



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY**
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000

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CONTACT: KEVIN RYAN
NICOLE NAVAS
MERIS CAMPBELL
(718) 286-6315

D.A. BROWN: PRIME MOVER IN VICIOUS HOWARD BEACH BAT ATTACK
CONVICTED ON HATE CRIME AND ROBBERY CHARGES

Beat Victim with Aluminum Bat and Uttered Racial Slurs; Faces Up To 25 Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Howard Beach teenager has been convicted after a three-week jury trial of physically injuring and robbing a young black man during a bias-related baseball attack last summer.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is at the center of a racially motivated baseball bat attack that left a young man seriously injured both physically and emotionally. Spewing hateful racial slurs, the defendant's conduct was as primitive as the club he used. Such acts of hate have no place in a civilized society – especially here in Queens, the most ethnically diverse county in the nation. When crimes motivated by hate regrettably do occur, those responsible must be dealt with aggressively and brought to justice."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Nicholas Minucci, 20, of 156-45 78th Street in Howard Beach, Queens. Following seven hours of deliberation a jury of five females and seven males found the defendant guilty of second-degree assault as a hate crime, first-degree robbery as a hate crime, second-degree robbery as a hate crime, fifth-degree criminal possession of stolen property and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

State Supreme Court Justice Richard L. Buchter, who presided at the three-week jury trial, set sentencing for July 13, 2006, at which time the defendant faces up to 25 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, at approximately 3:30 a.m. on June 29, 2005, in the vicinity of 160th Avenue and 79th Street in Howard Beach the defendant physically attacked his victim, Glenn Moore, 22, uttering racial epithets, and beating him severely with an aluminum bat. The victim, who sustained a fractured skull and other injuries, was then robbed of his sneakers by the defendant and a co-defendant, Anthony Ench.

The District Attorney said that police officers assigned to the New York City Police Department's Hate Crimes Unit arrested Minucci about 11 hours after the attack on a nearby street in Howard Beach as he was driving a 2005 Cadillac Escalade that he used in the attack. The victim's sneakers, shirt and shoes, along with the aluminum softball bat used in the assault were found in the defendant's possession.

Minucci's co-defendant, Anthony Ench, 22, of 156-16 77th Street in Howard Beach, Queens, pleaded guilty on October 11, 2005 to second-degree attempted robbery, a Class D violent felony, and second-degree attempted assault, a Class D felony, and was sentenced on October 28, 2005 to serve concurrent determinate terms of two years and one year in prison.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Mariela Herring, Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Gang Violence and Hate Crimes Bureau, and Michelle E. Goldstein, Deputy Bureau Chief, and with assistance of Assistant District Attorney Brian E. Kohm, under the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials John H. Larsen.

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