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**QUEENS MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON IN MURDER
AND ATTEMPTED MURDER OUTSIDE WOODSIDE NIGHTCLUB**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 26-year-old Queens man has been sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for the shooting murder and attempted murder of two men – one of whom was killed and the other critically wounded – in October 2006 outside the Club Phenomenon in Woodside.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant, having been convicted of the cold blooded shooting of two young men as they sat defenseless inside a parked car, has forfeited his right to live in society. The lengthy prison term imposed today is right and just.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Victor Gavalo, 26, of 1816 Stephens Street in Ridgewood, Queens. The defendant, who has no known employment, was convicted last month of second-degree murder, second-degree attempted murder, first-degree assault and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon by a jury after a week-long trial before Queens Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Cooperman who imposed today’s indeterminate sentence of 25 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, at approximately 4:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 1, 2006, Gavalo exited a minivan and walked in front of a Honda parked outside of 62-43 30th Avenue and began shooting into the front windshield and passenger side window, striking the front seat passenger – Ernesto Salgado, 22, of Sunnyside, – at least once in the chest, killing him, and critically wounding the driver – 24-year-old Tony Morales – before fleeing in the minivan. The incident occurred after the victims had left the Fantasia nightclub – located in the same building as Club Phenomenon – at 62-05 30th Avenue.

Assistant District Attorney Karen L. Ross, of the District Attorney’s Homicide Trials Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Brad A. Leventhal, Bureau Chief, 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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