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ASTORIA MAN SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS IN PRISON
FOR THE BEATING DEATH OF HIS WIFE

Defendant Pleaded Guilty To First-Degree Manslaughter Last Month

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 32-year-old Astoria man has been sentenced to 25 years in prison for bludgeoning his wife to death with a baseball bat in their Astoria apartment last January. The defendant pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter last month.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant's swift guilty plea, as well as today's serious sentence of 25 years in state prison are a measure of justice for the victim's family. Her parents will not have to sit through a trial and listen to the details of her suffering. In addition, the defendant's plea and sentence are a guarantee that he is severely punished for killing this young, vivacious woman who had her whole life ahead of her."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Jordan L. Hawes, 32, of 26-80 30th Street in the Astoria section of Queens. Hawes, who worked as a chef in Manhattan, was sentenced today to a determinate term of 25 years in prison by Queens Acting Supreme Court Justice Dorothy Chin-Brandt. The defendant pleaded guilty last month to first-degree manslaughter.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the court proceedings, the defendant admitted that on the evening of Tuesday, January 31, 2012, he struck his wife, Tara Hawes, 33, in the head repeatedly with a baseball bat while she was asleep in bed.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, the victim's body was discovered in her bed on Thursday, February 2, 2012, at approximately 10:30 p.m, with extreme blunt force trauma to her head and body. Two knives with what appeared to be blood on them, a baseball bat covered with what appeared to be blood, skin and hair, and the victim's cell phone were recovered from the apartment.

On February 3, 2012, a court-authorized search warrant was executed at the defendant and victim's residence and a note with what appeared to be blood stains on it was discovered which stated in the first paragraph, "Where to begin. My life has been great most of the time. I was raised perfectly by my mom and dad, and I have learned so much from child . . ." The note cut off and was missing a middle section before continuing and stating, in part, "I don't know what . . . happened last night, but my life is destroyed. I killed my best friend."

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The victim's Jeep Liberty was observed by Connecticut State Police at approximately 9:00 p.m., on Saturday, February 4, 2012, inside of a McDonald's parking lot located in Bridgeport, on the I-95 service area between Exits 20 and 21. The defendant, who had taken the vehicle, surrendered himself to the police in the parking lot and stated, "I did something wrong. I surrender myself." Shortly thereafter, Hawes suffered an apparent seizure and was taken to a local hospital. After he recovered, he waived extradition and was returned to Queens.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Robert S. Ciesla and Assistant District Attorney Marilyn A. Filingeri, of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, Peter J. McCormack III, Deputy Bureau Chief, and Richard B. Schaeffer, Senior Trial Attorney, 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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