

Tyriek Merrit a/k/a “Tye Parkway”

Demetrius Johnson a/k/a “Millz Johnson”

Isaam Henry a/k/a “Freddy Banks”

Rondell Pinkerton a/k/a “Sfgzspyder”

Rasheed McBride a/k/a “Rah”

Tyrone Lancasrer a/k/a “Rocky Trippen”

Dereck Velasqurz a/k/a “Choppa Staysmack”

Derrick Richardson a/k/a “Problemchild Jrocc HMC”

Andrew McMillian a/k/a “Andrew McMillian”

Stephon Smith a/k/a “Lowkey Flee Flee”

Tyrone Shine a/k/a “Benji Goon”

Jarel Ward a/k/a “Rell Flocka”

Raymond James a/k/a “Ray Stacks”

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Malik Cook a/k/a “Liki Leak”

Kareem Williams a/k/a “Jason James”

Additional subjects are still being sought. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Kristen Bitetto and April Cohen of the Gangs / Major Case Bureau.

D.A. Johnson and Commissioner Bratton also thanked the NYPD's 41st Precinct, Detective Matt Lingeza; Police Service Area 7, Sergeants Timothy Jaycox and Christopher Pasquale and Officers Christopher Foy and Carlos Rivera; and Juvenile Justice Division, Officer Brian Moore who were critical in the investigation.

The charges in the indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

**THE MEMORIAL MURDER: BRONX MAN PLEADS GUILTY
IN DEADLY SHOOTING AT MEMORIAL FOR ANOTHER SLAIN VICTIM**

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 30, 2014) - Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson today announced the conviction that will see a 20-year-old man spend 30 years to life behind bars for the shooting death of a young man at the scene of a memorial vigil for another, unrelated, murder victim.

DARRELL PATILLO of 2315 Walton Avenue in the Bronx, pled guilty on April 28, 2014, to one count of Murder in the 2nd degree for the shooting death of JONATHAN LEWIS, age 22. He also pled guilty to Attempted Murder in the 2nd degree for shooting into a crowd.

The fatal shooting occurred on April 25th, 2012, during an outdoor vigil for a slain man, 24-year-old MICHAEL IKOLI, in the vicinity of 2427 Webster Avenue. PATILLO, aged 18 at the time, was passing LEWIS in the street when he turned, aimed, and shot his victim in the chest with a .38-caliber revolver. The victim fell into the street, and PATILLO then stood over him, executing him with a shot to the neck. PATILLO then fired four more gunshots at the crowd that had formed to pay its respects to IKOLI, a childhood friend of Lewis'; no one was hit. MICHAEL IKOLI had been killed at the site of the vigil a year earlier, on May 3rd, 2011. His murder is still unsolved.

Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Allen Karen prosecuted the case against PATILLO.

DARRELL PATILLO is scheduled to be sentenced on his agreed-upon plea on May 19, 2014, before Justice John Moore, in Part 85, Hall of Justice, 265 E. 161st Street, Bronx.

15/2014



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PRESS RELEASE

JOSEPH BAEZ SENTENCED IN SHOOTING OF HERO COP NELSON VERGARA

“Beef Pattie” to Spend a Decade Behind Bars

For immediate release

(Bronx, NY; May 8, 2014) – Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson today announced the sentencing of JOSEPH BAEZ on a conviction of Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree for the shooting of a civilian and NYPD Officer NELSON VERGARA on June 24, 2012.

BAEZ, a/k/a “BEEF PATTIE,” pled guilty to the shooting in front of 1834 Phelan Place in the Bronx, during which he struck a civilian and Officer VERGARA, who was off duty at the time.

The NYPD officer was walking home after his tour had ended when an acquaintance of BAEZ taunted the officer and threw a bottle in his direction. When VERGARA walked over to confront the man and others standing by, a car drove up and BAEZ leaped from the vehicle, and fired shots at the civilian in a continuation of an earlier dispute between the two. Officer VERGARA was hit by BAEZ’s bullets, which were fired from a 9mm weapon. The officer managed to take cover and fire back, saving the life of the civilian acquaintance.

VERGARA suffered serious injuries to his shoulder and leg during the incident, and underwent surgery at the time. Now back on duty, VERGARA has since been promoted to the rank of Detective.

15/2014



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JAMES BRENNAN, Deputy Chief of the Intake Bureau of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office, prosecuted the case.

After the People recommended a sentence of 15 years in prison, followed by five years of post-release supervision, Bronx Supreme Court Judge Troy Webber, Part H92, sentenced JOSEPH "Beef Pattie" BAEZ to 10 years behind bars and an additional three-and-a-half years of post-release supervision.

16/2014



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PRESS RELEASE

RIKERS INMATE INDICTED FOR VIOLENT ASSAULT

Joseph McRae alleged to have broken victim's jaw in two places

(Bronx, NY – May 15, 2014) -- Following a Grand Jury indictment on charges of Assault in the 1st Degree, Assault in the 2nd Degree, and Assault in the 3rd Degree, Rikers Island inmate JOSEPH McRAE appeared before a New York City Criminal Court judge in Bronx Supreme Court, announces Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson.

McRAE, age 24, is accused in the violent assault on a member of the Rikers medical staff that took place on April 16th, 2014.

The medical intern was working in the psychiatric wing of the institution when McRAE allegedly struck her with a closed fist, fracturing her jaw in two places, as well as fracturing her eye socket and sinus.

The victim's injuries required surgery.

The case has been adjourned for arraignment until June 24th in Bronx Supreme Court, Part FA, pending results of a mental competency examination.

McRAE was being held at Rikers on unrelated charges in a Manhattan case. He stands accused of a similar assault against a woman at New York's Penn Station last summer.

The Bronx case is being prosecuted by the Intake Bureau Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Lisa Mattaway.

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PRESS RELEASE

**GRAND JURY INDICTS JEFFREY PIERRE IN DOUBLE-HOMICIDE
A Chase From Car to Car Ends in Two Deaths**

(Bronx, NY – May 15, 2015) – Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson today announced that a Grand Jury has indicted defendant JEFFREY PIERRE in the shooting deaths of two men May 9th, 2014 at 4:35 AM, on Rombouts Avenue in the Bronx.

PIERRE, age 33, is alleged to have shot to death KAIISON LEWIS, 23, and JERMAINE JOHNSON, 28.

It is alleged that PIERRE was in his 1998 Mercedes-Benz outside 3805 Dyre Avenue, waiting to get food, when victims LEWIS and JOHNSON got into the car as well. The victims then exited PIERRE's vehicle, running a block-and-a-half and getting in to JOHNSON's car, a 2002 Acura, which was parked in front of 3730 Rombouts Avenue.

PIERRE is accused of following them to that location, where he allegedly opened fire, killing both men. Thirteen shots were fired from a 40-caliber semi-automatic weapon at the two victims. Police say Pierre fled the scene and was apprehended a few minutes later on Dyre Avenue after throwing the gun on the ground. That 40-caliber firearm was recovered. During the investigation, a 9-mm semi-automatic weapon was also recovered on the ground lying next to JOHNSON's vehicle.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Paul Rosenfeld.

PIERRE is scheduled to be arraigned on July 14, 2014, in Bronx Supreme Court, Part H 94.

The charges in the indictment are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.



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PRESS RELEASE

**44 YEARS TO LIFE IN DEVOE PARK
TRIPLE SHOOTING**

(Bronx, NY – May 29, 2014) Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced the sentence of 44 years up to life imprisonment in a triple-shooting, double-homicide case that took place in the vicinity of Devoe Park, University Avenue and Fordham Road, on April 7, 2011.

YENFRI RAMIREZ, age 19, was sentenced by Justice Barbara Newman to consecutive terms of 23 years to life for Murder in the 2nd Degree and 21 years in prison for Manslaughter in the 1st Degree. RAMIREZ will also serve concurrent terms of five years in prison for Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree and three years for Assault in the 2nd Degree. The prison sentence is followed by five years post release supervision.

The shooting took place in Devoe Park, following a fight that involved RAMIREZ' brother. A number of individuals began pursuing RAMIREZ through the park, and when they got to the corner of Fordham Road and West University Place, RAMIREZ pulled out a gun and fired three shots, fatally shooting EDWIN LIZ, age 17, in the back of the neck, and fatally wounding ALLAN MATOS, age 22, in the back. A third gunshot hit EFREN ESTRADA, age 39, in the leg. He survived his wounds.

An eyewitness at the scene identified the defendant at a lineup the next day, and a police officer also witnessed the killings.

Gangs / Major Case Bureau Senior Investigative Assistant District Attorney Thomas Kapp prosecuted the case.



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PRESS RELEASE

**SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM RETURNS TO THE
BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

(Bronx, NY – June 2, 2014) -- Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced that 24 law school and college students have been appointed to his staff as summer interns.

The law interns will help attorneys prepare cases for trial and provide research and other assistance in the General Crimes Division Trial Bureaus, Investigations Division, Narcotics Bureau, Gangs/Major Case Bureau, Domestic Violence Bureau, and the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau (CAS), as well as in the Complaint Room / DAT Unit and in the Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau 2221 Unit. The eight-week summer internship program began on Monday, June 2, 2014.

The students will work under the supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney Maria T. Rivero.

The summer interns and their schools are:

Law Students

Gianfranco Arlia

Joice Avila

Kiana Calder

David Cohen

Alexandra Cusano

New York Law School

Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center

Valparaiso University School of Law

Fordham University School of Law

SUNY @ Buffalo School of Law



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Alexander Eaton
Emmarie Etheridge
Griffin Kenyon
Katherine McCabe
Stephanie McCarthy
Daniel Mercedes
Thomas Montella
Nahid Noori
Pedro Perez Jr.
Sami Rahman
JeanPaul Rivera
Amanda Rodriguez
John Small Jr.
Hayden Watkins

New York Law School
Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center
Pace University School of Law
Fordham University School of Law
Brooklyn Law School
Syracuse University College of Law
St. John's University School of Law
St. John's University School of Law
Fordham University School of Law
Boston College Law School
CUNY School of Law
New York Law School
Hofstra University School of Law
Seton Hall University School of Law

College Students

Jack Edelman
Jasmine Oliver
Anthony Sosa
Randall Weber-Levine
Imannie Wiltshire

University of Michigan
University of Illinois
Kings College
Colgate University
Susquehanna University

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PRESS RELEASE

A SHOCKING DEVELOPMENT

Stolen Defibrillators Lead to Arrest of a Correction Officer & His Brother

(Bronx, NY – June 4, 2014) – Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson today announced a Grand Jury has indicted brothers MICHAEL & JOSEPH DIAZ for their roles in the thefts of more than \$6,000 worth of automated external defibrillators from the New York City Department of Correction, and peddling them online.

MICHAEL DIAZ, age 46, of Massapequa Park, NY, a Correction Officer at Rikers Island, is accused of stealing the equipment from facilities where he worked over a two-year period.

He and his brother JOSEPH DIAZ, age 43, of Lindenhurst, NY, are both charged with Grand Larceny in the 3rd Degree and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 3rd Degree.

MICHAEL DIAZ, who has been with the Department of Correction for 14 years, is also charged with Official Misconduct.



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PRESS RELEASE

The defibrillators have a list price of \$1,800 but were acquired by the Department of Correction for some \$1,200 each. The brothers are accused of auctioning the lifesaving equipment on eBay, where the AEDs sold for amounts ranging from \$542 to \$898.

The brothers surrendered to authorities today for their arraignment on the charges before State Supreme Court Justice Richard Price and were released on their own recognizance. They will be back in court on June 17th in Part H 60.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Christina Barba of the Rackets Bureau.

The charges in the indictment are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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PRESS RELEASE

**RETURN TO SENDER: LETTER CARRIER
ACCUSED IN DISABILITY SCAM**

USPS Carrier Accused of Scamming \$150K in Workers Comp Benefits

(Bronx, NY – June 6, 2014) – Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson and Rafael A. Medina, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General, Northeast Area Field Office, today announced the arrest and arraignment of a United States Postal Service employee, MARIA CHMIELEWSKI, for allegedly stealing more than \$150,000 In Workers Compensation Benefits, collecting 75% of her salary tax free.

CHMIELEWSKI, age 38, of 2990 Zulette Ave. in the Throgs Neck Section of the Bronx, is charged with one count each of Grand Larceny in the 2nd Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 2nd Degree, Insurance Fraud in the 2nd Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 2nd Degree.

Despite MARIA CHMIELEWSKI's claims that she was suffering from post-traumatic stress, panic disorder, and agoraphobia following a 2008 incident that rendered her "a prisoner in her own home," she was caught taking two separate holiday cruises, one to Alaska, and another to Canada, on which she was caught on video. Although she claimed she was unable to leave her home or even drive, investigators spotted her behind the wheel on numerous occasions.

CHMIELEWSKI has been with USPS since 2004, assigned to the Woodlawn Station.



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MARIA CHMIELEWSKI was arrested today and arraigned on the charges before Criminal Court Judge Linda Poust-Lopez and she was released on her own recognizance. She will be back in court on July 15th in Part FA.

The investigation was done in conjunction with the USPS Office of Inspector General Northeast Area Field Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Peter D'Angelo of the Arson/ Auto/ Economic Crimes Bureau.

The charges in the Criminal Complaint are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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PRESS RELEASE

SHOOTING IN THE SHADOW OF YANKEE STADIUM

Jury Finds Street Vendor Guilty of Murder, Attempted Murder

(Bronx, NY – June 5, 2014)—It was a midday double-shooting that took place not only in the shadow of Yankee Stadium, but also the back yard of the very courthouse where defendant HORACE COLEMAN was tried, and is now convicted, of murder and other charges.

Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today's verdicts in the five-week-long jury trial: Guilty of Murder in the 2nd Degree, Guilty of Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree, and Guilty of two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree.

On August 23rd, 2012, the streets around E. 161st Street & Gerard Avenue were busy with lunch-hour crowds when street vendor COLEMAN, age 52 at the time of the incident, drew a fully-loaded Magnum .357 revolver and fired at CLARENCE PEARSON, age 41 and DOUGLAS WATKINS, age 60, in a dispute over borrowed money.

Because of the location's proximity to the Bronx courthouses, four court officers who were in the immediate area gave chase, surrounding COLEMAN, who had walked a block away across 161st Street. COLEMAN, dressed in a pinstriped suit and a white fedora, dropped his gun and surrendered.

