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**QUEENS MECHANIC SENTENCED TO 9 YEARS IN STATE PRISON
FOR HIT AND RUN DEATH OF 12-YEAR-OLD RICHMOND HILL BOY**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Queens mechanic who pleaded guilty in November 2008 to second-degree manslaughter in the hit and run death of a 12-year-old boy has been sentenced to three to nine years in prison. The fatality occurred after the defendant had fled the scene of a minor car accident.

District Attorney Brown said, "As a consequence of trying to avoid reporting a minor fender bender, the defendant will now serve up to nine years behind bars for the senseless death of a young boy who was busy running an errand for his mother when he was struck and killed by the car being driven by the defendant."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Juan Franjul, 48, of 87-57 124th Street in Richmond Hill. The defendant pleaded guilty as charged to second-degree manslaughter on November 3, 2008, before Queens Supreme Court Justice Richard L. Buchter, who imposed today's indeterminate sentence of three to nine years in state prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, an unnamed individual brought his dark blue 1993 Mercedes Benz 500 SEL to Met Auto Body, located at Northern Boulevard and 126th Street in Queens, sometime between December 12 and December 13, 2006, and left the car with the defendant, the owner of the auto body shop. Thereafter, at around 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 16th, the defendant was driving the Mercedes westbound on Atlantic Avenue when he drove into the rear of a 1993 Toyota at the 111th Street intersection. The defendant said that he would pay to have the Toyota fixed and that there was no need for the driver to call the police. When the Toyota driver began using his cell phone to call a family member, the defendant got back into the Mercedes – without identifying himself or exchanging any personal information – and sped off westbound on Atlantic Avenue, a non-posted 30 miles-per-hour speed zone. Three blocks later, at the intersection of Atlantic Avenue and 108th Street, the defendant went through a steady red light at a speed of more than 40 to 50 miles per hour and hit 12-year-old Jacob Colon, of Richmond Hill, who was crossing the street, and then sped away without identifying himself. The victim, who was getting quarters for his mother to use at the laundromat, was taken to Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, where he later died.

The District Attorney said that the defendant was arrested when he surrendered to police at the 102nd Precinct on Sunday, December 17, 2006. The Mercedes was recovered with front end damage from the driveway of a house under construction adjacent to the defendant's residence.

The investigation was conducted by the NYPD's Highway Patrol District Accident Investigation Squad.

Assistant District Attorney Maryam A. Lipkansky, supervisor of the District Attorney's Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau prosecuted the case under the supervision of James W. Evangelou, Bureau Chief and Robert J. Hanophy, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Trial Division Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney James C. Quinn, Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney John H. Larsen, and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Robert J. Masters.

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