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74-2024
For Immediate Release
September 19, 2024

MAN INDICTED FOR MURDER OF MAN SLEEPING ON SIDEWALK
Defendant Beat Victim Severely in Senseless Attack

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a man has been indicted for second-degree Murder in the unprovoked assault on a sleeping man that led to his death.

District Attorney Clark said “The defendant allegedly approached a man who was sleeping and started punching him repeatedly in the head, for no apparent reason. The victim suffered severe injuries and he was in a coma before passing away from his injuries.”

Jorell Shoals, 37, no known address, was arraigned on second-degree Murder and first-degree Manslaughter on September 18, 2024, before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Brenda Rivera. The defendant was remanded and is due back in court on December 19, 2024.

According to the investigation, on June 23, 2024, at approximately 11:00 p.m., in front of 526 Willis Avenue, the defendant suddenly ran up to Ramon Cruz, 54, who was sleeping on the sidewalk and allegedly began punching him multiple times in the head with both fists, causing the victim’s head to hit the ground. Cruz was rushed to New York City Health + Hospitals Lincoln where days later he suffered seizures and entered a coma. On July 17th, 2024, the victim died at the hospital from complications of blunt force trauma.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Nicholas W. DiCostanzo of the Homicide Bureau, under the supervision of Namani Burim, Deputy Chief of the Homicide Bureau, Christine Scaccia, Chief of the Homicide Bureau, and under the overall supervision of James Brennan, Deputy Chief of Trial Division and Theresa Gottlieb, Chief of Trial Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Trial Preparation Assistants Kimberly Cameron, Jazmine Pagoda, and Mateo Urrego of the Homicide Bureau, along with Crime Victims Advocates Emelis Santana and Carina Diaz, Senior Victim Advocate Laura Ramirez, and Violence Response and Senior Homicide Advocate Supervisor Ana Pimentel of the Crime Victim’s Assistance Bureau for their assistance with the case.



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District Attorney Clark also thanked NYPD Officers Bernardo Tejada and John Labianca of the 40th Precinct, Detective Brian DeStefano of the 40th Precinct Detective Squad, and Detective Arelis Collazo of the Bronx Homicide Squad for their work on the case.

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