PEARSON succumbed to his injuries two days after the shooting; WATKINS, who was also shot in the abdomen, survived and testified at trial



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The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Susanna Imbo of Trial Bureau A34.

COLEMAN faces a prison sentence of 25 years-to-life on the murder charge; 25 years on the attempted murder charge, and up to 15 years behind bars on each of the gun charges.

COLEMAN is being held without bail and is scheduled to be sentenced on June 27th before State Supreme Court Justice William Mogulescu, Part H77.

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PRESS RELEASE

**SECOND SHOOTER SENTENCED IN UNPROVOKED
KILLING OF FATHER OF 4**

Heartbreaking Victim Impact Statements Read in Court

(Bronx, NY – June 11, 2014) -- Bronx County District Attorney Robert T.

Johnson today announced the sentencing of MARK LARAMORE to a term of 23 years behind bars plus five years post release supervision for the killing of social worker and father of three RAYMOND ORTIZ, weeks after fellow shooter, SHAWN WHITE, was sentenced to the same term for the same charge, Manslaughter in the 1st Degree.

LARAMORE, who celebrated his birthday yesterday, was 17 years old at the time of the crime.

The 34-year-old ORTIZ, who had a fourth child on the way, was gunned down as he took a rare night off from the two full-time jobs he was holding down to care for his family. In the wee hours of August 1, 2009, he was returning home from visiting friends in the Castle Hill section of the Bronx, when he dozed off while waiting for the BX22 bus, one he would never board.

Instead, he was approached by two armed men unbeknownst to him, SHAWN WHITE and MARK LARAMORE, who, perhaps startled when the suddenly-awakened dad stood up, opened fire at close range, nearly a half-dozen .22-caliber bullets hitting their mark.

LARAMORE and WHITE, along with two other friends, fled, but within days, were both turned in to police by their parents.



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PRESS RELEASE

“Everybody Loved Raymond”

“Coping isn’t easy. I have too much love in my heart to hate. But the pain we carry is undeniable,” reads the statement by LISA RAMOS, ORTIZ’ fiancée and mother of the son, Phoenix, who was born six months after his father’s killing. *“He worked 16 hours a day up to 7 days a week to make sure our children would not need for anything, [telling me] ‘That’s what real men do,’”* Ramos recalls.

“He was selfless. He was loved by his co-workers, his employers, because ‘everyone loved Raymond.’”

Adds the victim’s sister, MARIBEL ORTIZ, in her statement to the court: *“There is always a song, a scent, a location that reminds me of Ray, and when it happens, for a brief moment, my heart aches and an indescribable pain takes over my whole body and soul.*

“His children are the ones who continue to suffer the most. He was their hero, their protector, their teacher. Phoenix, who is an identical clone of my brother Ray, will never know how funny, energetic and great his daddy was.”

Sentenced to 23 Years

The case against MARK LARAMORE was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney ADAM OUSTATCHER of the Gangs/ Major Case Bureau, Director of DNA Prosecutions. The sentence was handed down by Acting Justice Steven Barrett, Part H60, Bronx Supreme Court.

##



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PRESS RELEASE

FORMER TEACHER GUILTY IN 5th GRADER'S RAPE

Sentencing to Take Place July 7th

(Bronx, NY – June 13, 2014) -- Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today that a 41-year-old former P.S. 386 elementary school teacher has been convicted of raping one of his 5th grade pupils.

ANTHONY CRISCUOLO, of 833 Kinsella Street, the Bronx, pled guilty to one count of Rape in the first degree, a Class B violent felony offense. After he is sentenced on July 7th, he will be incarcerated for 14 years, with 18 years post-release supervision.

The rape of the 10-year-old female victim occurred June 17, 2013 in CRISCUOLO's car.

In order to not further traumatize this young victim, it was determined that this plea agreement was in her best interest.

As part of his plea agreement, CRISCUOLO will have to relinquish his teaching license, and he will also have to register as a sex offender.

The plea was taken before Acting Justice Judith Lieb in Part H 73.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Gina Torres of the Child Abuse / Sex Crimes Bureau.

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PRESS RELEASE

THE HOMELESS HORROR KILLING

Derrick Brank Guilty in Brutal Manslaughter Using Bleach, Ammonia

(Bronx, NY – June 25, 2014) – Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson today announced the verdict in a brutal, violent killing, in which a jury found 17 year-old DERRICK BRANK guilty of Kidnapping in the 1st Degree and Manslaughter in the 1st Degree.

BRANK was responsible for not only holding homeless man GLENN MONROE captive for days, but also forcing him to drink bleach and then making him consume spices and other household chemicals, as well as blinding him with ammonia. When MONROE finally succumbed to his injuries, BRANK then attempted to cover up his crime by setting fire to his victim's body, and the apartment.

It was August, 2010 when BRANK and his then-girlfriend, LAQUESIA CYRUS, invited MONROE to live with them so they could collect MONROE's government benefits. But the arrangement turned sour when BRANK was caught attempting to jump a subway turnstile and was arrested. While incarcerated at Rikers Island, MONROE tried to re-enter the apartment at 520 East 149th Street, but CYRUS would not allow it, and a dispute arose between CYRUS and MONROE during which she alleged the homeless man attacked her.

On August 19th, 2010, when DERRICK BRANK was released from jail, he confronted MONROE, and then attacked him with varying household objects, including a frying pan, a pipe, and an iron. He then took a knife and began to saw away at MONROE's limbs, before splashing ammonia in his victim's eyes and forcing him to drink bleach, following up his noxious cocktail with household spices and cleaning fluid.



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PRESS RELEASE

BRANK subsequently locked MONROE in the bathroom for hours, periodically resuming the beatings. The next day, Friday, August 20th, three friends of BRANK's arrived with more cleaning supplies, and the torture resumed.

Once MONROE died, BRANK realized he had to move the body, but could find no one to help him. On Sunday, August 22nd, he tied up MONROE's remains with a bed sheet, stuck one end of the fabric into the stove's burner and turned on the flames.

The FDNY discovered the body during their call to extinguish the fire.

Three other co-defendants, the friends who participated in the torture, MONIQUE DAVIS, age 15, STARKHEIM CREER, age 24, and SHANTEL WINSTON, age 20, all pled guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st Degree. They will be sentenced next month.

The jury trial was conducted by Judge Troy Webber and the case was prosecuted by Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Theresa Gottlieb and Assistant DA Marshall Volk.

DERRICK BRANK will likely be sentenced to 25 years to life behind bars on July 24th.

##



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— PRESS RELEASE —

GRAND JURY INDICTS 14-YEAR-OLD IN SCHOOLYARD KILLING

Noel Estevez Charged With Manslaughter in the 2nd Degree

Case Now Goes to Family Court

(Bronx, NY – June 30, 2014) – Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson today announced that a Grand Jury has indicted defendant NOEL “GOAT” ESTEVEZ in the June 18th stabbing death of classmate TIMOTHY CRUMP, in the schoolyard of Intermediate School 117 on Morris Avenue in the Bronx.

The Grand Jury voted a true bill, indicting ESTEVEZ for Manslaughter in the 2nd Degree. Because of the original charge of Murder in the 2nd Degree, the penal law required the case had to be commenced in the adult criminal court. Also pursuant to the Penal Law and the Criminal Procedure Law, the case will now be removed to Family Court.

TIMOTHY CRUMP, also 14-years-old, died in the fight between the two classmates, during which ESTEVEZ is alleged to have repeatedly stabbed him with a kitchen knife, as school was dismissed around 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

The case against NOEL ESTEVEZ was handled by Trial Bureau 30/40 Chief Jeremy Shockett and Assistant District Attorney Susanna Imbo.

##



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— PRESS RELEASE —

MURDER 2 X 2 IN MOTHER'S DAY TRIPLE-SHOOTING

Jury Finds Robert Mitchell Guilty in Double-Murder, Attempted Murder

(Bronx, NY – July 1, 2014) – Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced guilty verdicts in a triple shooting that took place following a toddler's birthday party on Mother's Day, 2010. The Bronx Supreme Court jury found ROBERT MITCHELL guilty of **two counts of Murder in the 2nd Degree** for the killings of MARVIN WIGGINS, Jr., age 15, and QUANISHA WRIGHT, who had just turned 16 the day before.

After a month-long trial, MITCHELL was also found guilty of **one count of Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree** for the shooting of LATISHA ELEAZER, age 20 at the time, who suffered a non-fatal injury when MITCHELL, age 24 at the time, fired a .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol into a crowd of partygoers at 1776 Weeks Avenue in the Mount Hope section of the Bronx.

The wild shootings took place on May 9th, 2010, at a party among teenagers that followed a 1-year-old's birthday party. After getting bested in a dispute with several people who attended the after-party, DEXTER GREEN, Jr. left, but then returned and got into a confrontation with LATISHA ELEAZER, whereupon MITCHELL pulled a gun provided to him by his friend's father, DEXTER GREEN, Sr.

ROBERT MITCHELL opened fire at the teens who were gathered in the hallway of the apartment building, shooting MARVIN WIGGINS, Jr. in the back, and QUANISHA WRIGHT, who was struck by a bullet that went through her arm and abdomen. WIGGINS and WRIGHT were both transported to St. Barnabas Hospital, where they succumbed to their injuries. LATISHA ELEAZER was hit in the arm; she was treated and released from St. Barnabas within hours.



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DEXTER GREEN, Jr. pled guilty to a charge of Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for his role in the incident and will be sentenced on July 7th to a prison term of 20 years with five years' post-release supervision. DEXTER GREEN, Sr. pled guilty to Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree with an Intent to Use Unlawfully and has received a sentence of 10 years behind bars with four years' post-release supervision.

ROBERT MITCHELL will be sentenced on July 21st, 2014, to a potential 25 years to life for each of the Murder charges, and 5-to-25 years behind bars for the Attempted Murder charge, by Justice Dominic Massaro, in Part 14, Bronx County Supreme Court, Hall of Justice Room 430.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney David Greenfield of Trial Bureau 20/50.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

SHOOTING IN THE SHADOW OF YANKEE STADIUM

Street Vendor to Serve 20 to Life in Murder, Attempted Murder

(Bronx, NY – July 1, 2014)—It was a midday double-shooting that took place not only in the shadow of Yankee Stadium, but also the back yard of the very courthouse where defendant HORACE COLEMAN was tried, convicted, and now sentenced for murder and other convictions.

Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced today's sentencing that will see COLEMAN serve 20 years-to-life for drawing a fully-loaded Magnum .357 revolver and firing at CLARENCE PEARSON, age 41 and DOUGLAS WATKINS, age 60, in a dispute over borrowed money.

After a five-week-long jury trial, COLEMAN was found guilty of Murder in the 2nd Degree, for which he will serve 20 years to life, concurrently with 20 years for Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree, and seven years each for two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree. If COLEMAN is ever released from prison, a circumstance that State Supreme Court Justice William Mogulescu acknowledged was unlikely, he will serve five years' post-release supervision.

On August 23rd, 2012, the streets around E. 161st Street & Gerard Avenue were busy with lunch-hour crowds when street vendor COLEMAN, age 52 at the time of the incident, drew a fully-loaded Magnum .357 revolver and fired at CLARENCE PEARSON, age 41 and DOUGLAS WATKINS, age 60, in a dispute over borrowed money.



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Because of the location's proximity to the Bronx courthouses, four court officers who were in the immediate area gave chase, surrounding COLEMAN, who had walked a block away across 161st Street. COLEMAN, dressed in a pinstriped suit and a white fedora, dropped his gun and surrendered.

PEARSON succumbed to his injuries two days after the shooting; WATKINS, who was also shot in the abdomen, survived and testified and made a statement at today's sentencing. He is still confined to a wheelchair.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Susanna Imbo of Trial Bureau 30/40.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

GANG MEMBERS PLEAD IN VADA VASQUEZ CASE

Innocent Bystander, Brave Young Woman's Miraculous Recovery

(**Bronx, NY** – July 3, 2014) -- She would become the unwitting symbol of gun violence – a standout high school student gunned down through no fault of her own, an innocent bystander hit by a bullet fired in a dispute between rival street gangs that was fomented in Rikers Island and erupted on the streets of the Bronx.

It was a case that would see politicians and community leaders point to VADA VASQUEZ as the reason illegal guns need to be taken off the streets. And more than three dozen members of gangs Gorilla Stone Bloods and Gangland Bloods would be charged with conspiracy to commit murder and other crimes, for this and related offenses.

Now, Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announces that the last four defendants in the case, CARVETTE “Zico” GENTLES, ROHAN “Santana” FRANCIS, CLIVIE “Momo” SMITH and DARRELL “Dutch” JOE, have pled guilty for their roles in the November 16, 2009 shootings that seriously wounded the then 15-year-old VASQUEZ, as she was merely walking home from school, and the shooters’ intended target, TYRONE CREIGHTON, age 19, who was also wounded.

The plan to shoot CREIGHTON was hatched in Rikers Island, where the gang rivalry boiled over when DARREL JOE, age 22 at the time, had a dispute with victim CREIGHTON’s brother, who was also incarcerated there. The order went out to the streets to send a message by shooting CREIGHTON, and on that November afternoon, that’s just what ROHAN FRANCIS, age 18, CLIVIE SMITH, age 19, and CARVETTE GENTLES, age 19, set out to do, hunting down CREIGHTON and pursuing him to Home Street near Union Avenue in the Morrisania section of the Bronx. As the chase ensued, the weapon passed from one defendant to the other, ending when GENTLES took the .40-caliber handgun and fired, injuring CREIGHTON and kept chasing him, shooting twice more. Bullets hit his intended target in the arm and chest. Another hit VADA VASQUEZ in the head.

She was fully conscious but unable to move as help rushed in. She held the hand of a NYPD detective who was brought to tears as she pleaded with him, “please don’t let me die.”



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The Bronx Latin School student was put into a medically-induced coma for part of her six week hospitalization, and after multiple surgeries she is still undergoing rehabilitation for her injuries. Despite that, she has thrived, graduating from high school and continuing higher education. Now 19-years-old, she is currently working toward a degree in criminal justice.

