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**REPUTED GAMBINO CRIME FAMILY CAPO SENTENCED TO 4 ½ TO 13 ½ YEARS
IN PRISON IN CONNECTION WITH \$10 MILLION GAMBLING OPERATION**

Wire Rooms Set Up in Queens and Off-Shore In Costa Rica

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that reputed Gambino organized crime family “capo” Nicholas Corozzo has been sentenced to 4 ½ to 13 ½ years in prison after pleading guilty to operating a highly sophisticated illegal gambling enterprise in Queens County and elsewhere that booked nearly \$10 million in wagers over a two-year period on professional and college basketball and football, professional baseball and hockey and other sporting events.

District Attorney Brown said, “As a result of this prosecution, we have closed down an extremely lucrative gambling operation that benefitted the Gambino crime family to the tune of millions of dollars each year. Illegal gambling is the engine that fuels organized crime because of the huge profits that it generates. Those profits are then used to fund other more insidious forms of criminal activity, such as labor racketeering, drug trafficking, prostitution, auto theft, insurance fraud and loan sharking. Today’s sentence sends a clear signal to all who involve themselves in illegal gambling that law enforcement will keep up the pressure and not allow them to operate.”

The District Attorney said that Nicholas “Little Nicky” Corozzo, 69, of 2430 Legion Street in Bellmore, Long Island, appeared today before Queens Supreme Court Justice Barry Kron and was sentenced to 4 ½ to 13 ½ years in prison in connection with a 29-count indictment charging him – together with 25 other reputed members of the Gambino crime family – with promoting illegal sports betting in Queens County and elsewhere and with being involved in traditional gambling wire rooms located in Woodhaven, Queens, and non-traditional computerized wire rooms in Costa Rica. Corozzo pleaded guilty to the top count of the indictment – enterprise corruption – last July.

District Attorney Brown noted that in addition to the indictment under which Corozzo was sentenced today, he was also named under a federal indictment charging him and 61 other reputed Gambino crime family members and associates with racketeering, conspiracy, extortion, loan sharking and embezzlement. He pleaded guilty to the federal indictment and was sentenced to 13 ½ years in prison. The sentence imposed today is to run concurrently with the sentence imposed under the federal indictment.

The District Attorney noted that Corozzo remained a fugitive from justice for approximately four months until his surrender to federal authorities on May 29, 2008, after his story was featured earlier in the month on the television show, “America’s Most Wanted.” Since his surrender, he has been held in federal custody without bail.

Other reputed Gambino soldiers and associates who have also been sentenced in the state enterprise corruption case include reputed soldiers Blaise Corozzo (Nicholas Corozzo’s brother) and Louis Scida, and reputed associates Todd Segarra, Neil Allstatt and Frank Mancini, all of whom have pleaded guilty to the crime of enterprise corruption. Allstatt and Scida have been sentenced to one and one-third to four years in prison and Segarra, Mancini and Blaise Corozzo have been sentenced to one to three years in prison. Reputed soldier Michael Scarola pleaded guilty to first-degree promoting gambling and has been sentenced to two to four years in prison. All 26 defendants indicted in the Queens enterprise corruption case have pleaded guilty to various crimes.

Assistant District Attorney Benjamin J. Mantell, of the District Attorney’s Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Gerard A. Brave, Bureau Chief, and Mark L. Katz, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

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