



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

Release #47-2007
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2007

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

**D.A. BROWN: VANDAL PLEADS GUILTY TO FELONY HATE CRIME
FOR SCRAWLING ANTI-JEWISH GRAFFITI ON QUEENS PROPERTIES**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 21-year-old Flushing man charged with writing anti-Semitic remarks on multiple parked cars and other surfaces near a synagogue in the Fresh Meadows section of Queens has pleaded guilty in the case.

District Attorney Brown said, "This case rose above being a simple act of graffiti vandalism. The defendant knowingly perpetrated his destructive and hateful message in the very heart of Queens, home to many Holocaust survivors. Crimes motivated by bias and hate can never be tolerated – especially in a community rich in diversity as Queens County. Such crimes threaten the safety and welfare of us all. When they do regrettably occur they must be vigorously prosecuted."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as James Connolly (a.k.a. SEP), 21, of 60-05 170th Street in Flushing. The defendant, who was arrested on May 26, 2005, pleaded guilty to fourth-degree criminal mischief as a hate crime before Queens Supreme Court Justice Richard L. Buchter who indicated that he would sentence the defendant to five years' probation, ten days of community service and order him to enroll in a tolerance sensitivity course at sentencing on April 12, 2007. If the defendant fails to comply with the conditions of his sentence, he could be re-sentenced to one and one-third to four years in state prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, in pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that during the early morning hours of May 18, 2005, he used a black marker to write "Kill All Jews on 7/14/05" and to draw swastikas on multiple parked vehicles, bus shelters and a post office mailbox in the vicinity of the Electchester Jewish Center located at 164th Street and Jewel Avenue in Fresh Meadows.

The District Attorney said that while the defendant offered no explanation for the 7/14 date, law enforcement officials believe that the date may refer to July 14, 1933, the day Adolf Hitler banned all political parties, except for the Nazis, in Germany.

District Attorney Brown noted that a second individual charged in the graffiti bias incident, Anthony LaRosa, (a.k.a. PINZ) 22, of 61-19 164th Street in Flushing, is presently awaiting trial on March 20, 2007.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Michael Brovner of the District Attorney's Gang Violence and Hate Crimes Bureau is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Mariela Palomino Herring, Bureau Chief, and Michelle E. Goldstein, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James Clark Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys for Trials John H. Larsen and Robert J. Masters.

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