Says Vada, *"Everyone has given so much to me, I want to give back to others."*

This case was part of the gang warfare that ended in a 160-count indictment against 38 "Bloods" members and associates on charges of conspiracy, attempted murder, assault, narcotics trafficking and illegal gun possession. With today's announcement of the remaining four defendants' pleas, all those charged in the conspiracy have had their cases concluded, including DWAYNE "Papers" TAYLOR and CLEVE SMITH, who previously pled guilty to Assault in the 1st Degree and received 18 years and 10 years behind bars, respectively.

CARVETTE GENTLES pled guilty to Assault in the 1st Degree, and will be sentenced on September 4th to 15 years behind bars and five years' post-release supervision. ROHAN FRANCIS pled guilty to the same and will serve the same sentence concurrent with 10 years on an unrelated robbery.

CLIVIE SMITH pled guilty to Assault in the 1st Degree and will serve 11 years in prison with an additional five years' post-release supervision.

DARRELL JOE pled guilty to Conspiracy in the 2nd Degree and will serve seven-to-14 years behind bars.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney TERRY GENSLER of the Gangs / Major Case Bureau.

Sentencing for the four will take place on September 4th in Bronx Supreme Court Part H60, before Acting Justice Steven Barrett.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

TEACHER FAIL: STRAIGHT TO PRISON
Anthony Criscuolo Sentenced in Rape of 5th Grader

(Bronx, NY – July 7, 2014) -- Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announced that a 41-year-old former elementary school teacher was sentenced today to 14 years behind bars, with an additional 18 years post-release supervision, for raping one of his fifth-grade students.

ANTHONY CRISCUOLO, of 833 Kinsella Street, the Bronx, pled guilty to one count of Rape in the 1st Degree, a Class B violent felony offense.

The rape of the 10-year-old female victim occurred June 17, 2013 in CRISCUOLO's car, evidence of which was uncovered when her mother discovered explicit emails he sent to the child.

In order to not further traumatize this young victim, it was determined that this plea agreement was in her best interest. This determination became heartbreakingly clear when the victim impact statement written by this child's mother was read at sentencing:

"My daughter used to love going to school. She cries every time I try to take her to therapy..."

"She walks with her head down because she feels like everyone knows who she is...she asks me to buy her sunglasses and hoodies to hide her face from others."

"My daughter is taking her anger and frustrations out on her younger sister. They used to be so close but now it's like she doesn't trust anybody."

"Her therapist [says] when she becomes a teenager it will be a bigger issue because I don't know how she will...perceive the opposite sex when it's time for her to start dating. She doesn't even want to interact with her dad...I'm scared about the quality of life she is going to have if she can't trust in herself or family."

As part of his plea, CRISCUOLO will have to relinquish his teaching license, and he will also have to register as a sex offender once he is released from incarceration.

CRISCUOLO was sentenced by State Supreme Court Acting Justice Judith Lieb in Part H 73.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Gina Torres of the Child Abuse / Sex Crimes Bureau.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

STORM AT RIKERS AFTER SANDY

Grand Jury Indicts 3 Correction Officers in Inmate Beating

(**Bronx, NY** – July 9, 2014) – Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson today announced a Grand Jury has indicted three Rikers Island Correction Officers accused in the beating of an inmate that took place the day after Superstorm Sandy.

CAPTAIN MOISES SIMANCAS and CORRECTION OFFICERS TYRONE WINT and APRIL JACKSON are alleged to have beaten inmate GABINO GENAO on October 30, 2012, and are charged with Attempted Assault in the 1st Degree, Assault in the 2nd Degree, Falsifying Business Records in the 1st Degree, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 1st Degree, and Official Misconduct.

On October 30th, 2012, tensions were high among both inmates and guards at the George R. Vierno Center at Rikers, as the prisoners had been confined to their cells for much longer than usual because of the storm, and they wanted out. The prison was also short-staffed because of the extreme weather event.

Correction Officers APRIL JACKSON, TYRONE WINT and Captain MOISES SIMANCAS are alleged to have gone to GABINO GENAO's cell, cuffing him from behind and escorting him to a vestibule where one of the officers allegedly threw the first punch, but missed when the inmate ducked.

The defendants allegedly took GENAO down, pinning the handcuffed inmate to the floor, at which point the three are accused of striking him with their feet and fists, and using a baton to deliver multiple blows to GENAO, rendering him unconscious.

The three officers also allegedly falsified subsequent reports about the incident, including the "Use of Force" report and other documents.

All three of the defendants are charged with: Attempted Assault in the 1st Degree, a Class C Felony, for which they could serve 3-and-a-half to 15 years behind bars if convicted and two counts each of Assault in the 2nd Degree, a Class D Felony, which carries 2-to-7 years' imprisonment.



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SIMANCAS and WINT are each charged with one count of Falsifying Business Records in the 1st Degree, a Class E Felony, and JACKSON three counts of the same. That charge carries up to 1-1/3-to-4 years' imprisonment.

SIMANCAS and WINT are also each charged with a single count of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 1st Degree, and JACKSON with three counts of the same, a Class E Felony that also carries up to 1-1/3-to-4 years' imprisonment. SIMANCAS and WINT face two counts each of Official Misconduct, a Class A Misdemeanor, that carries up to one year behind bars. JACKSON faces four counts of the same.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Newton Mendys and Meagan Powers of the Rackets Bureau.

The three defendants were arraigned today before Criminal Court Judge Barrett in Part 60 in Bronx Supreme Court. SIMANCAS, WINT and JACKSON are out on \$50,000 bail each, and are next scheduled to appear on September 16th in Part 60.

The charges in the indictment are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

**CASES CLOSED: RINGLEADERS IN MASSIVE
“LA PERLA” HEROIN MARKET PLEAD GUILTY**



Links to photos and videos: <http://bit.ly/1mFwUhe>

(*Bronx, NY – July 23, 2014*) -- As if an alarm clock had rung, twice a day, at precisely 4 a.m. and 4 p.m., the deserted streets in three Bronx locations would suddenly be as crowded as Times Square – a hand signal having summoned buyers to purchase La Perla, Tuna, Salsa and Sabroso – not expensive lingerie and lunch – but heroin to the tune of nearly \$300,000 a week in profit alone.

Now, Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson announces that the last three leaders of what became known as La Perla organization have pled guilty in what was a massive, multi-agency investigation that resulted in a 38-defendant indictment on narcotics charges. All 38 have now been convicted.

WILSON GUERRERO, 42, of 1023 Tiffany Street and FRANKLIN “KELLY” PEREZ, 46, of 952 Sherman Avenue both pled guilty to Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 1st Degree, a Class A-1 Felony, and will serve 12 years behind bars and 5 years’ post-



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release supervision. ANTONIO “TONY” CARRASQUILLO, 57, of 1405 Rosedale Avenue, pled guilty to Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, a Class B Felony and will be sentenced to 10 years in prison and another 2 years in post-release supervision. The defendants will be sentenced on September 5th by Acting Supreme Court Judge Steven Barrett in Part H60, Courtroom 300.

The joint investigation by the Bronx County DA’s Detective Investigators, the NYPD and the NYPD D.A. Squad involved wiretaps on more than two dozen telephones, video surveillance and undercover heroin buys. Detectives recovered \$1.6 million in cash, 4kg of heroin in thousands of glassine envelopes labeled “La Perla,” “Salsa,” “Tuna,” and “Sabroso,” as well as guns, vehicles and expensive jewelry.

The case against the remaining three was prosecuted by the Bronx D.A.’s Gangs/Major Case Bureau’s Senior Trial Assistant D.A. Christine Scaccia, Counsel Edward Friedenthal, and Assistant D.A. Lisa Davis.



NOTE: Video of the drug activity and photos of the cash and heroin seized are available at <http://bit.ly/1mFwUhe>



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PRESS RELEASE

REVENGE STABBING ENDS IN 20 YEARS BEHIND BARS

(Bronx, NY -- August 11, 2014) -- It was an act of revenge, for which a young father would be left stabbed to death on a Bronx Street – for which another dad will spend the next 20 years behind bars.

Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson today announced the sentencing of SANTOS SANTIAGO, age 34, following a jury's finding of guilty of Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for the killing of MIGUEL BARET, age 18.

The incident took place in front of 887 Crotona Park North on August 7th, 2009 when SANTIAGO got into an altercation with a number of people over a dispute his son had. One of those people who joined in the fray was BARET. SANTIAGO took a knife and stabbed BARET to death, plunging the weapon into the teen's chest and side.

After a two-and-a-half-week long trial before Acting Supreme Court Judge Eugene Oliver, the jury found the Latin King member guilty on June 13th, and SANTIAGO was sentenced today to 20 years behind bars and another five years' post-release supervision by Judge Oliver.

At SANTIAGO's sentencing, a still-grieving JOSE BARET, father of MIGUEL BARET, presented to the court [in Spanish, translated here as:] – *"There is a wound that will not stop bleeding.*

"Since I'm aware of the way my son died, I feel a great impotence, unable to do anything about it. Knowing that this murderer named [SANTOS] SANTIAGO ended the life of my child as if he was an animal...leaving his 8-month-old daughter without a chance to [know] her father and a father without knowing his daughter."

The case against SANTOS SANTIAGO was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Kieran Linehan and Christina Labay of the Narcotics Bureau.



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— PRESS RELEASE —

SHOOT WILDLY INTO CROWD – GET CONVICTED IN THE BRONX

Jury Convicts Tamarkqua “Brees” Garland



Tamarkqua “Brees” Garland (additional photos attached)

****NOTE: Photos of Garland and victim’s wound attached and shown below****

(Bronx, NY – August 26, 2014) – Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson announces the conviction of 34-year-old TAMARKQUA GARLAND, a/k/a “BREES,” in a 2010 incident during which he fired wildly into a crowd, wounding a 15-year-old teen.

GARLAND was found guilty of two counts of Assault in the 1st Degree and one count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 1st Degree, after a three-week trial and the jury’s six hours of deliberations, ending on Monday, August 25th.

The shooting took place on October 9th, 2010 on Garfield Street near Van Nest Avenue in Wakefield section of the Bronx.

GARLAND was arguing with a group of men when he pulled a .32-caliber handgun and fired nearly a half-dozen shots into the crowd of more than a dozen people.

A teenage boy, who was merely an innocent bystander, was hit in the leg. To this day, the victim has bullet fragments lodged in his thigh.



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TAMARKQUA "BREES" GARLAND will be sentenced on September 19th by Supreme Court Justice Peter Benitez to a term ranging from 10-to-25 years for the assault and 7-to-15 years for the gun possession charge.

Bronx Assistant District Attorney Michael Schordine of Trial Bureau 20/50 prosecuted the case.

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Caption: Victim's wound, from which bullet fragments are still lodged inside his thigh



Caption: Tamarkqua "Brees" Garland, convicted of Assault and Criminal Weapons Possession in 2010 Wakefield shooting



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— PRESS RELEASE —

GRAND JURY CHARGES ATHENA SKEETER WITH MURDER

Child Care Worker Accused in Death of Toddler

(Bronx, NY – August 28, 2014) – A Grand Jury has indicted day care operator ATHENA SKEETER in the death of 20-month-old CARDELL WILLIAMSON, who was in her care at the time.

Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson announced that the indictment (43530/2014) against the 40-year-old woman charges:

**Murder in the 2nd Degree [P.L. 125.25 (4) – Depraved indifference to a child under the age of 11], a Class A-1 Felony,
Manslaughter in the 1st Degree (P.L. 125.20(4), a Class B Felony, and
Manslaughter in the 2nd Degree [PL 125.15(1)], a Class C Felony.**

SKEETER admitted to throwing the toddler to the floor of her apartment at 1374 College Avenue on August 22nd, and then stepping on his stomach numerous times before putting him in a tub of water, where she subsequently found the water steaming, and the child burned and unresponsive. The little boy was later pronounced dead at the hospital.

The Medical Examiner determined CARDELL WILLIAMSON's cause of death to be blunt force trauma to the head and torso.

The case against ATHENA SKEETER is being prosecuted by Assistant D.A. Gina Torres of the Bronx D.A. Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau.

SKEETER's next court appearance is October 20, 2014 in Part H-94, Bronx Supreme Court, 265 E. 198th Street.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

75-TO-LIFE FOR MOTHER'S DAY TRIPLE-SHOOTING

Judge Imposes Stiff Sentence on Robert Mitchell in Double-Murder, Attempted Murder

(Bronx, NY – September 3, 2014) – Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson today announced convicted killer **ROBERT MITCHELL** has been sentenced to 75 years-to-life for a triple shooting that took place following a toddler's birthday party on Mother's Day, 2010.

Following impassioned victim impact statements from the family of slain teenagers MARVIN WIGGINS, Jr., and QUANISHA WRIGHT, and from shooting victim and survivor LATISHA ELEAZER, Bronx Supreme Court Justice Dominic Massaro handed down his sentence – **25 years-to-life for each of the two counts of Murder in the 2nd Degree, and 25 years for the single count of Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree, all to be served consecutively.**

In July, after a month-long trial, a jury found MITCHELL guilty for the killings of WIGGINS, age 15, and WRIGHT, who had just turned 16 the day before, as well as for the shooting of ELEAZER, age 20 at the time, who was hit in the arm when MITCHELL fired a .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol into a crowd of partygoers at 1776 Weeks Avenue in the Mount Hope section of the Bronx.

The wild shootings took place on May 9th, 2010, at a party among teenagers that followed a 1-year-old's birthday party. After getting bested in a dispute with several people who attended the after-party, DEXTER GREEN, Jr. left, but then returned and got into a confrontation with LATISHA ELEAZER, whereupon MITCHELL pulled a gun provided to him by his friend's father, DEXTER GREEN, Sr.



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ROBERT MITCHELL opened fire at the teens who were gathered in the hallway of the apartment building, shooting MARVIN WIGGINS, Jr. in the back, and QUANISHA WRIGHT, who was struck by a bullet that went through her arm and abdomen. WIGGINS and WRIGHT were both transported to St. Barnabas Hospital, where they succumbed to their injuries. LATISHA ELEAZER was hit in the arm; she was treated and released from St. Barnabas Hospital.

DEXTER GREEN, Jr. pled guilty to a charge of Manslaughter in the 1st Degree for his role in the incident and **will be sentenced on September 15th** to a prison term of 20 years with five years' post-release supervision. DEXTER GREEN, Sr. pled guilty to Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree with Intent to Use Unlawfully and has received a sentence of 10 years behind bars with four years' post-release supervision.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney David Greenfield of Trial Bureau 20/50.

