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**D.A. BROWN: JAMAICA, QUEENS MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON
FOR 2002 MURDER OF MAN OUTSIDE QUEENS SOCIAL CLUB**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 24-year-old man convicted of the fatal shooting of a Jamaica, Queens, man who was shot once in the back on a Queens street while being chased in May 2002 has been sentenced to 25 years to life in prison. The murder occurred outside a Jamaica social club.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant was convicted of the cold-blooded murder of a 28-year-old man whom he chased while firing a gun on a busy Queens street. The imposition of the maximum penalty for murder reflects the gravity of the defendant's offense and ensures that he will no longer be a threat to society."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as William Patterson, 24, whose address at the time of his arrest was 118-36 153rd Street in Jamaica, Queens. The defendant was convicted on November 15, 2006, following a two and one-half-week jury trial, of second-degree murder, second-degree criminal possession of a weapon and first-degree reckless endangerment after one day of deliberations. Queens Supreme Court Justice Michael Aloise, who presided at trial, imposed today's indeterminate sentence of 25 years to life in prison.

The District Attorney said that the defendant, armed with an illegal revolver, fatally shot James Thomas, 28, once in the back during the early morning hours of May 31, 2002, outside a social club on the corner of 109th Avenue and Sutphin Boulevard in Jamaica. According to trial testimony, the defendant, accused the victim of stealing one of his guns and after Mr. Thomas denied the accusation, the defendant shot at his feet and chased the defendant down the street to the corner, where he fatally shot him.

According to District Attorney Brown, the defendant fled to South Carolina after the incident and was apprehended shortly thereafter by detectives of the NYPD's 103rd Detective Squad.

The investigation was conducted by Detective James Lusk of the New York City Police Department's 103 Detective Squad with the assistance of the NYPD's Queens Homicide Squad.

Assistant District Attorney John W. Kosinski of the District Attorney's Homicide Trials Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Brad A. Leventhal, Bureau Chief, and 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 on www.queensda.org