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TWO FAR ROCKAWAY RESIDENTS CHARGED WITH MURDER
IN SHOOTING DEATH OF 15-YEAR-OLD BOY
Defendants Face 25 Years To Life In Prison If Convicted

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that two Far Rockaway residents have been charged with murder and other charges in the shooting death of a 15-year-old boy who was exiting a New York City bus last Thursday afternoon in Far Rockaway, Queens.

District Attorney Brown said, "This senseless act of gun violence - which has taken the life of a young boy - will not be tolerated in Queens County and my office will continue to work tirelessly to combat the proliferation of guns in this county."

The District Attorney identified the defendants as Petiri Edmond, 17, of Nameoke Street and Atekel Donaldson, 19, of Bay 32nd Street, both of Far Rockaway, Queens. The two defendants are presently being held awaiting arraignment in Queens Criminal Court on charges of second-degree murder and two-counts of second-degree criminal possession of a weapon. If convicted, they each face up to 25 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, on Thursday, February 8th at approximately 4:06 pm, in front of 46-15 Beach Channel Drive, defendants Edmond and Donaldson approached the victim, Youssef Soliman, 15, as he exited a city bus in Far Rockaway, Queens, and fired a weapon two times striking him once in the hand and once in the torso, fatally wounding him. The teenager was transported to a local Queens hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Andre Figueiredo of the New York City Police Department's 101st Precinct Detective Squad under the supervision of Sergeant Courtney Cummings and Sergeant Burt Antoine and Detective Barry Brown of the New York City Police Departments Queens South Homicide under the supervision of Lieutenant Richard Rudolph.

Assistant District Attorney Kristin Papadopoulous, of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, and Peter J. McCormack III, Richard B. Schaeffer and John W. Kosinski, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and Robert S. Ciesla, Section Chief and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Brad A. Leventhal.

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.