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LAST STOP FOR SOUNDVIEW SHUTTLE

5 Indicted in Major Drug Trafficking Case

(Bronx, NY – September 4, 2014) – It was called the “Soundview Shuttle” by police, undercover cops and investigators within both the NYPD and the Bronx County D.A.’s office, who trailed narcotics as they made their way across Soundview Avenue to their destination, the parking lot of a popular restaurant along Bruckner Boulevard.

Now, Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson announces that this shuttle has made its final stop with the arrests and Grand Jury indictments of five people on narcotics sale and possession charges: LUIS ALOMAR, ANGEL ALVAREZ, STEVE RICH, CARLOS LAUREANA, and FRED SCOTT.

Each defendant has been charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 1st Degree, as well as Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 1st, 2nd (A Felonies), and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree (B Felony).

In addition, the accused ringleader of Operation Soundview Shuttle, LUIS ALOMAR, is facing a total of 46 counts, including Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 1st Degree (A-Felony) for selling more than two ounces of cocaine and heroin, and Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the 2nd Degree (A-2 Felony) for selling more than a half-ounce of cocaine and heroin. Among the other charges he is facing are 26 B-Felonies, 14 A-2 Felonies and 3 A-1 Felonies, all relating to drugs.

It is alleged that drugs originating in Puerto Rico were shuttled between Manhattan and the Bronx, the buys taking place at a restaurant right off the Bruckner at White Plains Road. The customers were coming from in and around the 43rd Precinct, but among those buyers were undercover NYPD officers who bought, and bought, and bought, mostly heroin. On August 12th, officers moved in to make their bust, bringing the Soundview Shuttle to its last stop.

Seized during this major bust was a kilogram of cocaine with a street value of approximately \$41,000, cash, and several vehicles, including a Mercedes-Benz and a Mustang.

If convicted, the charges facing LUIS ALOMAR could land him behind bars for well over 30 years; the other defendants face charges that carry some 15 years in prison.

Instrumental in Operation Soundview Shuttle were the NYPD’s Narcotics Borough Bronx, Major Case Unit, Detectives Patrice Wallace and Clarence Fredericks.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Kieran Linehan and Cicely Harris of the Bronx D.A.’s Narcotics Bureau.



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RINGLEADERS IN MASSIVE “LA PERLA” HEROIN MARKET SENTENCED TO PRISON



Links to photos and videos: <http://bit.ly/1mFwUhe>

(*Bronx, NY – September 5, 2014*) – Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson announces that the last three leaders of a massive drug ring that became known as La Perla organization have been sentenced in an extensive, multi-agency investigation that resulted in a 38-defendant indictment on narcotics charges. All 38 have now been convicted.

Today, WILSON GUERRERO, 42, of 1023 Tiffany Street and FRANKLIN “KELLY” PEREZ, 46, of 952 Sherman Avenue, who previously both pled guilty to Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 1st Degree, a Class A-1 Felony, were both sentenced by Acting Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett to 12 years behind bars and 5 years’ post-release supervision.

ANTONIO “TONY” CARRASQUILLO, 57, of 1405 Rosedale Avenue, pled guilty to Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, a Class B Felony and was sentenced to 10 years in prison and another 2 years in post-release supervision.

All three defendants waived their right to appeal and also executed a forfeiture waiver for the more than million-and-a-half dollars seized in the case.



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As if an alarm clock had rung, twice a day, at precisely 4 a.m. and 4 p.m., the deserted streets in three Bronx locations would suddenly be as crowded as Times Square – a hand signal having summoned buyers to purchase La Perla, Tuna, Salsa and Sabroso – not expensive lingerie and lunch – but heroin to the tune of nearly \$300,000 a week in profit alone.

The joint investigation by the Bronx County DA's Detective Investigators, the NYPD and the NYPD's Bronx D.A. Squad involved wiretaps on more than two dozen telephones, video surveillance and undercover heroin buys. Detectives recovered \$1.6 million in cash, 4kg of heroin in thousands of glassine envelopes labeled "La Perla," "Salsa," "Tuna," and "Sabroso," as well as guns, vehicles and expensive jewelry.

The case against the remaining three was prosecuted by the Bronx D.A.'s Gangs/Major Case Bureau's Senior Trial Assistant D.A. Christine Scaccia, Counsel Edward Friedenthal, and Assistant D.A. Lisa Davis.



NOTE: Video of the drug activity and photos of the cash and heroin seized are available at <http://bit.ly/1mFwUhe>



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**GANG MEMBERS SENTENCED IN
VADA VASQUEZ CASE**

Innocent Bystander, Brave Young Woman's Miraculous Recovery

(Bronx, NY – September 5, 2014) -- She became the unwitting symbol of gun violence – a standout high school student gunned down through no fault of her own, an innocent bystander hit by a bullet fired in a dispute between rival street gangs that was fomented in Rikers Island and erupted on the streets of the Bronx.

Now, announces Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson, three of the last four defendants in the VADA VASQUEZ case have been sentenced for their roles in the notorious shooting.

Acting Bronx Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett sentenced ROHAN “Santana” FRANCIS, CLIVIE “Momo” SMITH, and CARVETTE “Zico” GENTLES as follows:

FRANCIS pled guilty to Assault in the 1st Degree and was sentenced to 15 years in prison, concurrently with 10 years on an unrelated robbery, and another five years’ post-release supervision.

SMITH pled guilty to Assault in the 1st Degree and was sentenced to 11 years in prison with an additional five years’ post-release supervision.

GENTLES pled guilty to Assault in the 1st Degree and was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and five years’ post-release supervision.

DARRELL JOE’s sentencing has been postponed until September 22nd. He pled guilty to Conspiracy in the 2nd Degree and is expected to be sent to prison for a term of seven-to-14 years.

The November 16, 2009 shootings seriously wounded the then 15-year-old VASQUEZ, as she was merely walking home from school. The shooters’ intended target, TYRONE CREIGHTON, age 19, was also wounded.



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The VADA VASQUEZ shooting became a rallying point for community leaders and elected officials as the reason illegal guns need to be taken off the streets. And more than three dozen members of gangs Gorilla Stone Bloods and Gangland Bloods would be charged with conspiracy to commit murder and other crimes, for this and related offenses.

The plan to shoot CREIGHTON was hatched in Rikers Island, where the gang rivalry boiled over when DARREL JOE, age 22 at the time, had a dispute with victim CREIGHTON's brother, who was also incarcerated there. The order went out to the streets to send a message by shooting CREIGHTON, and on that November afternoon, that's just what ROHAN FRANCIS, age 18, CLIVIE SMITH, age 19, and CARVETTE GENTLES, age 19, set out to do, hunting down CREIGHTON and pursuing him to Home Street near Union Avenue in the Morrisania section of the Bronx. As the chase ensued, the weapon passed from one defendant to the other, ending when GENTLES took the .40-caliber handgun and fired, injuring CREIGHTON and kept chasing him, shooting twice more. Bullets hit his intended target in the arm and chest. Another hit VADA VASQUEZ in the head.

She was fully conscious but unable to move as help rushed in. She held the hand of a NYPD detective who was brought to tears as she pleaded with him, "please don't let me die."

The Bronx Latin School student was put into a medically-induced coma for part of her six week hospitalization, and after multiple surgeries, is still undergoing rehabilitation for her injuries. Despite that, she has thrived, graduating from high school and continuing higher education. Now 19-years-old, she is currently working toward a degree in criminal justice.

Says Vada, *"Everyone has given so much to me, I want to give back to others."*

This case was part of the gang warfare that ended in a 160-count indictment against 38 "Bloods" members and associates on charges of conspiracy, attempted murder, assault, narcotics trafficking and illegal gun possession. With today's announcement of the remaining four defendants' pleas, all those charged in the conspiracy have had their cases concluded, including DWAYNE "Papers" TAYLOR and CLEVE SMITH, who previously pled guilty to Assault in the 1st Degree and received 18 years and 10 years behind bars, respectively.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney TERRY GENSLER of the Gangs / Major Case Bureau.

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54 NEW ASSISTANT D.A. APPOINTMENTS FILL THE BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S RANKS

(Bronx, NY – September 8, 2014) – Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson announces the appointment of 54 new Assistant District Attorneys.

The new ADAs, from law schools as close as Columbia, Cardozo, Fordham, CUNY, and St. John's in the New York metropolitan area to law schools scattered around the country, will begin an intensive two-week training program today. The program is under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Cari E. Ferreiro, Chief of Litigation Training. During the new ADAs "crash course," they will combine intensive classroom lectures on criminal court practice with courtroom observation and hands-on workshops.

The following is a list of the new Assistant District Attorneys and their law schools:

Gabriel Altman	Northwestern University School of Law
Robert W. Beckmann	Benjamin Cardozo School of Law
Nicole Berkovich	Brooklyn Law School
Dyana J. Boxley	Suffolk University Law School
Alana Brady	Albany Law School
Eugene Bykov	Brooklyn Law School
Ketaki Chakrabarti	Rutgers Law School
Hsinyi J. Chang	CUNY School of Law
Kate Christobek	Ohio State School of Law
Daniel M. Chung	Columbia University School of Law
Kelvin D. Collado	Fordham University School of Law
Daniel DeVoe	SUNY Buffalo Law School
Marron C. Doherty	Brooklyn Law School
Carling Donovan	Drexel University School of Law
Catherine Dos Santos	American University School of Law
Elaine M. Driscoll	Brooklyn Law School
Mehdi Essmidi	New York Law School
Zachary S. Green	Fordham University School of Law
Kristin Gualano	American University School of Law
Matthew J. Horowitz	Boston University School of Law



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Alexandra Jenik	Catholic University Columbus School of Law
Jordan M. Kaufmann	St. John's University School of Law
Kathleen A. Kelly	New York Law School
Patrick Kenny	Boston University School of Law
Benjamin K. Kleinman	Univ. of North Carolina School of Law
Danielle Koves	Pace University School of Law
Ryan J. LeGrady	Touro College Fuchsberg School of Law
Andrew J. Lee	St. John's University School of Law
Meredith Masciotti	St. John's University School of Law
John W. McGowan	New York Law School
Christine M. McGrath	University of Miami School of Law
Sarah A. Merry	Brooklyn Law School
Amory C. Minot	Fordham University School of Law
Jessica Morak	Benjamin Cardozo School of Law
Sean P. Murphy	University of IL School of Law
Peter T. Naber	Pace University School of Law
Jared Nardilla	CUNY School of Law
Tala L. Nazareno	Rutgers Law School
William A. Porter	St. John's University School of Law
Meaghan L. Powers	University of VA School of Law
Ayushi Rajpurohit	Seton Hall University School of Law
Robert Sainvil	Villanova University School of Law
Stephanie Schneider	CUNY School of Law
Stacy L. Siegel	University of Maryland School of Law
Maria Stavrakis	St. John's University School of Law
Joshua S. Talcovitz	Western New England Univ. School of Law
Bradley R. Thompson	University of VA School of Law
Ruth L. Tisdale	Wake Forest Univ. School of Law
Sean P. Ubias	Hofstra University School of Law
Evan J. Van Regenmorter	Catholic University Columbus School of Law
Jasmine Wade	University of VA School of Law
Nishana Weerasooriya	Temple Univ. School of Law
Eleanor A. Winn	University of VA School of Law
Jaclyn M. Wood	New York Law School



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GETTING GUNS OFF THE STREET

Bronx D.A., NYPD to Hold Gun Buyback September 20th

(Bronx, NY - September 9, 2014) – Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson announces a “Cash for Guns” day – Saturday, September 20th -- done in partnership with NYPD Commissioner William Bratton and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., along with the pastors of three Bronx churches where the buybacks will take place.

“It is in the best interest of every citizen in the Bronx to get illegal handguns and other firearms off the streets to make our borough even safer than it already is,” notes District Attorney Johnson.

Operable handguns and assault rifles will be accepted on September 20th between 10AM and 4PM at the following three locations:

Fordham Evangelical
Lutheran Church
2430 Walton Avenue
718-367-8330

New Gospel Temple
Church of God In Christ
1554 Minford Place
718-328-3010

Our Lady of Grace Roman
Catholic Church
3985 Bronxwood Avenue
718-652-4817

“This is the fifth time we have conducted a gun buyback with the cooperation of the NYPD and the hospitality of our borough’s clergy, especially the Rev. Jonathan Recabarren, the Rev. Rodney Canion, and Father Rudy Gonzalez, who have been most instrumental in making this happen,” adds the District Attorney.

Police Commissioner William J. Bratton also notes, *“Partnering with the community is an intricate part of the NYPD’s overall crime strategy to take guns off our streets.”*

“Taking illegal guns off of our streets has been a priority of mine since the day I became an elected official, and my commitment to ending gun violence remains as strong today as it was then,” says Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

“I thank District Attorney Johnson and the NYPD for partnering with my office on this gun buyback, and I urge those individuals with illegal guns to take this opportunity to turn that gun in and walk away from gun violence. The Bronx has never been safer, but maintaining that safety requires our vigilance.”



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Cash Back, No Questions Asked

Participants will receive a \$200 bank card for operable handguns and assault rifles, and a \$20 bank card for operable rifles and shotguns – no questions asked. People are encouraged to surrender as many weapons as they wish, but will receive payment for up to only three guns. The bank cards can be used either as a debit card to make purchases or to withdraw cash from any ATM.

Guns brought to one of the buyback locations must be placed in a paper bag or a box. If firearms are being transported by vehicle, they must be placed in the trunk of the car.

Weapons belonging to either active or retired law enforcement officials are not eligible for the buyback program.

Plainclothes NYPD officers, Bronx D.A. Detective Investigators, and members of the NYPD's Bronx D.A. Squad will be on hand at the churches to accept the firearms that are surrendered.

Funding for this gun buyback program is being provided by the Bronx District Attorney's Office and the NYPD.

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— PRESS RELEASE —

GRAND JURY INDICTS FORMER BRONX COUNTY CLERK EMPLOYEE

***Christopher Goodly Extradited from Virginia to
Face Accusations He Stole More than \$80,000***

(Bronx, NY – September 12, 2014) – Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson announces the Grand Jury indictment of 29-year-old CHRISTOPHER GOODLY on Grand Larceny and other charges for stealing more than \$80,000 while he worked as the Finance Clerk at the Bronx County Clerk's Office.

