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U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OFFICER CHARGED
IN FATAL SHOOTING OF FOREST HILLS REAL ESTATE BROKER

Defendant Faces Up To 15 Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a United States Customs and Border Protection Officer assigned to John F. Kennedy International Airport has been indicted for the shooting death of a Forest Hills real estate broker outside the officer's residence two months ago. The defendant had purportedly been drinking prior to the incident.

District Attorney Brown said, "As a federal officer trained in the safety and handling of weapons, the defendant should have known better than to draw a gun absent an imminent threat to the safety of himself or others. Sadly, this case is a grim lesson why guns and drinking are a lethal mixture."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Eric Alke, 41, of 72-07 Kessel Street in Forest Hills, Queens. The defendant, who has been on modified duty since the incident, was arraigned today before Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert J. Hanophy on a two-count indictment, charging him with second-degree manslaughter and criminal negligent homicide. Alke was ordered held on \$75,000 bail and to return to court on September 3, 2008. If convicted, he faces up to fifteen years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, the defendant recklessly fired his .38 caliber revolver on the afternoon of June 26, 2008, striking Adrian Moldovan, a real estate agent, in the chest and killing him. At the time, Moldovan, 50, was helping his friend, Alke's landlord, build a backyard patio at the Kessel Street address.

The case was presented to the grand jury by Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders, who also will be prosecuting the case under the supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa.

It should be noted that an indictment is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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