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**D.A. BROWN: HOMELESS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MANSLAUGHTER
IN SHOOTING DEATH OF PAINTER UNDER GRAND CENTRAL PARKWAY OVERPASS**

To Be Sentenced to 23 Years In State Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 47-year-old homeless man has pleaded guilty to fatally shooting a bridge painter in November 2004 under a Grand Central Parkway overpass in Corona, Queens. The shooting had been sparked by the victim asking the defendant to move his belongings so that he and his fellow crew members could paint the span under which he was living.

District Attorney Brown said, "This was a particularly senseless and disturbing shooting and another alarming instance in which an illegal handgun was used to take an innocent life. The victim in this case was a hardworking man, as well as a husband and father of three girls. Only days earlier, fellow members on the victim's work crew had befriended his killer with offers of food and money – then only to see their kindness repaid with ingratitude and bullets to one of their own. Following the slaying, the defendant calmly lit a cigar and waited for the police to arrive. By his actions, the defendant has proven himself unfit for society. The sentence to be imposed is more than warranted."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Steven Boyd, 47, a former security guard. Boyd, who had apparently been living in a makeshift shelter under the highway overpass at the time of the shooting, appeared today before Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert J. Hanophy and pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter. Justice Hanophy set sentencing for June 12, 2006, at which time he indicated that he would sentence the defendant to 23 years in prison.

The District Attorney said that, in pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that he caused the death of James Gaviglia, 38, of Middle Village, Queens, by shooting him multiple times in the stomach and leg at approximately 11:00 a.m. on November 10, 2004, at the southeast corner of Grand Central Parkway and 34th Avenue in Corona, Queens. Gaviglia had been employed by Persico Construction, of Mount Vernon, New York,

According to the District Attorney, the defendant made inculpatory statements to the police who apprehended him at the scene. Police recovered from the defendant a .45 caliber semi-automatic pistol and more than thirty rounds of ammunition.

Boyd, who underwent psychiatric evaluation and was declared unfit to stand trial a month after his November 2004 arrest, was deemed fit to stand trial by state psychiatrists during another examination in June 2005.

Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders prosecuted the case.

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