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**FAR ROCKAWAY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MURDER
IN JEALOUS RAGE STABBING DEATH OF QUEENS MAN**

Faces Up to 25 Years To Life In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Far Rockaway man who wanted to “teach a lesson” to a Jamaica, Queens, man to stay away from his girlfriend has pleaded guilty to fatally stabbing the man in the heart in June 2008.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant, motivated by jealousy, lured the victim out of his house under the pretense of meeting the defendant’s girlfriend – a woman he had befriended on a bus and offered to help get a job. Unbeknownst to the victim, the defendant had orchestrated the meeting with his girlfriend as a set-up and was laying in wait nearby to attack the victim to teach him a lesson to stay away from his girlfriend. The crime of which he has now been convicted was senseless and warrants imposition of a lengthy prison sentence.”

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Angel Santiago, 23, of 159 Beach 24th Street in the Far Rockaway section of Queens. Santiago interrupted jury selection today to plead guilty to second-degree murder. Queens Supreme Court Justice Michael Aloise, who was to preside at trial, set sentencing for December 14, 2009, at which time the defendant faces up to 25 years to life in prison.

The District Attorney said that, in pleading guilty, Santiago admitted that he had fatally stabbed Guillermo Rojas once in the heart on the night of June 23, 2008. After being stabbed, Rojas ran back to his home nearby where he collapsed and was found by his sister. Shortly thereafter, the deceased’s phone rang and when the sister answered it, she heard a female voice ask if Rojas was okay. The sister turned the phone over to detectives who traced the last call to the defendant.

The investigation was conducted by member of the New York City Police Department’s 102nd Precinct Detective Squad.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Debra L. Pomodore, of the District Attorney’s Homicide Trial Bureau, prosecuted 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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