



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY**
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000

Release # 6-2008
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2008

CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE
(718) 286-6315

**BROOKLYN MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE FOR MURDER
OF LONG ISLAND CITY DRY-CLEANING PLANT OWNER DURING PAYROLL ROBBERY**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 25-year-old Brooklyn resident has been sentenced to life without parole in state prison for the October 2004 payroll robbery and shooting death of the co-owner of the Red Cap Valet dry-cleaning plant in Long Island City, Queens.

District Attorney Brown said, "The crimes of which the defendant has been convicted and now justly punished resulted in 52-year-old businessman Bruce Levy being robbed and murdered at gunpoint. The defendant is one of five individuals to be convicted in the case. I hope that all of those affected by this tragic incident can find some degree of solace in today's sentence and in the knowledge that the defendant will spend the rest of his life behind bars as punishment for his actions."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Denworth Davidson, 25, of 963 East 78th Street in Brooklyn. The defendant was convicted last October of first-degree murder, first-degree robbery, second-degree criminal possession of a weapon and fourth-degree conspiracy. Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert J. Hanophy, who presided at the two-week jury trial, imposed today's determinate sentence of life without parole in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, Davidson rode to the Red Cap Valet Plant – located at 35-45 35th Street in Long Island City – on the afternoon of October 7, 2004, with Jerome Fletcher, who had previously worked at the dry-cleaning plant. Once there, Davidson exited the vehicle and robbed Bruce Levy, the co-owner of Red Cap, of more than \$10,000 in cash before fatally shooting him, striking him in the throat and arm. Davidson then fled the scene in the vehicle driven by Fletcher.

District Attorney Brown said that testimony at trial revealed that a week prior to the robbery and murder Fletcher had confirmed the payroll time and delivery information with another accomplice – Davia Gabriel, 30, of 926 East 102nd Street in Brooklyn – who was employed at the dry-cleaning plant and was aware of Fletcher's plan to rob the victim.

The District Attorney said that Fletcher's girlfriend – Stacey Whittaker – lent her car, a dark grey Honda, to him on the morning of October 7, 2004, and that five days later, on October 12th, she received \$4,000 in cash from Fletcher, which she deposited in her account at the Rockville Centre bank branch where she was employed. Thereafter, she withdrew the same amount of money and gave it to Fletcher. On October 17th, she again lent him her car so that he could gather his belongings before leaving for Florida.

District Attorney Brown said that Whittaker, 31, of 54 Baiting Place in Farmingdale, pleaded guilty to first- and third-degree hindering prosecution on March 22, 2005, before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Dorothy Chin-Brandt and is awaiting sentencing. Fletcher 31, also of 54 Baiting Place, was convicted after trial on November 15, 2006, and sentenced to 29 years to life in prison. Gabriel appeared today before Justice Hanophy and, in pleading guilty to third-degree attempted robbery, was sentenced to time served – the two years she spent incarcerated. A fifth defendant charged in the case – Mozart Findlay, 31, no known address – pleaded guilty to felony conspiracy in the fourth degree on July 14, 2005, and is awaiting sentencing.

Assistant District Attorney Robin D. Leopold, Deputy Chief of the District Attorney's Kew Gardens I Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Francesco Catarisano, 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.

#

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