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D.A. BROWN: BRONX MAN PLEADS GUILTY
IN FIRST HOMICIDE OF 2006

Faces 14 Years in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 21-year-old Bronx man has pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the stabbing death of a friend shortly after midnight on January 1, 2006.

District Attorney Brown said, "The teenage victim was sitting in a car with the defendant and others when an argument broke out between the defendant and his brother. The victim attempted to act as peacemaker and, in the process, senselessly lost his life."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as John Montanez, 21, of 765 East 163rd Street in the Bronx. Montanez pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter this afternoon before Queens Supreme Court Justice Randall T. Eng who indicated that he would sentence the defendant to fourteen years in prison on January 8, 2007.

District Attorney Brown said that, in pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that while quarreling with his brother inside a Jeep SUV parked in the vicinity of Cooper Avenue and 64th Place in Ridgewood at approximately 1:30 a.m. on January 1, 2006, he stabbed 17-year-old Carlos Cintron, also a passenger in the vehicle. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

Assistant District Attorney John W. Kosinski, of the District Attorney's Homicide Trials Bureau prosecuted the case under the supervision of Brad 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