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D.A. BROWN: DEFENDANT PLEADS NOT RESPONSIBLE BY REASON OF MENTAL DISEASE OR DEFECT IN STABBING DEATH OF 78-YEAR-OLD QUEENS RESIDENT

Faces Indeterminate Sentence in Psychiatric Facility

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Queens man has been ordered to undergo psychiatric testing at a state facility after pleading not responsible by reason of mental disease or defect to the stabbing death of a 78-year-old Flushing resident in Jamaica. The plea could result in the defendant being kept in an institution until – if ever – he is deemed well enough to reenter society.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant is a dangerous individual who intentionally and repeatedly stabbed Carmine Randazzo, the father of three NYPD officers and a published author in his own right. The attack was vicious, random and unprovoked and not only shattered the lives of Mr. Randazzo’s family but robbed society of a vibrant individual. The disposition in this case is a measure of justice for the Randazzo family. It reflects society’s obligation to treat the mentally ill while at the same time keeping those who are violent off the streets.”

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, William Scott, 30, of 150-90 82nd Drive in Briarwood, Queens, stabbed Carmine Randazzo, 78, numerous times in front of 80-25 Parsons Boulevard just after noon on September 16, 2006. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he later died.

The District Attorney said that the defendant was arrested at his home by police officers of the 107th Precinct. He faced two counts of second degree murder and one count of fourth degree criminal possession of a weapon and faced up to 25 years to life in prison if convicted.

The defendant entered his plea yesterday before Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert J. Hanophy. The judge ordered the defendant to undergo psychiatric testing at Kirby Forensic Psychiatric Center on Wards Island. He was ordered to return to court on November 10, 2008, for the presentation of a psychiatric report.

Assistant District Attorney Denise Tirino of the District Attorney’s Homicide Trials Bureau is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Brad A. Leventhal, Bureau Chief, and Jack Warsawsky, Deputy Bureau 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.

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