He was arraigned today before Acting Justice Steven Barrett of Bronx Supreme Court, after being extradited from Virginia.

GOODLY worked at the County Clerk's Office from late 2010 through August, 2013. During his last year-and-a-half in the office, while he was the Finance Clerk, it is alleged he underreported the cash he was taking in for passport applications and business certificates.

In September 2013, financial irregularities were discovered and an internal audit began, during which it was revealed he was reporting a lower number of documents than actually issued, enabling GOODLY to pocket anywhere from \$200 to \$1,000 per day.

All told, GOODLY is accused of taking \$82,225 from the Bronx County Clerk's Office between October 1, 2012 and September 3, 2013.

The investigation into GOODLY's bad deeds was done with the cooperation of the Bronx County Clerk's Office and the Inspector General of the Office of Court Administration and with the efforts of the Bronx County Detective Investigators Chief Frank Chiara and Senior Investigators Peter Moro and Daniel Donovan.

CHRISTOPHER GOODLY was arraigned on the following charges:

Grand Larceny in the 2nd Degree, 1 count (stealing over \$50,000) – a Class C Felony

Grand Larceny in the 3rd Degree, 1 count (stealing over \$3,000) – a Class D Felony

Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree (stealing over \$1,000) – a Class E Felony

He was also charged with 190 counts each of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree (Class E Felony), Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree (Class E Felony), and Official Misconduct (Class A Misdemeanor), for altering the reports on 190 separate days to cover up the stolen money.



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Bail was set for GOODLY at \$25,000 cash/\$25,000 bond. His next appearance will be on October 3, 2014, in Part 60, Bronx Supreme Court, 265 E. 161st Street, Room 300.

The case against CHRISTOPHER GOODLY is being prosecuted by NEWTON MENDYS and PAIGE WALLACE of the Bronx D.A. Rackets Bureau, under the supervision of Bureau Chief STUART LEVY.

The charges contained in the indictment are allegations; the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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OFFICERS FOUND GUILTY IN TEEN “TUNE-UP”

Assault, Harassment Verdict Could Mean Loss of Jobs



L to R: Murphy, Incident, Ocasio

Note: Photos of officers and video of assault available at: <http://bit.ly/1m6tP0b>

(Bronx, NY – September 15, 2014) – It’s known colloquially as a “tune-up,” taking out frustrations on a suspect. But for two police officers in the Bronx, the unjustified assault on a 17-year-old in an alley near their police station has resulted in Criminal Court convictions, announces Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson.

46th Precinct officers JOSE OCASIO, age 31, and JOSEPH MURPHY, age 29, were found guilty of the following charges after a two-day non-jury trial before Criminal Court Judge Julio Rodriguez III:

**Attempted Assault in the 3rd Degree (B-Misdemeanor)
Harassment in the 2nd Degree (Violation)**

17-year-old TYRE DAVIS was in the precinct on February 18, 2011 on a summons for disorderly conduct, stemming from blocking street traffic. OCASIO was involved in issuing the summons and MURPHY, who had contact with the teen the week prior, began arguing with him. But it didn’t end when DAVIS left the precinct.

The officers followed him down the block and around the corner, and into an alley opposite 210 E. 181st Street, where surveillance cameras caught the pair punching and kicking the teen, then walking away.

The teen was treated at an area hospital for abrasions to his forehead and swelling around one of his ears.



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The NYPD's Internal Affairs Bureau investigated and uncovered the surveillance video.

Judge Rodriguez has set a sentencing date for October 28th. At that time, the Bronx County District Attorney's Office will ask for probation for the two officers.

The NYPD will now proceed with departmental charges that could result in the loss of the officers' jobs.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant D.A. Jason Petri of the Bronx D.A. Rackets Bureau.

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BRONX D.A. JOINS PROSECUTORS ACROSS THE U.S. TO ANNOUNCE NEW COALITION TO CURB GUN VIOLENCE

Prosecutors Against Gun Violence to Hold First-Ever National Summit in October

(Bronx, NY – September 15, 2014) -- In a groundbreaking effort to combat gun violence, Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson has joined 22 other prosecutors representing major jurisdictions throughout the United States to announce the formation of PROSECUTORS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE – PAGV -- an independent, non-partisan coalition organized to identify and promote prosecutorial and policy solutions to the national public health and safety crisis of gun violence.

"I welcome this opportunity to join with my colleagues from across the country to tackle this problem that affects not just the citizens of the Bronx, but the entire nation," says D.A. Johnson.

"By pooling our offices' ideas and expertise, I believe that we, as prosecutors, can make a bigger impact on this problem that has caused countless citizens to senselessly lose their lives."

The launch of PAGV coincides with the joint Bronx D.A.-NYPD [gun buy-back program](#) this weekend, to take place Saturday, September 20th.

PAGV was formed and co-chaired by Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer and Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance. The group will convene the first-ever prosecutorial summit on gun violence prevention in Atlanta on October 21st and 22nd, focusing on best prosecutorial practices, gang violence reduction, illegal weapons trafficking, the nexus between domestic violence and gun violence, the link between mental health issues and gun violence, and other initiatives. PAGV will announce additional summit details shortly.

"For prosecutors, gun violence is not a partisan issue," said District Attorney Vance. *"It's a public health and safety crisis that claims lives and destabilizes communities in every jurisdiction in America. By coming together to share intelligence and advocate for pragmatic, non-partisan solutions, law enforcement officials can achieve lasting progress on gun violence."*

"Together, prosecutors across our nation can make a major impact on the gun violence afflicting our communities," said City Attorney Feuer. *"Our members will draw from our colleagues' most effective strategies and join forces to advance policies that can save lives. Prosecutors have expertise and credibility that are hard to dismiss."*



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The growing coalition includes prosecutors from Atlanta, Boston, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Charlotte, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Manhattan, Miami, Milwaukee, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Portland, Queens, San Antonio, San Francisco, Seattle and Staten Island.

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BRONX GRAND JURY CHARGES ACCUSED CAT KILLER

Ernesto Bailey Faces Felony & Other Charges for Fiery Death of Animal

(Bronx, NY – September 18, 2014) – Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson today announced the Grand Jury indictment in the case of accused cat killer ERNESTO BAILEY.

A Grand Jury voted a true bill on the following counts:

**Aggravated Cruelty to Animals (A.M.L. 353-a), a Felony
Arson in the 5th Degree (P.L. 150.01), a Misdemeanor
Torturing and Injuring Animals (A.M.L.), a Misdemeanor**

BAILEY, age 31, entered a plea of Not Guilty today before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Martin Marcus.

It is alleged that on July 25th, 2014, BAILEY struck the cat with a shopping cart, slammed the animal with the cart, and then squirted a flammable liquid onto a cloth and the cat, setting fire to the cloth before tossing it onto the animal.

If convicted, the maximum possible sentence under the Agriculture and Markets Law for Aggravated Cruelty is two years. The Arson and Torture Misdemeanor charges carry a maximum of one year each.

The case has been adjourned until December 1, 2014, at which time decisions will be made on motions that may be filed, to take place in Part 60, Bronx Supreme Court, 265 E. 161st Street.

The prosecution of ERNESTO BAILEY is being conducted by Assistant D.A. Agata DiGiovanni and Bureau Chief William Zelenka of the Bronx D.A. Arson/Auto/Economic Crimes Division.

The charges contained in the indictment are allegations; the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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Derrick Brank

THE HOMELESS HORROR KILLING

50-to-Life for Brutal Manslaughter Using Bleach, Ammonia

(Bronx, NY – September 19, 2014) – It was a particularly brutal and violent killing using bleach and ammonia, and now, Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson has announced a fitting sentence has been handed down against now-21-year-old DERRICK BRANK for the kidnapping and killing of homeless man GLENN MONROE.

Supreme Court Justice Troy Webber today sentenced BRANK to 25 years-to-life for the conviction on Kidnapping in the 1st Degree, which will run consecutively with a 25 year-long sentence for BRANK's conviction on Manslaughter in the 1st Degree, after a month-long jury trial.

BRANK was responsible for not only holding homeless man GLENN MONROE captive for two days, but also forcing him to drink bleach and then making him consume spices and other household chemicals, as well as blinding him with ammonia. When MONROE finally succumbed to his injuries, BRANK then attempted to cover up his crime by setting fire to his victim's body, and the apartment.

It was August, 2010 when BRANK and his then-girlfriend invited MONROE to live with them so they could collect MONROE's government benefits. But the arrangement turned sour when BRANK was caught attempting to jump a subway turnstile and was arrested. While BRANK was incarcerated at Rikers Island, MONROE tried to re-enter the apartment at 520 East 149th Street, but the girlfriend would not allow it, and a dispute arose between her and MONROE during which she alleged the homeless man attacked her.



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On August 19th, 2010, when DERRICK BRANK was released from jail, he confronted MONROE, and then attacked him with varying household objects, including a frying pan, a pipe, and an iron. He then took a knife and began to saw away at MONROE's limbs, before splashing ammonia in his victim's eyes and forcing him to drink bleach, following up his noxious cocktail with household spices and cleaning fluid.

BRANK subsequently locked MONROE in the bathroom for hours, periodically resuming the beatings. The next day, Friday, August 20th, three friends of BRANK's arrived with more cleaning supplies, and the torture resumed.

Once MONROE died on Saturday August 21st, 2010, BRANK realized he had to move the body, but could find no one to help him. On Sunday, August 22nd, he tied up MONROE's remains with a bed sheet, stuck one end of the fabric into the stove's burner and turned on the flames.

The FDNY discovered the body during their call to extinguish the fire.

Three other co-defendants, the friends who participated in the torture, all pled guilty to Manslaughter in the 1st Degree. MONIQUE DAVIS, now age 19, was sentenced earlier this year as a Juvenile Offender to 2-to-6 years; STARKHEIM CREER, now age 28, was also sentenced as a Juvenile Offender to 3-9 years in prison. SHANTEL WINSTON, age 24, has been sentenced to 9 years with another 5 years of post-release supervision.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Trial Assistant District Attorney Theresa Gottlieb and Assistant DA Marshall Volk of the Criminal Courts Bureau.

Note: Photos of Brank available at <https://app.box.com/s/hvf6emy3fv8biwkl14et>



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ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COURTROOM

Grand Jury Indicts NYPD Officer for Assault

(Bronx, NY – Sept. 29, 2014) – Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson announces today’s Supreme Court arraignment of NYPD Officer EUGENE DONNELLY on an indictment for Assault, Criminal Trespass and other charges for a June, 2014 incident hours after he was given one of the Department’s highest awards for heroism.

DONNELLY, age 27, an officer in the 46th Precinct in the Bronx, has been charged with two counts of Assault in the 3rd Degree, two counts of Criminal Trespass in the 2nd Degree, and one count of Criminal Mischief in the 4th, all Class A Misdemeanors.

If convicted, DONNELLY could be sentenced to up to one year in jail.

On June 10th, 2014, DONNELLY was awarded the Police Combat Cross for taking down an armed suspect who fired at him in a 2012 incident, while he was off duty. In the hours following the awards ceremony, it is alleged he went drinking with colleagues before going home to sleep at a friend’s apartment.

It is further alleged that, sometime during the night, DONNELLY awakened to find himself in the apartment of a woman unknown to him who lived in the same building in the Woodlawn section of the Bronx, having broken a chain lock to get in. Encountering the frightened resident, the defendant threw her to the floor and pummeled her about the head.

EUGENE DONNELLY pled not guilty to the charges at arraignment before Acting Supreme Court Justice Michael Gross. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant D.A. Maureen Grosdidier of the Bronx D.A. Rackets Bureau.

His case is back in court December 10th in Part 96, Bronx Supreme Court, 265 E. 161st Street, Room 460.

The charges contained in the indictments are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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WHERE THERE'S NO WILL, THERE WAS A PAYDAY

Former Surrogate's Court Official Pleads Guilty to Grand Larceny, to Repay \$146K

(Bronx, NY – Sept. 30, 2014) -- His job was to help protect the estates of people who died without a will, and make sure the money and property got to the right people. For that, the former Counsel to the Bronx Public Administrator was entitled to charge fees.

Instead, he took fees well in excess of what was allowed without approval, and covered up his wildly excessive charges by falsifying documents.

Now, 70-year-old lawyer MICHAEL LIPPMAN has pled guilty to two counts of Grand Larceny in the 3rd Degree (Class D Felonies) in Bronx Supreme Court before Acting Justice Steven Barrett, and has agreed to pay restitution of \$145,829.50 to estates he intentionally overcharged in lieu of imprisonment.

Should he not pay full restitution by his sentencing date next March, LIPPMAN faces two to six years behind bars.

LIPPMAN's misdeeds were uncovered after a joint investigation between the Bronx County D.A.'s Office and the NYC Department of Investigation. It was found that the lawyer intentionally charged estates advance fees for work not performed and excessive legal fees for work that was done. He also filed fraudulent documents with the Surrogate's Court in order to conceal the thefts.

Surrogate's Court is the venue that handles all proceedings related to probate and estates of people who die without a will. The Public Administrator in each of the five NYC counties is responsible for administering the estates of those who die intestate or, when there is a will, no other individual is willing or qualified to do so. Administrators report to their respective county Surrogates. The Counsel to the Public Administrator assists in the collection of assets, the payment of debts and taxes, and the management of the estates to find possible heirs. The Counsel has additional accounting and reporting duties, and it was also found that LIPPMAN failed to properly perform his duties.

LIPPMAN was relieved of his position as Counsel in April, 2009, after having served in that capacity for more than 30 years.

Now convicted of a felony, he will likely lose the ability to practice law in New York State.

LIPPMAN's sentencing, by which time he must have completed his financial restitution or be sent to prison, is scheduled for March 2, 2015, in Part 60, Bronx Supreme Court, 265 E. 161st Street.



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The case against MICHAEL LIPPMAN was prosecuted by Bronx D.A. Rackets Bureau Chief Stuart Levy, along with Assistant D.A.s Jason Petri and Alexandra Aloia. District Attorney Johnson would also like to thank the following for their hard work and dedication in this case: Former Assistant D.A. Maria Mostajo; Floralba Paulino, Chief Investigative Auditor with DOI; Keith Schwam, former Assistant Commissioner with DOI; and former Counsel to the Bronx County Public Administrator, John Reddy of the law firm Reddy, Levy and Ziffer.

