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**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN SENTENCED TO UP TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON
FOR 2005 FATAL VEHICULAR ASSAULT OF RESTAURANT WORKER ON BICYCLE**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Flushing motorist who has a previous alcohol-related vehicular assault conviction has been sentenced to 2½ to 5 years in prison for another alcohol-related vehicular accident in which an Ecuadorian restaurant worker was struck and killed while riding his bicycle on Northern Boulevard in October 2005.

District Attorney Brown, “The defendant’s decision to get behind the wheel when intoxicated resulted in the death of a young father who just gotten engaged the day before to his longtime girlfriend who must now raise their infant son alone. This case is another example of terrible consequences that can result from mixing alcohol and operating a motor vehicle.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Joung Il Cho, 38, of 45-51 156th Street in Flushing, Queens. The defendant pleaded guilty to Vehicular Manslaughter in the Second Degree (VaSean’s Law) on May 1, 2006 and was sentenced today before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert Raciti to an indeterminate term of two and one-half to five years in prison. The defendant has been held in jail in lieu of \$100,000 bail since his arrest on October 30, 2005.

The District Attorney said that, according to the criminal charges, the defendant was operating a blue 2005 Chevrolet van on October 29, 2005 at 11:15 p.m. when he struck and killed Angel Quizhpi, 24, who was riding a bicycle at the intersection of Northern Boulevard and Prince Street in Flushing. The defendant was observed to be reeking of alcohol and have slurred speech. An intoxilyzer test administered to the defendant resulted in a reading of .195 percent blood alcohol content. The legal limit in New York is .08 percent.

District Attorney Brown said that the defendant had previously pleaded guilty on April 11, 2001 to second-degree vehicular assault. According to the charges in that case, the defendant was driving a 1984 Chevrolet station wagon on the wrong side of the road well in excess of the speed limit on October 27, 2000, when he collided with another car at 147th Street and 34th Avenue in Flushing. Though he refused to submit to a Breathalyzer test, the defendant – who had to be extracted from his vehicle by emergency personnel – was observed to have a strong odor of alcohol on his breath and bloodshot watery eyes. The victim in the crash suffered a “hangman” fracture to the spine and was placed in a halo cast (a vest and a brace to keep the head and neck immobilized). The defendant was sentenced to five years’ probation.

Assistant District Attorney Jasmine Chang of the District Attorney’s Homicide Investigations Bureau prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, and Peter J. McCormack III, 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 at www.queensda.org.