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**GRAND JURY INDICTS TWO COLLEGE POINT MEN
ON HATE CRIME ASSAULT AND ROBBERY CHARGES**

*Allegedly Punched and Stomped Victim While Shouting Anti-Gay Slurs Before Robbing Him;
Face Up To 25 Years In Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Queens County grand jury has indicted two College Point men on charges of assault and robbery as hate crimes stemming from an alleged bias attack three months ago in which an openly gay man was critically injured as he exited a neighborhood deli.

District Attorney Brown said, “Acts of violence motivated by hate or intolerance violate the fundamental principles and spirit of equality and freedom on which our country was founded. When such crimes regrettably do occur – especially here in Queens County, the most culturally diverse county in the nation – they will be condemned in the strongest possible terms and those responsible will be brought to justice to answer for their actions.”

The District Attorney identified the defendants as Daniel Aleman, 26, of 18-04 College Point Boulevard, and Daniel Rodriguez, 21, of 5-02 115th Street, both in College Point, Queens. Aleman and Rodriguez have both been charged in a 14-count indictment with two counts of first-degree assault as a hate crime, two counts of second-degree assault as a hate crime, one count of first-degree assault, one count of second-degree assault, two counts of first-degree robbery as a hate crime, two counts of second-degree robbery as a hate crime, one count of first-degree robbery, one count of second-degree robbery, one count of tampering with physical evidence and one count of fifth-degree criminal possession of stolen property. If convicted, the defendants each face up to twenty-five years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the indictment which was filed this morning in State Supreme Court in Kew Gardens, Jack Price, 49, was walking to a nearby deli at approximately 4:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2009, when Aleman and Rodriguez began taunting him with slurs about his sexual orientation. It is alleged that when Price exited the store, Aleman and Rodriguez continued to shout anti-gay slurs at him before their verbal assault turned physical and they began to punch, stomp and kick him – even after he fell to the ground. While Price was on the ground, it is alleged that Aleman and Rodriguez then went through his pockets and stole his personal property – including a wallet and cash. The victim was transported to a local Queens hospital, where he was admitted with a broken jaw, several broken ribs, two collapsed lungs and a lacerated spleen and remained for approximately three weeks.

Following an investigation by detectives assigned to the New York City Police Department 109th Precinct Detective Squad and the NYPD’s Hate Crime Task Force, both defendants were arrested shortly after the incident. They are presently being held without bail.

Assistant District Attorney Michael E. Brovner, Supervisor of the District Attorney’s Gang Violence and Hate Crimes Bureau, presented the case to the grand jury and will be prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Mariela Palomino Herring, Bureau Chief, and Michelle E. Goldstein, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys for Trials John H. Larsen and Robert J. Masters.

It should be noted that an indictment is merely an accusatory instrument and a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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