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**Remarks of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown  
Following Sentencing of Nicholas Minucci on Hate-Crime Charges**

The sentence imposed today on Nicholas Minucci is reflective not just of the seriousness of the defendant's crimes – and the condemnation by society of those crimes – but also of the defendant's prior acts of violence and his failure to take responsibility for his actions.

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It takes into consideration the two prior acts of violence involving Mr. Minucci which were alluded to during the trial – the hate motivated attack at the Sikh Cultural Society on September 11, 2001 in which two members of the Society who were attending religious services were shot at with paint balls and the November 2002 incident in Howard Beach in which Mr. Minucci and several others viciously assaulted a young man with a metal carpenter's level.

And, significantly, it also recognizes the fact that the defendant has never expressed remorse for his actions – nor has he accepted responsibility for his crimes. Indeed, even after conviction and in the face of today's sentence – the defendant has refused to express contrition, but rather, continues to portray himself as an unfairly prosecuted victim.

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But most importantly, today's sentence sends a clear message that such brutal, racially motivated crimes as those of which the defendant has been convicted can never be tolerated and that when they do, regrettably, occur, they will result in severe and certain punishment.

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When the State Legislature enacted New York's Hate Crimes Law five and one-half years ago, it declared that an assault on any individual motivated by hate is, in fact, an assault on all of us; that attacks based on hate tear at the very fabric of a free and democratic society and undermine the sense of safety, security and belonging that each of us is entitled to feel.

The jury's verdict in this case – and the sentence imposed today by Justice Buchter – reflect an understanding of that fact – an understanding of the fact that when Nicholas Minucci picked up that aluminum baseball bat on June 29<sup>th</sup> of last year in Howard Beach, he raised that bat against not only Glenn Moore, but against every other resident of this City.

Hate crimes affect not only the targeted victim – they also impact upon communities that previously lived in harmony. The Court, through the defendant's sentence, has today insured continued public confidence in our justice system, and importantly, has warned others who might contemplate committing crimes based on hate that such actions will never, under any circumstances, be tolerated.

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Nicholas Minucci has exhibited a propensity for violence and intolerance. He has been found guilty of assaulting his victim in a brutal act of violence motivated by the color of his victim's skin – and he has failed to accept responsibility for his actions.

Today's prison sentence reflects society's strong disapproval of his conduct. And, as such, it is an appropriate response by our legal system – and an appropriate end to a sad episode in our City's history which, hopefully, will never again be repeated.