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Release #101-2007
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2007

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**D.A. BROWN: 18-YEAR-OLD PLEADS GUILTY TO MANSLAUGHTER
IN 2005 DOUBLE SHOOTING AT QUEENS BLOCK PARTY**

Fatally Shot Queens Teenager and Seriously Wounded Another; Faces 24 Years in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Queens teenager has pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the death of a 15-year-old boy and the serious wounding of a 14-year-old boy during a block party in South Ozone Park in August 2005.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant, who was seventeen years old at the time of the incident, has now taken responsibility and admitted to the senseless shooting with an illegal handgun of two teenage boys, killing one. I only hope that the defendant spends his time in prison reflecting on his actions and returns to society as a reformed and productive adult. The crime is another shocking example of mindless gun-related youth violence that takes innocent lives and recklessly endangers public safety."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Vijai Dube, 18, of 116-10 Liberty Avenue in Richmond Hill, Queens. Dube, who was a tenth-grade high school student at the time of the incident, pleaded guilty yesterday to first-degree manslaughter before Queens Supreme Court Justice Randall T. Eng who indicated that he would sentence the defendant to 24 years in prison on June 18, 2007.

District Attorney Brown said that, in pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that on the evening of Saturday, August 6, 2005, he fatally shot Harrichad Singh, 15, with a semi-automatic handgun – striking him once in the head and once in the wrist – and seriously wounded Shastra Sagar, 14, with a bullet to the chest. The shootings took place during a summer block party on 109th Avenue in South Ozone Park.

District Attorney Brown said that Dube was apprehended two days after the shooting on August 8, 2005, by detectives assigned to the New York City Police Department's 106th Precinct Detective Squad.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Jeffrey Gordon and Edward Balfe of the NYPD's 106th Precinct Detective Squad, and Detectives Matthew Bonner and PJ Curran of the NYPD's 105 Precinct Detective Squad, under the supervision of Lieutenant Edward Keogh.

Assistant District Attorney John W. Kosinski, of the District Attorney's Homicide Trials Bureau prosecuted the case under the supervision of Brad 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