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**STATEMENT OF
QUEENS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY RICHARD A. BROWN
ON THE SENTENCING OF BARBARA SHEEHAN**

On October 6, 2011, a jury of her peers convicted Ms. Sheehan of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, a Class C Violent Felony, for possession of a 9mm semi-automatic Glock handgun with intent to use unlawfully against another. The facts underlying this conviction are uncontroverted – Barbara Sheehan fired a 9mm handgun at her husband, retired New York City Police Sergeant Raymond Sheehan, inside their bathroom six separate times as he lay on the floor unarmed and wounded from five earlier gunshot wounds. Her criminal conduct can only be viewed as excessive and unwarranted.

As Linda Sheehan, the wife of Raymond Sheehan’s twin brother Vincent noted in her victim impact statement, “. . . [T]he jury recognized that Barbara’s actions on February 18, 2008, were violent and criminal and could not go unpunished.”

Today, Acting Supreme Court Justice Barry Kron sentenced Ms. Sheehan to five years in prison, followed by 2½ years post-release supervision. In passing judgment, Justice Kron noted that Raymond Sheehan was not the person on trial and that his [Justice Kron’s] goal was to impose a fair sentence in one unique, specific case involving the defendant, Barbara Sheehan, and the shooting of Raymond Sheehan. “The defendant was convicted of a crime of consequence,” he stated. “Mere hours before this crime occurred, Barbara [Sheehan] was in the safe haven of the home of her friend . . . In the seconds before she committed this violent crime she had already shot Raymond Sheehan a number of times with the .38 caliber revolver. Society certainly must be concerned with self-help, violent behavior that is not sanctioned by the law.” I agree. Under all of the circumstances of this case, the sentence imposed was appropriate and commensurate with the seriousness of the offense.

I want to commend our prosecution team, Senior Assistant District Attorney Debra L. Pomodore and Assistant District Attorney Donna Aldea, who is our Counsel for Special Litigation. They are to be praised for their professionalism and their dedication and the manner in which they handled both the investigation and prosecution of this matter.

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