



718.286.6000
WWW.QUEENSDA.ORG

QUEENS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568



MELINDA KATZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE (718) 286-6315
QDACommunications@queensda.org

MAN WEARING GLOVE OF BLADES SEEN ON VIRAL VIDEO
ATTACKING BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTESTERS
INDICTED BY GRAND JURY ON ATTEMPTED MURDER CHARGES

*Defendant is Accused of Chasing Demonstrators on Foot
Then Jumping in Vehicle and Driving onto Sidewalk Pursuing Peaceful Protesters;
During Attack Defendant Allegedly Yelled “I Will Kill You” While Waving Clawed Hand;
If Convicted Defendant Faces a Max of 25 Years in Prison for Each Victim*

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced today that Frank Cavalluzzi, 55, has been indicted by a Queens County grand jury and arraigned in Supreme Court on attempted murder, attempted assault and other charges for allegedly attacking peaceful demonstrators in Whitestone, Queens in June 2020. Videos of the peaceful demonstration that turned into a panicked spree for safety quickly went viral on the internet.

District Attorney Katz said, “The defendant in this case became enraged when he spotted Black Lives Matter protesters demonstrating in the neighborhood. The moments that followed were sheer terror for the victims. As alleged, the defendant donned a glove made of knives – something resembling a horror movie prop – and chased the peaceful protesters on foot. Then with people running for their lives, he allegedly stepped up the attack by getting back in his SUV and tried to run the victims over with the nearly two-ton vehicle.”

Cavalluzzi, of 150th Street in Flushing, Queens, was arraigned this morning on a 39-count indictment before Queens Supreme Court Justice Gene Lopez. The defendant is charged with nine counts of attempted murder in the second degree, nine counts of attempted assault in the first and second degree, one count of reckless endangerment in the first degree, nine counts of menacing in the second degree, one count of criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree and reckless driving. Justice Lopez set Cavalluzzi’s return date for May 5, 2021. The defendant faces up to 25 years in prison for each victim if convicted.

According to the charges, said District Attorney Katz, at approximately 3:45 p.m. at the intersection of the Cross Island Parkway service road and Clintonville Street on June 2, 2020, a group of roughly a dozen peaceful demonstrators held up signs and posters calling for justice in the killing of George Floyd. Cavalluzzi was one of the many drivers that passed by the demonstrators. The defendant began to yell at the protesters and suddenly pulled over and got out of his SUV. According to the charges, the defendant yelled in sum and substance to the demonstrators “You are in the wrong neighborhood” and “I will kill you.”

The defendant was wearing a device attached to his wrist with 4 serrated-edged blades protruding from a glove when he allegedly started to chase after a young man in a threatening manner and shouted at the victim in anger. He then re-entered his vehicle, made a quick U-turn and allegedly drove his SUV onto the sidewalk where the protesters were still standing. The defendant then drove down the length of the sidewalk as the protesters ran

into the street and climbed fences in order to avoid being hit by the defendant's vehicle. Cavalluzzi allegedly revved the engine and even maneuvered between a fence and a street light pole trying to get the victims who were running away in fear.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Justin Hubbard of the New York City Police Department's 109th Precinct Detective Squad.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Timothy Shortt, of the District Attorney's Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Shawn Clark, Bureau Chief, and Michael Whitney, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

Criminal complaints and indictments are accusations. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

#

Note to Editors: Archived press releases are available at www.queensda.org.

