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D.A. BROWN: WAREHOUSE MANAGER PLEADS GUILTY
IN 2005 SHOOTING OF PREGNANT WOMAN

*Victim's Body With Gunshot Wound to Head Found in Trunk of Car;
Defendant Faces 30 Years In Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Long Island man has interrupted the start of his murder trial to plead guilty to manslaughter in the February 2005 fatal shooting of his pregnant former sister-in-law whose lifeless body was discovered in the trunk of her automobile in Jamaica, Queens.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant admitted to fatally shooting his former sister-in-law once in the head moments before prosecutors were about to give their opening statement in front of a Queens jury charging that the defendant shot and killed the 26-year-old woman to prevent her from telling his brother – her ex-husband – that she was pregnant with the defendant's baby. The victim leaves behind a young daughter who must now face life without her. The sentence to be imposed is, under the circumstances, more than warranted."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Steven Schiovone, 37, of 104 Harvest Lane in Levittown. Schiovone, a warehouse manager, appeared today before Queens Supreme Court Justice Randall T. Eng and pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon. Justice Eng set sentencing for May 10, 2007, at which time he indicated that he would sentence the defendant to a determinate term of 30 years in prison.

The District Attorney said that, in pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that he caused the death of Susan Ambrosino, 26, of Franklin Square, who was ten weeks pregnant and the mother of his then nine-year-old niece, on February 21, 2005, by shooting her once in the left side of her head with an illegal handgun as she sat in the front seat of her red Nissan Altima parked at 178th Street and Jamaica Avenue in Jamaica, Queens. The defendant then placed her lifeless body in the car trunk and left the scene.

According to the District Attorney, in the early morning of February 22, 2005, a passerby found a purse belonging to the victim on the sidewalk of 182nd Place and Jamaica Avenue and phoned the Nassau County Police Department – which had earlier initiated an investigation into the victim's disappearance after her family had reported her missing when she failed to return home the night before. The victim's car was discovered later in the evening on February 22nd.

District Attorney Brown said that Nassau County Police arrested the defendant on February 23, 2005, on charges of driving without a seatbelt and with a suspended registration and license. He was arrested the following day by NYPD detectives and charged with the murder of his former sister-in-law.

The investigation was conducted by New York City Police Department Detectives Christopher Bollerman and Kevin Stocker, of the 103rd Precinct Detective Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Patrick Wing, and by Detectives John Collins and John Warner, of the Queens Homicide Task Force under the supervision of Lieutenant Richard Bellucci, and by Nassau County Police Department Lieutenant Dennis Farrell of the Homicide Squad and Detective Albert Brandel of the Missing Persons Squad.

Assistant District Attorney Brad A. Leventhal, Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Homicide Trials Bureau, prosecuted the case under 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.