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**DEMETRIUS BLACKWELL CONVICTED OF 2015 MURDER
AND ATTEMPTED MURDER OF TWO NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICERS**

Faces Life In Prison Without Possibility Of Parole

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Queens Village man has been convicted by a Queens jury of seven women and five men in the 2015 murder of New York City Police Officer Brian Moore and the attempted murder of Officer Erik Jansen while they were on patrol.

District Attorney Brown said, “The evidence of the defendant’s guilt presented at trial was truly overwhelming. The jury fairly weighed all the evidence offered by both sides before concluding— unanimously and beyond a reasonable doubt – that the defendant deliberately fired a weapon at the two police officers without provocation or warning, killing one of them. It is likely that he will never again taste another day of freedom.”

District Attorney Brown continued, “The defendant’s actions were a direct attack on our society and the law and soberly reminds us of the unseen dangers that our police officers face each day – and the ultimate sacrifice they may be called upon to make – as they carry out their sworn duty to protect and serve our communities. Our sympathies go out to Officer Brian Moore’s family for the loss of their loved one and the prolonged pain that they and Officer Erik Jansen and his family have had to endure as this case made its way through the criminal justice system. Although the verdict cannot bring back Brian I hope that today’s conviction brings a sense of closure and comfort to his family, friends and colleagues, knowing that his killer finally has been held accountable for his heinous and cowardly act.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Demetrius Blackwell, 37, of 212th Place in Queens Village, Queens. Following a three-week jury trial presided over by Queens Supreme Court Justice Gregory L. Lasak, and 2 hours of deliberations over 2 days, the jury found Blackwell guilty of first-degree murder of Officer Moore, first-degree attempted murder of Officer Jansen and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon. Sentencing is scheduled for December 12, 2017, at which time Blackwell faces life in prison without the possibility of parole.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, Police Officer Brian Moore, 25, and his partner, Officer Erik Jansen, then 30, who were assigned to the New York City Police Department’s 105th Precinct Anti-Crime Unit, observed Blackwell, then 35, adjusting something on his waistband on 104th Road at approximately 6:15 p.m. on May 2, 2015. When the two plainclothes officers rode alongside the defendant in their police vehicle to question him, Officer Moore said, “Police, you got something?” Blackwell responded, “Yeah, I got something.” He then removed an

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unlicensed five-shot silver revolver from his waistband and fired three shots at the two officers, striking Officer Moore twice in the head. The third bullet, which was intended for Officer Jansen, struck a nearby house.

Thereafter, according to the charges, sometime between firing the firearm and his apprehension that day, Blackwell stopped at a nearby house, where he got rid of his weapon and stole a tee shirt and a pair of sneakers in an attempt to alter his appearance. When Blackwell was arrested hours after the shooting, he possessed small amounts of cocaine and marijuana. The weapon used in the shooting was found two days later and DNA evidence discovered on it linked Blackwell to the weapon, as well as to the two unfired bullets found in the chamber.

Officer Moore, who died two days after the shooting, was posthumously promoted to Detective First Grade and Officer Jansen is now with the Suffolk County Police Department.

District Attorney Brown said, “From the outset, I promised the families of both officers that the investigation and prosecution of this case would be a top priority of my office. I promised that we would see this case through to its conclusion, and that in so doing we would follow the law and present all of the evidence – and that is what we have done.”

Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders and Executive Assistant District Attorney for Legal Affairs Robert J. Masters prosecuted the case. Assisting on the case were Assistant District Attorney Eric Washer, Trial Prep Assistant Amanda M. DiGiuseppe and Secretary Linda J. DenDekker.

“I want to commend Executive Assistant District Attorney Dan Saunders and Bob Masters for their professionalism, commitment and the manner in which they handled both the investigation and prosecution of this matter over the last two and one-half years,” concluded District Attorney Brown. “And behind Dan and Bob has been a superb support network of assistant district attorneys, paralegals, secretaries and support staff, as well as detectives – both from the NYPD and from my office – who assisted in every aspect of this case and ensured the success of this case.”

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