



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY**
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000

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CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE
(718) 286-6315

D.A. BROWN: SECOND DEFENDANT IN DOUGLASTON BIAS ATTACK PLEADS GUILTY
Admits To Participating In Beating of Two Victims In Racially Motivated Assault

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that the second defendant charged in a bias-related attack this past summer in the Douglaston section of Queens in which two Asian youths were physically assaulted because of their race has pleaded guilty to a hate crime. His co-defendant was sentenced yesterday to three and one-half years in state prison.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has pleaded guilty to a felony and has admitted that he took part in a cowardly, hate-motivated attack. Crimes of hate will never be tolerated here and when they do, regrettably, occur, those responsible will be brought to justice."

The District Attorney identified the defendant who pleaded guilty today as Paul A. Heavey, 21, of 43-35 247th Street in Little Neck, employment unknown. Heavey, who is now and was at the time of the incident a college student, appeared before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Pauline A. Mullings and pleaded guilty to two counts of third-degree assault as a hate crime, a class E-felony. Justice Mullings indicated that she would sentence the defendant to five years probation, 75 hours of community service and require Heavey to make a statement of apology at his sentencing on May 21, 2007.

District Attorney Brown said that defendant Heavey admitted that during the predawn hours of Saturday, August 12, 2006, he participated in the beating of John Lu, 19, by punching him about the head and body, causing him to suffer lacerations requiring multiple stitches and substantial pain, including several loose teeth. Heavey also admitted that when Reynold Liang, 19, came to the aid of Lu, he punched and kicked Liang about the head and body. Heavey admitted that he assaulted the two victims because of their race.

The District Attorney identified Heavey's co-defendant in the Douglaston incident as Kevin M. Brown, 19, of 196-40 45th Avenue in Auburndale, Queens. Brown, who worked as a parking valet at the time of the incident, appeared before Justice Mullings on January 17, 2007 and pleaded guilty to second-degree assault as a hate crime and third-degree assault as a hate crime for his involvement in the Douglaston incident and to second- and third-degree assault for an earlier incident in which he attacked two men with a hammer after a collision and dispute. Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Suzanne Melendez sentenced Brown yesterday to a determinative term of three and one-half years in state prison and two and one-half years' post-release supervision.

District Attorney Brown said that defendant Brown admitted that on the day of the Douglaston incident, he participated in the beating of John Lu by punching him about the head and body and additionally admitted that when Reynold Liang came to the aid of Lu, he punched and kicked Liang about the head and body, and that when Liang crawled back to his car and picked up an automobile steering wheel lock known as "The Club," he grabbed it from Liang and used it to hit him numerous times about the head and body, causing him to sustain a possible fractured skull and substantial pain to his chest. Brown also admitted that he assaulted the two victims because of their race.

Both Brown and Heavey are being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michelle E. Goldstein, Deputy Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Gang Violence and Hate Crimes Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Mariela Palomino Herring, 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.

District Attorney Brown expressed his appreciation to the members of the New York City Police Department's Hate Crimes Unit for their assistance in the investigation and prosecution of this case.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org