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BRONX MAN CONVICTED FOR FATAL BEATING AT CLUB **Defendant Used a Metal Hookah Pipe to Assault Man Who Died from Injuries**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man who used a hookah pipe to fatally beat a man has been convicted of first-degree manslaughter.

District Attorney Clark said, "The DNA evidence gathered by the police was instrumental in convicting this defendant of a brutal beating that killed a man. Now he faces up to 25 years in prison."

District Attorney Clark said that the defendant, Melvin Davis, 25, of 699 Beck Street, was convicted by a jury on June 3, 2016, of first-degree Manslaughter after a 10 week trial before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Judith Lieb. Davis faces up to 25 years in prison when he is sentenced on June 27, 2016.

According to trial testimony, early on August 18, 2013, a large fight broke out at the Tropicana nightclub in the Morrisania neighborhood involving Davis and 28-year-old Juther Perez, a purported leader of the Young Gunners. When Perez attempted to leave, Davis followed him and attacked him with the metal stem of a hookah pipe, with the assault ending only when 42nd Precinct police officers interceded in the beating. Perez suffered numerous facial fractures and went into a coma, and died eight days later from the brain injuries he sustained in the attack.

According to the trial testimony, Davis' complete DNA profile was found to be present on the metal piece of the hookah. Additionally, DNA of the victim was found on the white Nike sneakers that Davis was wearing at the time of the beating.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Timothy Lynch and Adrienne Hawkins of the Trial Division under the supervision of Trial Division Chief Jeremy Shockett.

District Attorney Clark would also like to thank Lieutenant Archie Van Putten and Police Officers Julio Jimenez and Thomas Olson, of the 42nd Precinct, for their assistance.