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D.A. BROWN: QUEENS TEENAGER ADMITS GUILT IN DOUGLASTON BIAS ATTACK
Beat Two Victims In Racially Motivated Assault; To Be Sentenced to 3½ Years In State Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that one of the two defendants charged in a bias-related attack this past summer in Douglaston in which two Asian youths were physically assaulted because of their race has admitted his guilt and will be sentenced to serve three and one-half in state prison. His co-defendant is awaiting trial.

The District Attorney identified the defendant who pleaded guilty today as Kevin M. Brown, 19, of 196-40 45th Avenue in Auburndale, Queens. Brown, who worked as a parking valet at the time of the incident, appeared before Acting Supreme Court Justice Pauline Mullings and pleaded guilty to second-degree assault as a hate crime and third-degree assault as a hate crime for his involvement in the Douglaston incident and to second- and third-degree assault for an earlier incident in which he attacked two men with a hammer after a collision and dispute. Justice Mullings indicated that she would sentence the defendant to a determinate term of three and one-half years in state prison and two and one-half years' post-release supervision on March 8, 2007.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has admitted that he took part in a cowardly, hate-motivated attack. His actions are a throwback to a dark time and place in American history and are an affront to civilized society. Queens County is the most culturally diverse county in the nation and crimes of hate will never be tolerated here. They are to be condemned in the strongest possible terms. When they do, regrettably, occur, those responsible will be brought to justice.

District Attorney Brown said that defendant Brown admitted that during the predawn hours of Saturday, August 12, 2006, he participated in the beating of John Lu, 19, by punching him about the head and body, causing him to suffer lacerations requiring multiple stitches and substantial pain, including several loose teeth. Brown also admitted that when Reynold Liang, 19, came to the aid of Lu, he punched and kicked Liang about the head and body, and that when Liang crawled back to his car and picked up an automobile steering wheel lock known as "The Club," he grabbed it from Liang and used it to hit him numerous times about the head and body, causing him to sustain a possible fractured skull and substantial pain to his chest. Brown admitted that he assaulted the two victims because of their race.

District Attorney Brown said that the defendant Brown also admitted that on the evening of May 7, 2006, he struck pedestrian Georgios Karatzas, 64, with his 1988 Toyota as he and his son, Panagotis, 30, were crossing the intersection of Norther Boulevard and Francis Lewis Boulevard. During a verbal dispute, Brown exited his car and hit Panagotis Karatzas on the head with a hammer and pummeled Georgios Karatzas, who fell and suffered cuts to his hand. Brown then returned to his car and drove off, clipping Panagotis Karatzas in the leg. Both men required medical attention for their injuries.

The District Attorney identified Brown's co-defendant in the Douglaston incident as Paul A. Heavey, 21, of 43-35 247th Street in Little Neck. He has been charged with Assault in the Second and Third Degrees as a Hate Crime, Reckless Endangerment in the Second Degree as a Hate Crime, Criminal Mischief in the Fourth Degree as a Hate Crime and Harassment in the Second Degree. He faces a determinate sentence of between eight and fifteen years in state prison.

Both Brown and Heavey are being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michelle E. Goldstein, Deputy Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Gang Violence and Hate Crimes Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Mariela Palomino Herring, Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys for Trials John H. Larsen and Robert J. Masters.

District Attorney Brown expressed his appreciation to the members of the New York City Police Department's Hate Crimes Unit for their assistance in the investigation and prosecution of this case.

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