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BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON FOR KILLING MAN DEFENDING MENTALLY ILL MOTHER

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for fatally shooting a man who was defending his mentally ill mother as she was mocked outside her home.

District Attorney Clark said, "The victim used his fists to defend his mother from those harassing her. The defendant rushed to get a gun and in an instant, ended a young man's life and destroyed his own."

District Attorney Clark said that the defendant, Daquan Lanier, 21, of 225 East 149 Street, was sentenced today before Acting Bronx Supreme Court Justice Robert Neary to 20 years in prison and five years post-release supervision. Lanier pleaded guilty to first-degree Manslaughter on Oct. 11, 2016.

According to the investigation, on March 16, 2014, Lanier and two other men ridiculed Verbena Burgess, a woman with a history of mental illness who was singing and dancing outside her 562 Morris Avenue home. One man threw garbage and bottles at Burgess while the others cursed at her and demanded she stop singing.

The woman called her three sons, all of whom ran down from the apartment they shared and soon began to brawl with Lanier and his friends. Lanier and his friends quickly retreated but returned minutes later, with Lanier now carrying a gun.

Lanier fired one shot, striking Tony Andrew Burgess, 24, the eldest son of Verbena Burgess, in the back of the head as he fled, killing him instantly.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Peter Kennedy, Chief of the Computer Forensics Laboratory, under the supervision of the late Edward Talty, Chief of the Homicide Bureau. District Attorney Clark thanked her Office's Video Unit, and particularly video technician Jorge Santamaria, for their assistance.