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**D.A. BROWN: ST. ALBANS MAN FOUND GUILTY OF SHOOTING
POLICE OFFICER DURING STOP AND FRISK**

Shoots Police Officer During Struggle; Faces Up To 32 Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced the conviction of a St. Albans man for shooting a New York City Police Department police officer in the hip with the officer's gun when the officer attempted to arrest him.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has been convicted after a jury trial of shooting a uniformed New York City Police Officer in the hip while resisting arrest. This case is another example of the dangers that our police officers face in their continuing efforts to fight crime. We will urge that the defendant be sentenced to the maximum term of 32 years in prison when he is sentenced next month."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as William Hodges, 33, of 128-14 Mars Place in St. Albans, Queens. The defendant was convicted earlier today after a 2½ -week trial of Assault in the First Degree, Criminal Possession of Weapon in the Second and Third Degrees, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree and Resisting Arrest. A jury of four men and eight women deliberated for three days before returning a verdict of guilty. Justice Richard L. Buchter, who presided at trial, ordered the defendant remanded pending sentencing on April 17, 2006.

District Attorney Brown said that according to trial testimony, at about 10:00 p.m. on November 12, 1999, uniformed Police Officer David Gonzalez was responding to a 'man with a gun' call at 114-05 170th Street when he encountered the defendant in the building's stairwell. When Officer Gonzalez frisked the defendant he felt what he believed to be a firearm. At that point, Officer Gonzalez attempted to place the defendant under arrest. A struggle ensued, during which the defendant pulled the 9-mm. Glock from Gonzalez's holster and, pointing the gun's muzzle directly at him, fired one shot, striking Officer Gonzalez in the hip. A .38 caliber revolver was recovered from the stairwell's floor.

The defendant was initially arrested on November 12, 1999, but the charges were dismissed in December 2002 when Justice Laura Blackburne ruled that the defendant's right to a speedy trial had been denied. Justice Blackburne's ruling was ultimately overturned on appeal and the charges were reinstated two years later.

Assistant District Attorneys Shawn Clark, of the District Attorney's Homicide Trial Bureau, and Daniel Novak, of the District Attorney's Kew Gardens II Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Jack Warsawsky, 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.

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