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**D.A. BROWN: SWEETHEART SWINDLER PLEADS GUILTY  
IN FATAL BEATING OF ELDERLY MAN IN JAMAICA PARK**

*Faces 14 Years In Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that an Astoria realtor who hired a thug to attack an elderly man in order to scare him into selling his house to her at a low price has pleaded guilty to a felony charge stemming from his brutal death in a Jamaica Park in August 2004.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is a 'sweetheart swindler' who befriended elderly and lonely men, preyed on their vulnerability and then sought to cheat them out of their life's savings. In this case, her greed set into motion a terrible series of events that resulted in an innocent 78-year-old man being savagely pummeled to death. The defendant's admission of guilt will ensure that she is held responsible for her actions by serving a lengthy prison sentence."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Liat Corman, 32, of 32-15 41<sup>st</sup> Street in Astoria, Queens, a self-employed unlicensed real estate investor. The defendant pleaded guilty today to first-degree robbery before Queens County Supreme Court Justice Robert J. Hanophy who indicated that he would sentence the defendant to fourteen years in state prison at sentencing on October 5, 2006. The defendant is presently being held without bail.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, on August 30, 2004, at 2:50 p.m. Corman lured the victim, Charles Schlechtiger, 78, of 117-53 125<sup>th</sup> Street in South Ozone Park, to Marconi Park on 157<sup>th</sup> Street in Jamaica where she had arranged with co-defendant Jason Smith to have him confront the victim. Corman had hired Smith for \$2,000 to scare and intimidate the victim by pushing him around and taking his house keys so that he would agree to a real estate deal in which he would sell his home to Corman at low cost. Smith met the victim at the park where he had been brought by Corman and then beat him to death.

The District Attorney said that Smith, 39, of 106-44 159<sup>th</sup> Street in Jamaica, Queens, pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter and first-degree robbery on April 27, 2006, before Justice Hanophy, who indicated that he would sentenced him to 25 years in prison at sentencing on September 26, 2006. The defendant is presently being held without bail.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Richard Johnson of the NYPD's 103rd Precinct Detective Squad under the supervision of Captain Thomas Ryan and Sergeant Brad Miller.

Assistant District Attorneys Francesco Catarisano, Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Kew Gardens I Bureau, and Jacqueline M. Heitmann prosecuted the case under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials John H. Larsen.

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**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)**