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Release # 50-2008
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008

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MOTORIST SENTENCED TO 3 TO 9 YEARS IN PRISON
IN FATAL QUEENS HIGHWAY CRASH

*Excessive Speed and Alcohol Played Role in Crash
That Resulted in One Death and Injury To Seven Others*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a young motorist who pleaded guilty to felony vehicular assault and reckless endangerment has been sentenced to three to nine years in state prison for his involvement in a two-car crash last August that resulted in the death of a teenage passenger and injury to seven others in the vehicles – including himself.

District Attorney Brown said, “Having consumed alcohol and smoked marijuana earlier in the evening, the defendant knowingly got behind the wheel and recklessly operated his vehicle in a manner that presented a danger to not only himself and his passengers but to others driving in the vicinity. As a result, his actions not only directly contributed to the untimely death of one young man and to the serious injury of others but forever altered the lives of those who survived the crash and the families of all involved. Under the circumstances, the sentence imposed is more than warranted.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Milton G. Flores, 20, of 35-22 93rd Street in Jackson Heights. Flores, who has been in jail in lieu of \$200,000 since his arrest on August 29, 2007, pleaded guilty last month to first-degree vehicular assault and first-degree reckless endangerment before Acting Queens County Supreme Court Justice Dorothy Chin-Brandt who imposed today’s indeterminate term of three to nine years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, in pleading guilty, Flores admitted to smoking pot and drinking alcohol before operating his vehicle in excess of seventy miles per hour just after midnight on August 14, 2007, weaving in and out of traffic and narrowly missing crashing into other cars as he raced after another vehicle being driven by Bolivar R. Camacho, 18, of 94-17 31st Street in East Elmhurst. According to the charges, at approximately 12:20 a.m., the two vehicles exited the Cross Island Parkway and were heading onto the Van Wyck Expressway when their vehicles made contact, resulting in a fatal motor vehicle accident that included several passengers being ejected from the Chevrolet Trailblazer that Flores was driving. At the scene, Flores was observed to have bloodshot, watery eyes and a strong odor of alcohol on his breath.

Of the five passengers in Flores’ vehicle, Jonathan Reyes, 19, of East Elmhurst, was pronounced dead an hour later at the hospital; Amy Koo, 16, of Jackson Heights, Elder Valencia, 23, of Elmhurst, and Marcus Akus, 19, (address unknown), were all ejected from the vehicle and listed in critical condition with serious injuries; and Henry Hernandez, 19, of Jackson Heights, who was not ejected, was also listed in critical condition. Jonathan Garcia, 20, of Enterprise, Alabama, who was a passenger in Camacho’s two-door Honda and was not ejected, suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

District Attorney Brown said that Amy Koo, who is paralyzed from the waist down and requires the use of a wheelchair, read a victim impact statement at sentencing, as did the parents of Jonathan Reyes.

The investigation was conducted by detectives assigned to the New York City Police Department’s Accident Investigations Squad, and by police officers assigned to the NYPD’s 109th Precinct Detective Squad.

Assistant District Attorneys Robert J. Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief of the District Attorney’s Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau, and Patricia M. Theodorou prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys James W. Evangelou, 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.

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