



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

Release # 235-2006
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2006

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

**D.A. BROWN: TWO QUEENS TEENAGERS CHARGED
IN CHOKING AND BLUDGEONING DEATH OF HOWARD BEACH RESIDENT**

*Allegedly Attacked Victim With Aluminum Baseball Bat and Fire Extinguisher;
Face Up to 25 Years to Life in Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that two Queens teenagers have been charged with murder and weapons possession in the choking and bludgeoning death of a 55-year-old Howard Beach resident last month inside his 96th Street residence.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendants are accused of a violent crime in which they befriended the victim and then choked and viciously beat him with a bat and fire extinguisher in his own home before callously leaving his body in the basement."

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, Billyray Staton, 17, of 320 Beach 27th Street in Far Rockaway, and Alex Brown, 17, of 170-08 Liberty Avenue in Jamaica, choked and then beat 57-year-old John Canora with an aluminum baseball bat and a fire extinguisher before dumping his body in a drainage area in the basement of his home at 164-20 96th Street in Howard Beach last month.

The District Attorney said that the defendants were arrested this morning by detectives assigned to the 106th Precinct and have each been charged with two counts of second-degree murder and two counts of fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon. The defendant Brown has also been charged with resisting arrest. If convicted, the defendants each face up to 25 year to life in prison.

The defendants are being held pending arraignment in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens.

Assistant District Attorney Jeneen Wunder, 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, Deputy Bureau Chief, and Richard B. Schaeffer, Supervisor 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 a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

#

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