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**D.A. BROWN: HOMELESS DEAF MUTE CHARGED
WITH KILLING "JOHN DOE" WITH BRICK DURING ROBBERY**

Faces 25 Years To Life In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 47-year-old homeless deaf mute man has been charged with killing an unidentified Hispanic man by repeatedly striking him in the head with a brick during an apparent robbery in Long Island City this past weekend.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is accused of intentionally hitting the victim in the head and killing him during the course of committing a robbery. The defendant's alleged actions are another example of mindless violence that takes lives and endangers public safety."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as William Washington, 47, who lives in a makeshift shelter at the intersection of 43rd Road and 12th Street, the site of the alleged murder. The defendant is being held pending arraignment later today in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens on charges of Murder in the Second Degree, Robbery in the First Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree and Tampering with Physical Evidence. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 25 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, between 10:00 p.m. on June 2 and 4:00 a.m. on June 3, 2006, the defendant struck the victim, who has yet to be identified, multiple times in the head with a brick, killing him. The defendant then allegedly went through the victim's pockets, taking whatever cash he could find. Finally, it is charged that the defendant splashed water on the sidewalk in the vicinity of his shelter in an attempt to rinse away the victim's blood.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Joseph Bey of the New York City Police Department's 108th Precinct Detective Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Salvatore Salerno.

Assistant District Attorney Marissa B. Gillespie, of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, and Peter J. McCormack III, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

It should be noted that criminal charges are merely an accusation and that defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org.