



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000**

Release # 36-2012
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2012

CONTACT: KEVIN RYAN
HELEN PETERSON
MERIS CAMPBELL
(718)286-6315

FAR ROCKAWAY MAN CONVICTED IN FATAL SHOOTING OF BYSTANDER

Faces up to 50 Years to Life in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced that a Far Rockaway man has been convicted of second-degree murder and other charges in connection with the September 2009 shooting death of an innocent bystander who was struck when the defendant opened fire on a crowd of people.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant's wanton disregard for human life led to the senseless shooting death of an innocent man. He deserves the maximum sentence both as a punishment for his actions and to protect society."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Paul Williams, 35, of 1015 Hartman Lane in Far Rockaway. Following two hours of deliberation, a jury of six men and six women late yesterday convicted the defendant of second-degree murder, second-degree attempted murder and first-degree assault. Queens Supreme Court Justice Gregory L. Lasak, who presided at the two week trial, set sentencing for April 18, 2012, at which time the defendant faces up to 50 years to life in prison.

The District Attorney said that, according to trial testimony, on September 14, 2009, at 1315 Augustina Avenue in Far Rockaway, the defendant, armed with an assault rifle, began firing numerous shots into a crowd of people who were at that location. The victim, Ronald Washington, 28, also of Far Rockaway, was fatally struck four times in the upper torso. Todd Jamison, 45, of Cedarhurst, New York was struck in the leg, resulting in the amputation of his leg above the knee.

The defendant fled the scene but was identified and arrested five months later in North Carolina after an arrest for an unrelated incident.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Denise Tirino, of the District Attorney's Homicide Trials Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Brad Leventhal, Bureau Chief, and Jack Warsawsky, Deputy 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: Press release e-version posted on www.queensda.org