



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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

Release # 159-2016
www.queensda.org
twitter@QueensDABrown

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CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE
(718) 286-6315

**QUEENS MOTORIST SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON
FOR DRIVING INTO CROWD, KILLING MAN AND INJURING ANOTHER**

Deceased Victim Was Pinned Under Vehicle And Then Dragged To His Death

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Laurelton, Queens, man has been sentenced to 18 years to life in prison following his conviction in April on murder, assault and other charges for ramming his car into a crowd of people on a sidewalk in November 2014 following a fight at a baby shower which he had crashed.

District Attorney Brown said, "A vehicle can be just as deadly as a gun. In this case, the defendant pushed his way into a baby shower and then later, following a dispute with invited guests, got behind the wheel of his car and drove into a crowd of people. One man was killed and a woman was seriously injured. The sentence meted out by the Court reflects the seriousness of the crime."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Kevin Weekes, 22, of Laurelton, Queens. Weekes was convicted of second-degree murder, first-degree assault and first-degree reckless endangerment, following a three-week bench trial presided over by Queens Supreme Court Justice Gregory L. Lasak, who today imposed a sentence of 18 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial records, Weekes crashed a baby shower being held at Vision's Banquet Hall, located at 224-22 Merrick Boulevard, just after 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 8, 2014. Shortly thereafter, a fistfight ensued on the sidewalk in front of the location between Weekes and some of the shower guests. Weekes left the scene and got into his car. At first, the defendant drove away from the location, but made a U-turn and headed back to the setting for the fight. He accelerated his vehicle, jumped the curb and plowed into the people on the sidewalk, striking and injuring Antoinette Green, 21, of Brooklyn. Kevin Lewis, 20, of Laurelton, Queens, was pinned underneath the vehicle and dragged by the vehicle until it came to a stop at the intersection of Merrick Boulevard and 225th Street. At that time, Weekes exited his vehicle and fled on foot. Mr. Lewis was pronounced dead at the scene.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Peter V. Lomp, of the District Attorney's Homicide Trials Bureau, and Assistant District Attorney Michelle L. Kaszuba, of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau, prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Brad A. Leventhal, Homicide Trials Bureau Chief, and Jack Warsawsky, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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