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**ST. ALBANS RESIDENT CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER
IN SHOOTING DEATH OF COLLEGE STUDENT**

Faces Up to 25 Years in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a St. Albans man who fled to Georgia after fatally shooting a college student in July 2005 has been convicted in the slaying.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has been convicted by a jury of his peers of taking the life of a young man with the promise of a bright future. His actions warrant the imposition of a lengthy prison sentence to ensure that he is severely punished for this senseless act and to protect society."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as David Harper, 33, of 190-27 112th Avenue in the St. Albans section of Queens. Harper, who has been held without bail since his arrest on December 11, 2005, was convicted last night following a two-week jury trial of first-degree manslaughter and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon. Queens Supreme Court Justice Michael B. Aloise who presided at trial, set sentencing for September 9, 2008, at which time the defendant faces up to 25 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, Harper was inside an illegal gambling club at 111-32 Farmers Boulevard in the Hollis section of Queens during the pre-dawn hours of July 9, 2005, playing a game of "c-low" (a dice game) with the cousin of the victim, Richard Charles, 23. According to a trial witness, Harper planned on recouping his losses by stealing back his money. He went to his car to retrieve a gun and when he returned, Charles tried to grab the gun from Harper's waistband. A struggle ensued and the gun went off, striking Charles in the chest. Charles, who at the time of the shooting was a student at DeVry Institute of Technology, fled the club and collapsed and died three blocks away at 112th Avenue and Farmers Boulevard

Senior Assistant District Attorney Debra L. Pomodore, of the District Attorney's Homicide Trials Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Brad A. 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