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**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN SENTENCED TO 32 YEARS IN PRISON FOR KILLING
OF EX-GIRLFRIEND AND ABANDONMENT OF HER 4-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that Cesar Ascarrunz who pleaded guilty last month in connection with the murder of his former girlfriend, Monica Lozada, and the abandonment of her 4-year-old daughter, Valery, in the middle of the night on a dark street in Middle Village, Queens, has been sentenced to 32 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said, "Today's sentencing of the defendant in the violent death of Monica Lozada and the abandonment of her 4-year-old daughter Valery brings finality to a case that captured the attention of people all across the country. The defendant has been held responsible for his actions and society has been protected, but perhaps most importantly little Valery has been spared the emotional trauma of having to testify about the events surrounding her abandonment and the death of her mother."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Cesar Ascarrunz, 32, formerly of 111-17 66th Avenue in Forest Hills, Queens, who worked as a building porter. On February 16, 2006, the defendant appeared before Queens County Supreme Court Justice Robert J. Hanophy and pleaded guilty to Manslaughter in the First Degree in connection with the death of his former girlfriend and Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree with respect to the abandonment of her child. Justice Hanophy today sentenced Ascarrunz to 25 years in prison on the manslaughter charge and a consecutive term of 2 1/3 to 7 years on the endangerment charge.

The District Attorney said that the indictment filed in the case charges that between September 24 and 25, 2005 in the defendant's residence at 111-17 66th Avenue in Forest Hills, the defendant murdered Monica Lozada, 26, placed her body in a black plastic garbage and thereafter left it on a Forest Hills street. The body was later recovered in a Pennsylvania garbage dump. Ms. Lozada's four-year-old child was abandoned, crying and alone, by the defendant on a darkened street in the Middle Village section of Queens.

District Attorney Brown stated that the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner concluded that Ms. Lozada, whose body was discovered in a Pennsylvania landfill, died as a result of homicidal violence.

Assistant District Attorney Scott Kessler, Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Domestic Violence Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org.