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D.A. BROWN: COLLEGE STUDENT SENTENCED IN DOUGLASTON BIAS ATTACK
Publicly Apologizes to Victims for His Participating In Racially Motivated Assault

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that, as part of his sentence, a 21-year-old college student offered a formal apology in open court to two Asian-American teenagers for his involvement in a bias-related attack on them last summer in the Douglaston section of Queens.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant, having admitted that he took part in a cowardly, hate-motivated attack on two young men for no other reason than that they were of a different race, has now publicly apologized for his actions. While his words stand in sharp contrast to his actions nearly a year ago, his apology doesn't lessen the seriousness or the impact that such a hateful act has on its victims or society in general. Crimes of hate must never be tolerated and when they do, regrettably, occur, those responsible will be brought to justice."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Paul A. Heavey, 21, of 43-35 247th Street in Little Neck. Heavey, who is now and was at the time of the incident a college student, appeared today before Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Pauline A. Mullings who also sentenced him to five years' probation and 75 hours of community service.

District Attorney Brown noted that the prime mover in the attack, Kevin M. Brown, 19, of 196-40 45th Avenue in Auburndale, Queens, was sentenced in March 2007 to a determinate term of three and one-half years in state prison and two and one-half years' post-release supervision. Brown had previously 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.

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

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.

Both Brown and Heavey were 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.

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