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QUEENS MAN CONVICTED OF MURDER AND ATTEMPTED MURDER
IN SHOOTING OUTSIDE WOODSIDE NIGHTCLUB

Faces 50 Years To Life In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 26-year-old Queens man has been convicted of murder and attempted murder in the shooting 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 stands convicted of callously standing in front of a parked car and shooting at its two passengers, who had no place to run or hide. I hope that the victims’ families find some closure in knowing that the person responsible for shooting their loved ones has now been held accountable for his actions and will probably spend the rest of his natural life in prison.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Victor Gavallo, 26 of 1816 Stephens Street in Ridgewood, Queens. The defendant, who has no known employment, was convicted yesterday of second-degree murder, second-degree attempted murder, first-degree assault and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon by a jury of six women and six men who deliberated for less than five hours over two days after a week-long trial before Queens Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Cooperman. The defendant faces up to 50 years to life in prison when sentenced on February 6, 2009.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, at approximately 4:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 1, 2006, Gavallo 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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Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org