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D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN CONVICTED OF ASSAULTING POLICE OFFICER
Officer's Gun Discharged During Struggle; Defendant Faces Up To Fifteen Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Cambria Heights man has been convicted of seriously injuring a uniformed police officer in June 2005 by grabbing his service revolver and causing it to discharge, wounding him in the leg.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant stands convicted of seriously injuring a police officer during the performance of his duties. Fortunately, the officer survived. The conviction ensures that justice has been done and that the defendant has been held accountable for his actions."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Lasana Philbert, 23, of 117-36 229th Street in Cambria Heights. He was found guilty late yesterday of assault on a police officer and second-degree assault following a two-week jury trial. Queens Supreme Court Justice Daniel Lewis, who presided at trial, set sentencing for February 8, 2007, at which time the defendant faces up to fifteen years in prison.

The District Attorney said that, according to the trial testimony, while on uniformed patrol in a park near the Cross Island Parkway at 121st Avenue and the Laurelton Parkway on the morning of June 14, 2005, Police Officer Christopher Wiesneski observed the defendant sitting on a bench and in possession of a quantity of marijuana. When Officer Wiesneski confronted the defendant, he lunged for the officer's service revolver. During the struggle, the gun went off and discharged a bullet into Officer Wiesneski's left knee and lower leg. Officer Wiesneski was transported to a local Queens hospital, where he underwent surgery for the gunshot wound.

Assistant District Attorneys Patricia A. Malloy, a supervisor in the District Attorney's Criminal Court Bureau, and Catherine O'Connell, also of the Criminal Court Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Joan I. Ritter, Bureau Chief, and Kimberly A. Affronti, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys for Trials John H. Larsen and Robert J. Masters.

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Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org.