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**BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY DARCEL D. CLARK ANNOUNCES THE
DISMISSAL OF MURDER CHARGES AGAINST RICHARD ROSARIO
Judge Denies Defendant's Motion To Amend Order Vacating His Conviction
in 1996 Shooting of Teen, And Dismisses Indictment**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that murder charges against Richard Rosario have been dismissed and she will not retry him in the 1996 fatal shooting for which he served 20 years in prison. The investigation into the killing of Jorge L. Collazo II will continue.

District Attorney Clark said, "We moved to vacate Mr. Rosario's conviction on March 23, 2016—freeing him from prison—and our Conviction Integrity Unit reviewed his case and we have determined that, in the interest of justice, the charges should be dismissed. We have concluded that since we would be unable to prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, the case should not be retried.

"The CIU has reviewed thousands of documents and interviewed Rosario's alibi witnesses, eyewitnesses who testified at the trial, and numerous other people who were part of the narrative of the case. Investigators pursued new avenues of inquiry.

"The family of Jorge L. Collazo II, who was 17 years old when he was shot and killed, deserves certainty and justice, and we will keep investigating. His murder remains an open case."

Administrative Judge Robert E. Torres issued an order of dismissal dated November 4, 2016, after denying Rosario's motion to amend the order vacating his conviction.

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