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STATEMENT BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY RICHARD A. BROWN

The investigation of the November 25th incident in Jamaica in which Sean Bell was killed and two others were injured is being conducted jointly by experienced prosecutors and investigators assigned to my Major Crimes Division and Homicide Investigations Bureau. It is independent of that being conducted by the Police Department. It will be fair and impartial – and thorough and complete. I will be guided only by the law and the facts. I will reach no conclusions until the investigation is complete. There will be no rush to judgment.

I have been personally involved in the investigation from the outset and have spoken over the past few days with Mayor Bloomberg, Police Commissioner Kelly, numerous elected officials on the City, state and federal levels, and various community leaders and clergy. We are all involved in a search for the truth.

This afternoon, I met here in my office with Rev. Al Sharpton and other clergy members and various community leaders and elected public officials. Also attending were Sean Bell's parents, his fiancée and other family members.

I discussed with them the progress of our investigation – and reiterated that which I've heretofore said – that our decisions in this case will be based solely on the facts and the law and we will follow the evidence wherever it leads us.

Our investigation is active and ongoing. It will be completed as expeditiously as possible – following which the evidence resulting therefrom will be presented to a grand jury. The investigation is, however, still in its early stages. Numerous documents, reports, and video and audio tapes remain to be gathered and reviewed. In addition, witnesses must be located and interviewed and statements taken from all those involved in this tragic incident.

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