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NYPD LIEUTENANT GUILTY IN FIRST OF THE NYPD “TICKET-FIXING” TRIALS

Jennara Cobb Leaked Secret Wiretaps

(Bronx, NY – October 15, 2014) – Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson today announced a finding of guilty in the criminal misconduct case against NYPD Lieutenant JENNARA COBB in the first of the so-called “tix-fix” trials.

After a two-week non-jury trial, Bronx Supreme Court Justice Martin Marcus found NYPD Lt. JENNARA COBB guilty of the following charges:

Divulging an Eavesdropping Warrant, Obstructing Governmental Administration and Official Misconduct, all Class A Misdemeanors.

When she is sentenced on December 4th, the 38-year-old COBB faces up to a year in jail.

The COBB case arose out of a confidential investigation into fellow police officer JOSE RAMOS, an investigation that would lead to alleged widespread ticket-fixing among certain members of the force.

COBB, assigned to the Department’s Internal Affairs Bureau in February 2010, leaked information about phone wiretaps that were part of the ticket-fixing investigation.

The probe would eventually lead to the indictments of 16 officers in total, including Cobb and Ramos.

JOSE RAMOS is currently on trial in front of a Bronx Supreme Court jury, charged with attempted grand larceny, attempted robbery, official misconduct and attempted criminal possession of a controlled substance. He also faces five other separate indictments for crimes ranging from conspiracy to commit murder to official misconduct for the actual alleged ticket fixing.

The case against JENNARA COBB was prosecuted by Investigations Division Senior Trial Assistant Donald Levin and A.D.A. Maureen Grosdidier.

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GANGBANGER FIRST CONVICTED UNDER TERROR STATUTES CONVICTED ONCE AGAIN

Edgar "Puebla" Morales Guilty of Manslaughter, Attempted Murder, Gang Assault

(Bronx, NY – October 20, 2014) – Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson announces a Supreme Court jury has convicted 32-year-old EDGAR "Puebla" MORALES in the August 18, 2002 shooting at a party that took the life of a little 10-year-old, MELANEY MENDEZ, and paralyzed a bystander, JAVIER TOCHIMANI.

After this six-week-long re-trial before Justice Peter Benitez, MORALES was convicted on the following charges:

- Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree (Class A-1 Felony)**
- Manslaughter in the 1st Degree (Class B Felony)**
- Gang Assault in the 1st Degree (Class B Felony)**
- Conspiracy in the 4th Degree (Class E Felony)**
- Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 4th Degree (Class A Misdemeanor)**

MORALES was originally tried and convicted in late 2007 in the first-ever use of the New York State Anti-Terrorism Statute against an organized gang, the St. James Boys (SJB), which sought to



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dominate the neighborhood around St. James Park in the Parkchester section of the Bronx. That conviction was overturned by the New York State Court of Appeals in late 2012, which ruled that that law did not apply to the illegal acts of gang members committed in order to coerce or intimidate adversaries.

The crimes took place when gunfire erupted outside the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Hall at 1891 McGraw Avenue. Innocent bystander MELANEY MENDEZ was shot once in the head by a stray bullet during an altercation that began when MORALES and other SJG members invaded a baptism party being held there. Confronting a man whom they believed to be a rival gang member, words were exchanged and the target and his friend, JAVIER TOCHIMANI, attempted to leave. MORALES and another SJG member followed them outside and opened fire, killing the little girl and leaving the second victim permanently paralyzed.

Says District Attorney Johnson, *"The state's highest court may have found that these acts cannot be prosecuted using the state terrorism statute, but the terror perpetrated by organized gangs will not be tolerated, and we will bring members of these gangs to justice using the full force of the law."*

MORALES faces a 50 years in prison when he is sentenced (date tba).

The case against EDGAR "Puebla" MORALES was prosecuted by Gangs/Major Case Senior Trial Assistant Christine Scaccia and Counsel Edward Friedenthal.

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MISPLACED LOYALTY LEADS TO MOM'S KILLING

Joseph Diaz Convicted of Manslaughter

(Bronx, NY – October 20, 2014) – Out of a misplaced sense of loyalty, his aim was to shoot a man with whom his cousin had a dispute. JOSEPH DIAZ even had a tattoo of the word “Loyalty” emblazoned across his neck.

But when he fired a half-dozen shots with a .45-caliber semi-automatic, he did so during the 3 o’clock hour on one of the Bronx’s busiest streets, with the sidewalks at Willis Avenue & East 146th Street teeming with pedestrians, including mothers walking their children home from school.

One of those mothers took a bullet straight to her heart – crumpling arms-length away from her 9-year-old son – 25-year-old AISHA SANTIAGO trying to crawl to her little boy, but never reaching him before she died.

Today, Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson announces a Supreme Court jury found JOSEPH DIAZ guilty of the following charge:

Manslaughter in the 1st Degree

Video from area businesses and apartment buildings shows the street teeming with pedestrians and school buses – and a momentary pause as people hear shots – and scatter. DIAZ, wearing a red shirt, can also be seen fleeing the area.



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DIAZ will be sentenced on November 5th by Supreme Court Justice Barbara Newman. He faces 25 years in prison.

The case against JOSEPH DIAZ was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney ADAM OUSTATCHER, Director of DNA Prosecutions.

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The streets were crowded at 3pm (moments before the shooting)



Pedestrians scatter as Diaz can be seen running across the street (red shirt, toward camera)



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Diaz continues to flee across the street



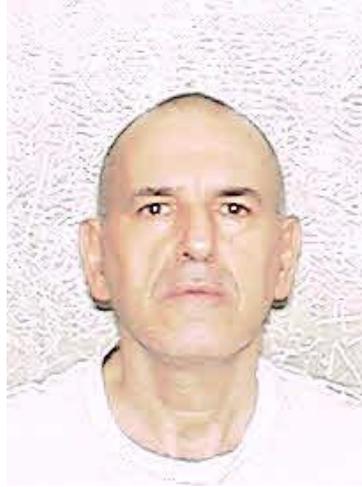
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A BEER AND A CHAT LEAD TO A BUST
Jose Victorino, 59, Sentenced in the Killing of Girlfriend

(Bronx, NY – October 23, 2014) -- The Bronx man dropped in on his friend's home in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Popping the top from a beer, JOSE VICTORINO casually mentioned – oh, by the way. I killed my girlfriend.

Shocked, the friend insisted he contact police, and VICTORINO repeated his tale to New Jersey law enforcement authorities. Angered by his long-time, live-in girlfriend's infidelities, he got into an argument with her on February 26, 2012 – ANA FERNANDEZ admitting that yes, she was cheating on him, and no, she did not respect him anymore.

VICTORINO punched her, but didn't stop there – kicking her, stomping on her, and finally taking a kitchen knife to her neck, delivering three thrusts that would end FERNANDEZ' life.

When the NYPD entered the apartment at 1130 Anderson Avenue in the Bronx, they found the bloody evidence – and a mop and bucket with swirls of blood around FERNANDEZ' body, VICTORINO's futile attempts to clean up.

Today, Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson announces that, following a plea of guilty to the charge of Manslaughter in the 1st Degree, JOSE VICTORINO, age 59, was sentenced by Supreme Court Justice Judith Lieb to 23 years in prison and five years post-release supervision.

The case against JOSE VICTORINO was prosecuted by Bronx Assistant District Attorney David Birnbaum of the Domestic Violence Bureau.

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JOSE RAMOS CONVICTED ON GRAND LARCENY, OTHER CRIMES

Police Officer Still Faces Murder Conspiracy, Ticket-Fixing Charges



(Bronx, NY – October 27, 2014) – Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson today announced a jury returned a guilty verdict in the case of disgraced police officer JOSE RAMOS, in the first of six indictments against him for crimes ranging from ticket-fixing to Grand Larceny, selling counterfeit CDs and DVDs – to the most serious, conspiring to kill a witness in the cases against him, while he was being detained on some of the earlier indictments.

After a three-and-a-half week trial before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Michael Gross, and three hours of deliberation, the jury convicted RAMOS of:

- **Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 1st Degree**
- **Attempted Grand Larceny in the 3rd Degree**
- **Attempted Robbery in the 2nd Degree**

When the 46 year-old RAMOS is sentenced on December 1st, he faces a maximum 30 years in prison, with one-and-a-half to three years post-release supervision.

The investigation into JOSE RAMOS began in December, 2008 following an anonymous tip to the NYPD's Internal Affairs Bureau that a police officer assigned to the 40th Precinct was engaged in various illegal activities with a known drug dealer in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. That officer would turn out to be JOSE RAMOS, who was allowing an alleged drug dealer to operate out of the two barbershops that RAMOS owned.

But that tip would turn out to be just the tip of the iceberg.



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Not only was RAMOS turning a blind eye to the illegal activities at the barbershops, which included not just marijuana dealing, but also the alleged sale of counterfeit CDs and DVDs – he was also allowing the alleged drug dealer to drive his car and use his police-issued placard.

Hidden video and wiretaps and NYPD “integrity tests” would reveal that RAMOS lacked any semblance of integrity, involving himself in plots to steal drug dealers’ money and agreeing to take \$10,000 to drive a car full of what he thought was heroin from the Bronx to Brooklyn. Not only was he transporting what he thought was heroin, he was also transporting a hidden video recorder.

RAMOS would also be caught conducting a fake car stop to assist in the theft of \$30,000 from an individual he thought was to be a purchaser of stolen electronics.

And the investigation mushroomed – leading to an indictment alleging organized and wide-scale practice of “fixing” parking and traffic tickets, as well as criminal and other summonses. The investigation also exposed the alleged failure of officers to make an arrest and subsequent attempts to cover up an assault by a defendant with a connection to the PBA.

A special Grand Jury was empaneled in March, 2011 to hear evidence regarding allegations of crimes by police officers. In all, 16 officers and five civilians were charged in 22 indictments, charging them with some 1,600 felony and misdemeanor counts.

Of those, six indictments belong to JOSE RAMOS. He still faces charges relating to leaking the identity of a confidential informant, conspiracy to commit insurance fraud, conspiracy to sell counterfeit CDs and DVDs, and fixing tickets.

Also pending is the most serious of the charges against RAMOS, charges that also involve his wife, WANDA ABREU. Both are accused of conspiring to kill one of the witnesses against the police officer, a plot hatched while RAMOS was behind bars awaiting trial.

Two weeks ago, former Internal Affairs Lt. JENNARA COBB was convicted of Divulging an Eavesdropping Warrant, Obstructing Governmental Administration and Official Misconduct for leaking information about the so-called “tixfix” investigation. She will be sentenced on December 4th.

District Attorney Johnson would like to thank the NYPD and in particular, its Internal Affairs Bureau, for the work throughout the investigation and now, the trials.

“Where crimes are committed, whether by civilian or police officer, the Bronx District Attorney’s Office will seek justice.



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"The crimes for which Jose Ramos has been convicted show that he clearly shunted to the side the duty he has to the people of New York City and began to operate solely for his personal benefit."

The case against JOSE RAMOS was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Omer Wiczuk and Meagan Powers of the BXDA Rackets Bureau, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Stuart Levy.

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PROLIFIC GRAFFITI VANDAL PAINTS HIMSELF INTO A CORNER

“CETE” Pleads to Felony; Gets Jail, Probation & To Pay Back Nearly \$20K in Restitution

(Bronx, NY – November 17, 2014) – Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson today announced a guilty plea to a felony by a prolific, 32-year-old graffiti vandal, whose own actions led to his arrest, after he posted online video taken of him tagging numerous NYC subway stations and subway cars. It will cost LEO CRUZ (a/k/a “CETE”) a hefty penalty – ordered to pay \$18,000 in restitution. He was sentenced to five years’ probation, following 30 days behind bars, which he has already served.

CRUZ pled guilty to Criminal Mischief in the 3rd Degree, a Class E felony, for one of the incidents. On December 13, 2013, he entered the tracks near the Hunts Point Station on the #6 line and spray painted his elaborate designs along seven train cars.

He was charged with numerous other incidents of graffiti in subway stations and subway yards, also occurring in the Bronx, from January 2013 through March of 2014.

CRUZ was arrested on May 9th, 2014, after an extensive investigation by the NYPD’s Transit Bureau, Special Projects and Investigations Unit, during which DET. NINO NAVARRA spent significant effort researching social media and graffiti websites, and tracked down CRUZ. He found CRUZ had posted video of his actions to YouTube, and photos to Facebook, Instagram and other websites. DET. NAVARRA, who has been conducting major graffiti investigations for nearly two decades, was further able to identify LEO CRUZ as “CETE” using video during which CRUZ was shown tagging, his face displayed to the camera. In addition, CRUZ sports a “CETE” tattoo on his arm.

LEO CRUZ was sentenced before Supreme Court Justice Marc Whiten, Part FB, at the Bronx Hall of Justice.

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

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ACCOUNTING FOR A TAX EVADER

Accountant Uses Skills to Avoid \$150K in NYS Taxes



Joseph Junkovic

(Bronx, NY – Monday, November 17, 2014) -- He was supposed to help poor cancer patients. Instead, this Bronx accountant helped himself to money – and failed to pay taxes, to boot.

Now, Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson announces that an accountant and financial services adviser, JOSEPH JUNKOVIC, will be counting one-to-three years behind bars in State prison for evading nearly \$150,000 in personal income taxes owed to New York State, following his plea today of guilty to the following charges:

Criminal Tax Fraud in the 3rd Degree (2 counts)

Criminal Tax Fraud in the 2nd Degree (1 count)

Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 1st Degree (2 Counts)

Falsifying Business Records in the 1st Degree (2 Counts)

Last month, JUNKOVIC was sentenced in Federal court to a year in jail for skimming more than a third-of-a-million dollars in government funds from the state and the feds relating to his Cancer Service Network. His sentencing in Bronx Supreme Court will take place on January 14, 2015. His State and Federal sentences will run concurrently.



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JUNKOVIC has also been ordered to pay restitution to the New York State Tax Department in the amount of \$419,695, representing the amount owed plus interest and penalties.

