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For Immediate Release
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**VIRGINIA MAN SENTENCED TO 2-6 YEARS IN PRISON FOR MANSLAUGHTER
FOR DRUNK DRIVING CRASH THAT KILLED HIS FRIEND
Defendant Slammed into Tractor-Trailer in Hunts Point**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Virginia man has been sentenced to two to six years in prison after pleading guilty to Manslaughter in a drunk driving crash that caused the death of a 20-year-old man who was a passenger in his car.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant was intoxicated, speeding, and driving the wrong way on a one-way street when his car hit a tractor trailer. He killed his friend who was a passenger in that car, ending a young life and forever changing his own.”

The defendant, T’Andre Hatcher, 22, of Chesapeake, Virginia was sentenced on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, to two to six years in prison, license suspension upon release from prison, and waiver of right to appeal, on one count of second-degree Manslaughter by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Joseph McCormack. He pleaded guilty to that charge on September 24, 2024.

According to the investigation, on January 8, 2022, at 5:18 am, the defendant was driving a 2018 Infiniti Q50 sedan at 75mph the wrong way on Oak Point Avenue in the Hunts Point section when he crashed into a tractor trailer as it was passing through the intersection at Manida Street. The force of the impact killed his passenger, 20-year-old Frankely Nunez Payano. An open bottle of tequila was found in the car. A blood alcohol test determined that the defendant was driving while intoxicated. The investigation was largely based on surveillance video, blood test results, and information from the car’s “black box”.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Homicide Counsel Antonio Castro under the supervision of Burim Namani, Deputy Chief of the Homicide Bureau, Christine Scaccia, Chief of the Homicide Bureau, and under the overall supervision of James Brennan, Deputy Chief of the Trial Division, and Theresa Gottlieb, Chief of the Trial Division, with the assistance of Jeffrey Kimelman, Chief



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of the Vehicular Crimes Unit and Deputy Chief of the General Crimes Bureau. District Attorney Clark thanked Trial Preparation Assistant Jamece Hill for her assistance with the case.

District Attorney Clark thanked NYPD Police Officer Gregory Gianacopulos of Highway 1 Crash Investigation Squad and NYPD Neighborhood Coordination Officer Bryan Jones of the 41st Precinct for their work in the investigation.