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**FLUSHING RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 17 YEARS IN PRISON IN STABBING DEATH
OF MAN RETURNING HOME FROM CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Flushing resident has been sentenced to 17 years in prison for the street stabbing death earlier this year of a 40-year-old Asian immigrant who had been out celebrating the Chinese New Year.

District Attorney Brown said, "The Chinese New Year is meant to mark a time when all people start a new life, one of hope, prosperity and happiness. Instead, the victim – a hard-working man who had emigrated five years ago from China in search of better opportunities to support his wife and daughter back in his homeland – was robbed of that new life by the senseless actions of the defendant. Under the circumstances, the sentence imposed by the court is more than warranted."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Kendall Walker, 22, of 44-35 Colden Street, in Flushing. Walker pleaded guilty last month to first-degree manslaughter before Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert J. Hanophy who imposed today's determinate sentence of 17 years in prison.

The District Attorney said that, in pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that he approached Hung Chi Zhang, of 137-19 Holly Avenue in Flushing, at approximately 4:00 a.m. on February 18, 2007, at the intersection of Colden Street and Elder Avenue and stabbed him nine times in the torso, fatally wounding him.

Assistant District Attorney Shawn Clark of the Homicide Trials Bureau prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Brad A. Leventhal, Bureau Chief and Jack Warsawsky, Deputy 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 prosecuted the case.

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