The 48-year-old JUNKOVIC operated the not-for-profit Cancer Service Network (CSN) and the for-profit JLJ Consulting, a financial services business. CSN was contracted by the New York State Department of Health to provide referrals for cancer screening services for indigent patients. But, during a bank audit of JUNKOVIC's accounts, it came to light that while the defendant made sure that CSN paid JLJ, and thus himself personally, hundreds of thousands of dollars for alleged financial services, JUNKOVIC failed to report that income on his taxes or, in some years, simply failed to file any tax return at all. The charges covered tax years 2008 through 2011.

District Attorney Johnson praised the investigative work of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, as well as the NYS Office of the Comptroller for their work on the case. The case against JOHN JUNKOVIC was prosecuted by Assistant D.A. W. Dyer Halpern of the Bronx D.A. Arson/Auto/Economic Crime Bureau and held before Supreme Court Justice Denis Boyle.



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L to R: Jamel Santiago; HHP Tollbooth Sept. 2011

HENRY HUDSON HIT & RUN ENDS IN CONVICTION

Jamel Santiago Found Guilty, Could Serve Up to 7 Years Behind Bars

(Bronx, NY – November 18, 2014) – Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson announces a jury has found 29-year-old JAMEL SANTIAGO guilty for the deadly hit & run that killed a man in the early hours of September 4th, 2011.

ANTONIO DAMIANO, JR. of Mount Vernon, NY, was crossing the parkway on foot when he was hit by SANTIAGO in the northbound lanes. SANTIAGO never stopped.

SANTIAGO, of Yonkers, NY, was convicted of:

Leaving the Scene of an Incident Without Reporting (Class D Felony)

Operating a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs – Driving While Ability Impaired

SANTIAGO's DWI conviction was based on a separate incident that took place January 16, 2012 on the Major Deegan Expressway at Mosholu Parkway, during which he was pulled over while speeding at approximately 85 mph, and arrested.

When he was arrested on the DWI, police recognized him as the suspect in the September hit and run, during which his vehicle, license plate and his face were caught on tollbooth video.

When he is sentenced on December 11, 2014 by Supreme Court Justice April Newbauer, SANTIAGO faces two-and-a-third to seven years behind bars, with parole included.

The case against JAMEL SANTIAGO was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jessica Groppe of the Bronx D.A. Trial Bureau 20/50.



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A BEEF TURNS DEADLY

Austin Babb Convicted of Murder in Wild Shooting

(Bronx, NY – November 21, 2014) – Bronx County D.A. Robert Johnson announces that a Supreme Court jury today convicted 24-year-old AUSTIN BABB of murder and other charges stemming from a wild shooting that resulted in the death of one man and the wounding of three others.

It was nearly three in the morning on August 7th, 2010, when BABB entered a building at 1454 Grand Concourse, and opened fire inside Apartment 6E before turning his gun to the common hallway, where he shot, and shot again.

Killed was 19-year-old DEMETRIUS JONES.

BABB's motive? The two had a prior altercation, described by one witness as a "stare-down." Three others were also hit by BABB's bullets, including then-teenagers BRANDI GARCIA-SUILA and ARIEL HALL. Seriously wounded was DAQUAN FLETCHER, who required surgery to remove a bullet from his chest.

After a trial that lasted approximately a month, the jury found AUSTIN BABB guilty of:

Murder in the 2nd Degree (Class A Felony)

Assault in the 1st Degree, 3 counts (Class B Violent Felony)

Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree, 2 counts (Class C Violent Felony)

When BABB is sentenced on March 11th by Supreme Court Justice Ethan Greenberg (Part 95), he faces 25 years-to-life in prison.

The case against AUSTIN BABB was prosecuted by Senior Investigative Assistant D.A. Eric Hirsch of the Bronx D.A. Gangs/Major Case Bureau.

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RIKERS GUARD INDICTED FOR FAILING TO KEEP A WATCH OUT WHILE INMATE JEROME MURDOUGH DIED

Carol Lackner Facing Felonies for Falsifying Logs

(Bronx, NY – December 8, 2014) – Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson today announced the indictment of Rikers Island Correction Officer **CAROL LACKNER** for failing to tour and inspect the cells of inmates under her charge on the overnight period of February 14-15, 2014, and then making false log entries claiming that she did her required tour. It was during that shift that inmate **JEROME MURDOUGH** died, the heat in his cell topping 100-degrees.

The Medical Examiner ruled that MURDOUGH's death was not a homicide, but was caused by hyperthermia due to environmental exposure to heat.

The Grand Jury has indicted the 35-year-old LACKNER on the following charges:

Falsifying Business Records in the 1st Degree (Class E Felony, 6 counts)
Falsifying Business Records in the 2nd Degree (Class A Misdemeanor, 6 counts)
Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 1st Degree (Class E Felony, 1 count)
Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 2nd Degree (Class A Misdemeanor, 1 count)
Official Misconduct (Class A Misdemeanor, 12 counts)

It is alleged that LACKNER, a Rikers correction officer who's been on the job for eight-and-a-half years, was scheduled to work a tour during the late evening and overnight hours at the Anna M. Kross Center's mental observation unit on February 14th, 2014.

It is among the allegations that, despite requirements that she regularly tour the unit, Officer LACKNER failed to do so, and that she made logbook entries claiming she did those tours and the rest of her job during the three hours she was there, but did not perform the work.



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CAROL LACKNER was released on her own recognizance. Her next appearance before Justice Steven Barrett is scheduled for February 17th, 2015, Part 60, Hall of Justice, 265 E. 161st Street, Bronx.

If convicted on the charges against her, CAROL LACKNER faces up to four years imprisonment.

The case against LACKNER is being prosecuted by Bronx Assistant District Attorney Ilya Kharkover of the Rackets/Investigations Bureau.

The charges contained in the indictment are allegations; the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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MISPLACED LOYALTY LEADS TO MOM'S KILLING

Joseph Diaz Sentenced to 25 Years in Prison

(Bronx, NY – December 10, 2014) – It was a misplaced sense of loyalty that killed an innocent bystander and has now landed 30-year-old JOSEPH DIAZ behind bars for 25 years, following his conviction on Manslaughter in the 1st Degree, announces Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson. DIAZ' aim was to prove his loyalty to a friend who'd lost a fistfight, when he aimed a gun at the man with whom the friend had the dispute. But the shooter, who even has a tattoo of the word "Loyalty" emblazoned across his neck, had bad aim – and instead killed a young mother, AISHA SANTIAGO.

When DIAZ fired a half-dozen shots with a .45-caliber semi-automatic, he did so during the 3 o'clock hour on one of the Bronx's busiest streets, with the sidewalks at Willis Avenue & East 146th Street teeming with pedestrians, including mothers walking their children home from school.

The 25-year-old SANTIAGO took a bullet straight to her heart, crumpling arms-length away from her 9-year-old son, and dying as she tried to crawl to her little boy.

That little boy, now a 14-year-old teenager, submitted a victim impact statement to the Court (in its entirety below), asking that DIAZ "gets what he deserves."

"There's not a day I don't think how my life would [have] been if she was still here..."

"All I want is my mom back in my life and finish raising me and helping me [learn] right from wrong..."

"I never want to disappoint my mom but I'm not doing all the right things and making good decisions. But I do whatever I can possibly do to make her proud and see her smile."



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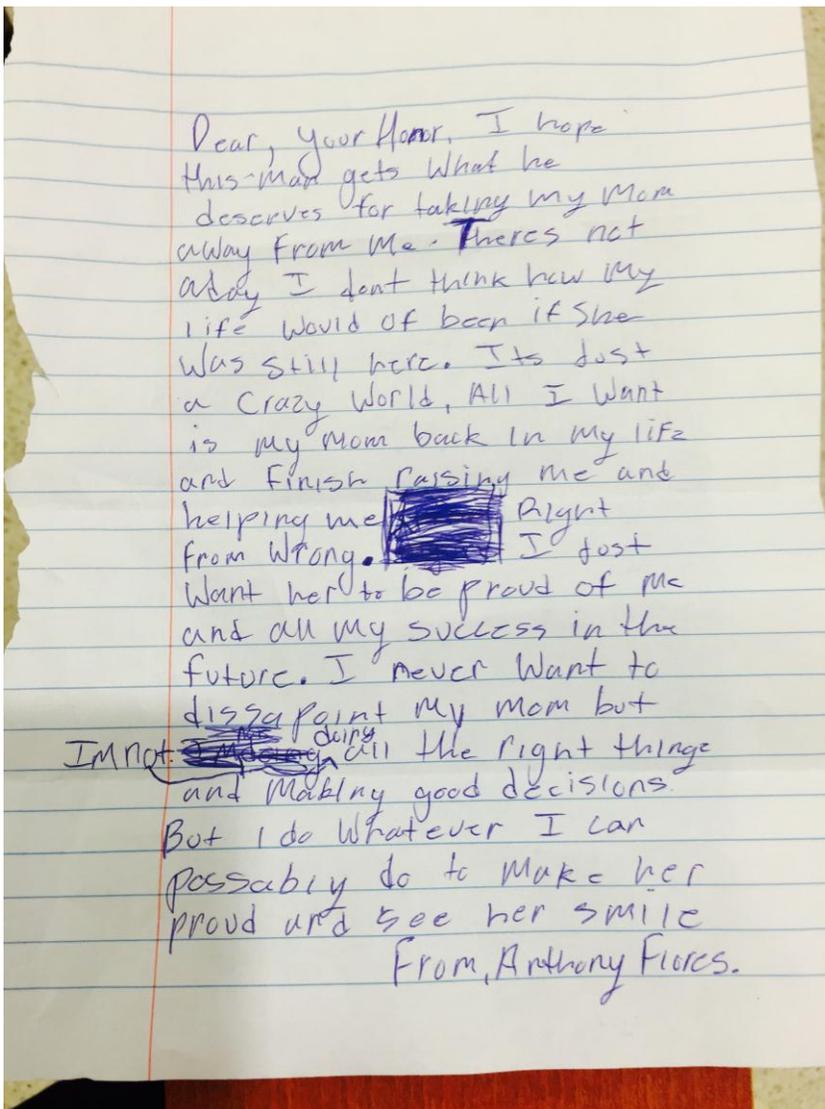
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DIAZ was sentenced to 25 years in prison with an additional five years post-release supervision by Supreme Court Justice Barbara F. Newman.

The case against JOSEPH DIAZ was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney ADAM OUSTATCHER, Director of DNA Prosecutions.

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JOSE RAMOS SENTENCED FOR GRAND LARCENY, OTHER CRIMES

Ex-Police Officer Still Faces Murder Conspiracy, Ticket-Fixing Charges



(Bronx, NY – December 10, 2014) – Following a jury verdict finding disgraced former police officer JOSE RAMOS guilty, **he was sentenced today to 12-and-a-half to 14-and-a-half years behind bars, with another five years post-release supervision**, announces Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson. This was the first of six indictments against the 46-year-old RAMOS for crimes ranging from ticket-fixing to Grand Larceny to selling counterfeit CDs and DVDs – to the most serious, conspiring to kill a witness in the cases against him, while he was being detained on some of the earlier indictments.

On October 27th, following a three-and-a-half week trial before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Michael Gross, and three hours of deliberation, the jury convicted RAMOS of:

- **Attempted Grand Larceny in the 3rd Degree (today sentenced to 1-3 years, consecutive)**
- **Attempted Robbery in the 2nd Degree (today sentenced to 2-1/2 years, consecutive, with 1-1/2 years post-release supervision)**
- **Attempted Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 1st Degree (today sentenced to 9 years, consecutive, with 5 years post-release supervision)**

The investigation into JOSE RAMOS began in December, 2008 following an anonymous tip to the NYPD's Internal Affairs Bureau that a police officer assigned to the 40th Precinct was engaged in various illegal activities with a known drug dealer in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx. That officer would turn out to be JOSE RAMOS, who was allowing an alleged drug dealer to operate out of the two barbershops that RAMOS owned.

But that tip would turn out to be just the tip of the iceberg.

In this trial, on the first of seven indictments involving JOSE RAMOS, it was proven that not only was RAMOS turning a blind eye to the illegal activities at the barbershops, which included not just marijuana dealing, but also the alleged sale of counterfeit CDs and DVDs – he was also allowing the alleged drug dealer to drive his car and use his police-issued placard.



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At trial, it emerged that hidden video and wiretaps and NYPD “integrity tests” revealed that RAMOS lacked any semblance of integrity, involving himself in plots to steal drug dealers’ money and agreeing to take \$10,000 to drive a car full of what he thought was heroin from the Bronx to Brooklyn. Not only was he transporting what he thought was heroin, he was also transporting a hidden video recorder.

RAMOS would also be caught conducting a fake car stop to assist in the theft of \$30,000 from an individual he thought was to be a purchaser of stolen electronics.

A special Grand Jury was empaneled in March, 2011 to hear evidence regarding allegations of crimes by police officers. In all, 16 officers and five civilians were charged in 22 indictments, charging them with some 1,600 felony and misdemeanor counts.

Of those, seven indictments belonged to JOSE RAMOS. He still faces charges relating to leaking the identity of a confidential informant, conspiracy to commit insurance fraud, conspiracy to sell counterfeit CDs and DVDs, and fixing tickets.

Also pending is the most serious of the charges against RAMOS, charges that also involve his wife, WANDA ABREU. Both are accused of conspiring to kill one of the witnesses against the police officer, a plot hatched while RAMOS was behind bars awaiting trial.

In October of this year, Lt. JENNARA COBB was convicted of Divulging an Eavesdropping Warrant, Obstructing Governmental Administration and Official Misconduct for leaking information about the so-called “TixFix” investigation. She will be sentenced on December 18th.

District Attorney Johnson would like to thank the NYPD and in particular, its Internal Affairs Bureau, for the work throughout the investigation and now, the trials.

“Where crimes are committed, whether by civilian or police officer, the Bronx District Attorney’s Office will seek justice.

“The crimes for which Jose Ramos has been convicted show that he clearly shunted to the side the duty he has to the people of New York City and began to operate solely for his personal benefit.”

The case against JOSE RAMOS was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Omer Wiczyc and Meagan Powers of the BXDA Rackets Bureau, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Stuart Levy.

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Michael Ferguson (Department of Corrections photo)

JUSTICE DELAYED, JUSTICE SERVED

Attempted Rapist Who Fled for 21 Years Caught, Convicted

(Bronx, NY – December 12, 2014) – Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson announces the conviction of 49-year-old MICHAEL FERGUSON, who, in October 1993, attempted to rape a 20-year-old college student at 1507 Metropolitan Avenue in the Parkchester section of the Bronx.

After a week-long trial and four hours' deliberation, a Bronx Supreme Court jury found FERGUSON guilty of Attempted Rape in the 1st Degree and Sexual Abuse in the 1st Degree, Class C and D Felonies.

It would take 21 years to bring MICHAEL FERGUSON to justice, as he fled the jurisdiction after being released on bail, eventually settling in North Carolina where the outstanding warrant for his arrest popped up when he applied for a license. He was brought back to New York in September of this year.

FERGUSON was a stranger to the college student who had returned to her apartment building, her NYC Transit Police Officer boyfriend dropping her off while he parked the car. She had just entered the building when FERGUSON placed a chokehold on her and, pretending to have a weapon at her back, pushed her into a stairwell and sexually assaulted her.

Her boyfriend entered the building and found the 20-year-old distraught and partially undressed, the defendant alone with her. The defendant fled up the stairs and out of the building with the Transit officer in hot pursuit, catching and holding FERGUSON for the NYPD.

MICHAEL FERGUSON faces up to 15 years in prison when he is sentenced before Justice Dominic Massaro on January 9, 2015, Part T14, Bronx Supreme Court Hall of Justice, 265 East 161st Street.

The case against FERGUSON was prosecuted by Trial Counsel Astrid Borgstedt and Assistant District Attorney Benjamin Marzolf of the Bronx D.A. Child Abuse/Sex Crimes Bureau.

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Jeffrey Ramirez (Dept. of Correction)

BODEGA BEEF ENDS IN YOUNG MOM'S KILLING

Jury Convicts Man Nabbed When He Tried to Flee the Country

(Bronx, NY – December 17, 2014) – He was on the jet bridge, steps away from boarding JetBlue 823 at JFK, on a one-way ticket to Santo Domingo and freedom. Until agents from the Department of Homeland Security detained him.

19-year-old **JEFFREY RAMIREZ** had, just hours before on the night of August 21, 2011, aimed his illegally purchased Cobra .380 at one man –one bullet grazing his intended target, but another slamming straight into the neck of an innocent bystander, young mother **YARITZA PACHECO**, who would take a few more steps before crumpling to the sidewalk, dead.

Today, Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson today announced the conviction of **JEFFREY RAMIREZ** in the shooting death of the 24-year-old **PACHECO** and the wounding of **LEONARD SHOULDERS**, following a two-week-long jury trial in Bronx Supreme Court, on the following charges:

Manslaughter in the 1st Degree
Attempted Murder in the 1st Degree
Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree

Video shows **RAMIREZ** walking up to a bodega on E. 174th Street near Boston Road, where he witnessed **SHOULDERS** having a small dispute with some other men about jumping a line into the store. **RAMIREZ** did not know any of the participants in the beef, but he jumped in to the fray, **SHOULDERS** taking off in a run, **RAMIREZ** in pursuit, firing his gun.

At the same time **RAMIREZ** was running down Hoe Avenue, **YARITZA PACHECO** was just home from her job at a Bronx Applebee's, seen on surveillance video laughing, her arm around a friend, the pair walking down 174th Street – and right into the path of **RAMIREZ'** bullets, as he ran down the block, chasing **SHOULDERS**. Her world would collide with the gunman's – and she would lose her world.



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The case against JEFFREY RAMIREZ was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Felicity Lung of the Gangs/Major Case Bureau.

RAMIREZ will be sentenced by Supreme Court Justice Troy Webber on February 3, 2015. He faces up to 25 years behind bars and, afterward, deportation to his home country of the Dominican Republic.

###

Surveillance video: http://youtu.be/hFtLK_zDJEQ
Stills: https://app.box.com/s/01i8v7x07za3fcz9mnn9



Jeffrey Ramirez has gun handed off to him by a friend who was holding it for him



Ramirez is no part of the beef at the bodega



An unsuspecting Yaritza Pacheco (right), moments before her death



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Figueroa (Department of Correction)

TAX PREP FRAUDSTER PHONIED RETURNS

Enrique Figueroa Stole Identities from Puerto Rico Kids

(Bronx, NY – December 18, 2014) – Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson and NYS Tax Commissioner Thomas H. Mattox announce the sentencing of a corrupt tax preparer to 2 ½ to seven years in prison and a judgment ordering he pay nearly three-quarters of a million dollars for his massive frauds in this and a previous case, perpetrated over several years.

ENRIQUE FIGUEROA, age 54, of 1100 Clay Avenue in the Bronx, appeared before Justice Seth Marvin in Bronx Supreme Court following his plea of guilty to:

Grand Larceny in the 2nd Degree
Criminal Tax Fraud in the 2nd Degree (3 counts)
Repeated Failure to File Personal Income Tax

FIGUEROA was prosecuted for filing false returns for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013, often using stolen Social Security numbers and the names of children unassociated with the taxpayers who would then claim them as dependents, in order to collect refunds to which they weren't entitled.



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The former tax preparer is adding to an already hefty bill from NYSDTF, now ordered to pay more than three-quarters of a million dollars to reimburse the state for his fraudulently-prepared returns, each of which cost taxpayers between two and five thousand dollars.

“We are committed to prosecuting bad preparers because they cheat their clients as well as the State and the City of New York, depriving us of funds used for a wide variety of public programs,” says District Attorney Johnson. *“We will continue working with Commissioner Mattox and his team to arrest such criminals.”*

“This case is a perfect illustration of why New York State recently launched [new regulations](#) for paid tax preparers,” says NYS Department of Taxation and Finance (NYSDTF) Commissioner Thomas H. Mattox. *“Seventy percent of New Yorkers use a paid preparer to file their individual tax returns, which is why we are focused on raising industry standards to better protect taxpayers from fraud.”* Noted Mattox, the Tax Department maintains a [searchable database](#) for the public of the more than 40,000 people who have registered as tax preparers or refund anticipation loan or check facilitators.

The investigation of ENRIQUE FIGUEROA was one that followed the money, during which NYSDTF Investigator Angelique Aponte discovered the scheme to sell the names and Social Security numbers of children from Puerto Rico, their information to be used on the phoned-up tax returns.

The case against ENRIQUE FIGUEROA was prosecuted by Assistant D.A. W. Dyer Halpern of the Bronx D.A. Arson/Auto/Economic Crime Bureau with the cooperation of Robert Eisman and Arielle Singer, Associate Attorneys, Criminal Investigations Division, NYSDTF.

For Bronx D.A.:
Terry Raskyn, 718-590-2234

For NYS DTF:
Cary Ziter: 518-457-7377

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FORMER NYPD LIEUTENANT SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN THE NYPD “TICKET-FIXING” CASES

Jennara Cobb Leaked Secret Wiretaps, Avoids Jail

(Bronx, NY – December 18, 2014) – Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson today announced the sentencing of former NYPD Lieutenant JENNARA COBB to a one-year Conditional Discharge, following a guilty verdict in the first of the so-called “tix-fix” trials.

In October, following a two-week non-jury trial, Bronx Supreme Court Justice Martin Marcus found the 38-year-old COBB guilty of Divulging an Eavesdropping Warrant, Obstructing Governmental Administration in the 2nd Degree and Official Misconduct, all Class A Misdemeanors.

COBB was ordered to perform 200 hours of Community Service as a condition of her discharge, which means that, if she completes that 200 hours, she will not be required to go to jail.

The COBB case arose out of a confidential investigation into fellow police officer JOSE RAMOS, an investigation that would lead to alleged widespread ticket-fixing among certain members of the force.

COBB, assigned to the Department’s Internal Affairs Bureau in February 2010, leaked information about phone wiretaps that were part of the ticket-fixing investigation.

The probe would eventually lead to the indictments of 16 officers in total, including Cobb and Ramos.

Following her guilty verdict, the NYPD terminated JENNARA COBB’s employment.

The case against JENNARA COBB was prosecuted by Investigations Division Senior Trial Assistant Donald Levin and A.D.A. Maureen Grosdidier.

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EARLY MORNING RAID ON LYMAN PLACE GANG RESULTS IN 57-COUNT INDICTMENT

11 Members Face Charges in Murder, Attempted Murders, Conspiracy

(Bronx, NY – December 18, 2014) – They have handles such as “Doolie RIP Lukey” and “Ice-T Butta.” And they allegedly communicated over places like Facebook – about their plans and also about what to do about the gun that was used in one of the shootings. And now, Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson and NYPD Police Commissioner William Bratton announce that 11 members and leaders of what’s known as the LYMAN PLACE GANG have been indicted for a range of crimes, from Murder, Attempted Murder, Manslaughter and Conspiracy, to Criminal Possession of a Weapon and Hindering Prosecution, among other charges.

Eight out of the 11 defendants were arrested in a simultaneous overnight sweep by members of the NYPD’s 42nd Precinct, and all 11 were arraigned today in State Supreme Court, before Justice Steven Barrett.

The gang members under indictment, and the charges they face, are:

NATHANIEL BELLAMY a/k/a “Black Nasty” a/k/a “Dion Stone” (Age 19) – Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree, Assault in the 1st Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree (2 counts), Conspiracy in the 4th Degree

SEBASTIAN BENJAMIN a/k/a “Shaba” (Age 23) – Murder in the 2nd Degree, Manslaughter in the 1st Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree (2 counts), Conspiracy in the 2nd Degree

DAQUAN CARRASCO a/k/a “Day Day” a/k/a “Day Day Lyman” (Age 18) – Conspiracy in the 2nd Degree

SHAWN DELMORE a/k/a “Shawny Shawn” (Age 17) – Conspiracy in the 2nd Degree

ANDREW HUNT a/k/a “Biggs Sip Lukey” a/k/a “Titties” (Age 19) – Hindering Prosecution in the 2nd Degree, Conspiracy in the 4th Degree, Conspiracy in the 1st Degree

JERMAINE JOHNSON a/k/a “Main” a/k/a “Maybach” (Age 22) – Murder in the 2nd Degree, Manslaughter in the 1st Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree (2 counts), Conspiracy in the 2nd Degree

KASEEM MARTINEZ a/k/a “Kass Milly” a/k/a “Kas” (Age 22) – Murder in the 2nd Degree, Manslaughter in the 1st Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree (2 counts), Conspiracy in the 2nd Degree

TERRELL NIMMONS a/k/a “Ice-T Lyman” a/k/a “Ice-T Butta” (Age 16) – Conspiracy in the 2nd Degree, Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree, Criminal Use of a Firearm in the 1st Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree (2 counts), Reckless Endangerment in the 1st Degree, Possession of Ammunition

RYAN SANTIAGO a/k/a “Ry Billz” (Age 19) – Hindering Prosecution in the 2nd Degree, Conspiracy in the 4th Degree



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LARRY SMITH a/k/a “Larry Gates” a/k/a “Larry Palacios” (Age 17) – Conspiracy in the 2nd Degree
DASHIN SIMMONS a/k/a “Doolie” a/k/a “Doolie RIP Lukey” (Age 16) – Conspiracy in the 2nd Degree,
Attempted Murder in the 2nd Degree, Criminal Use of a Firearm in the 1st Degree, Criminal Possession of a
Weapon in the 2nd Degree (2 counts), Reckless Endangerment in the 1st Degree, Possession of Ammunition

Says District Attorney Johnson, *“The issue of gun violence remains an issue for the citizens of the Bronx. Our office will do everything in its power to put a stop to the people and gangs that threaten our good people and cause countless citizens to senselessly lose their lives.”*

The D.A. especially singled out for praise the 42nd Precinct’s Field Intelligence Officer and Assistant, the NYPD’s Intelligence Bureau and its Juvenile Justice Division.

Police Commissioner William J. Bratton said, *“There is no place in our city for individuals such as the Lyman Place Gang and the senseless violence they bring to our neighborhoods. This indictment sends a message that the NYPD, along with our partners in the Bronx District Attorney’s Office, will continue to pursue investigations that target gang members who recklessly disregard the safety of our communities.”*

In addition, the Bronx District Attorney has singled out for praise the work of the NYPD Field Intelligence Unit and the Department of Juvenile Justice for their work in helping to make this prosecution possible.

The incidents

The murder charges stem from an October 19, 2013 incident, when defendant SEBASTIAN BENJAMIN allegedly shot innocent bystander PABLO PAGAN when he and members of the gang went to Vyse Avenue for the sole purpose firing into a rival gang’s “enemy territory,” with no regard to the collateral consequences of their actions, and with no specific intended target.

Attempted murder charges stem from two incidents. In one, on June 15th, 2011, accused shooter NATHANIEL BELLAMY targeted rival Doe Avenue Gang member CHARLES RYAN, who was on the phone arguing with his girlfriend when BELLAMY approached, withdrew his 9mm weapon from a bodega (black plastic) bag, and fired, hitting RYAN in the legs.

The other attempted murder occurred shortly before one in the afternoon on November 21, 2013, when TERRELL NIMMONS allegedly drew a gun and fired at his intended target, rival gang member JAQUAN GUZMAN. NIMMONS missed his target but hit a fence on the grounds of P.S. 132 at 168th Street and Washington Avenue. No school children were hit.



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— PRESS RELEASE —

Facebook chatter

In each of these incidents, it is alleged that Facebook was a frequently used means of planning, executing and cleaning up after the crimes.

In the week or two following the shooting of CHARLES RYAN in June and July of 2011, gang members posted back and forth, planning how to get rid of the gun that was used in the crime – and when it was deemed lost, how to replace the weapon.

Facebook chatter began in September 2013 surrounding the planned shooting of JAQUAN GUZMAN, with gang members exchanging information about when the victim was to leave school, and other members promising to do the actual shooting. The Lyman Place Gang members also discussed where they could get money and buy the actual gun – and TERRELL NIMMONS posted, on November 21st, that he'd gotten a loaded .22. Shortly thereafter, the shooting took place.

The case against the Lyman Gang defendants is being prosecuted by Bronx Assistant District Attorneys Veronica Guariglia, and Christina Labay of the Gangs/Major Case Bureau.

The charges contained in the indictment are allegations; the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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