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Executive Deputy Commissioner Michael C. Green  
New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services  
Chairperson - New York State Commission on Forensic Science  
80 South Swan Street  
Albany, New York 12210

Dear Mike:

I write to ask that the Commission on Forensic Science authorize the use of familial searching of New York's DNA data banks. I understand that this technology has proven effective at generating important DNA investigative leads in cold cases in many other states and thus it could presumably help to solve any number of New York State cases. I am particularly interested in applying this technology in the ongoing investigation of a recent, unsolved brutal murder in Queens County.

This case, which is of great concern to me, involves the August 2016 killing of a thirty year old woman from Howard Beach. In the late afternoon, she left her family's home to go jogging. When she failed to return home by early evening, her father became concerned and, when he was unable to reach her by cell phone, he notified police that she was missing. A search commenced in a local park where she was known to jog and her cell phone was soon traced to a wooded area near a running path. Shortly thereafter, her body was discovered under some brush close to her cell phone. Her clothes had been moved leaving her body exposed. She had been badly beaten and suffered blunt force trauma to the head. An autopsy later determined that she had been strangled to death and found that she had sustained traumatic injuries [REDACTED].

All evidence recovered from her body and the crime scene was submitted for DNA analysis. The tests found the same single male DNA profile under the victim's [REDACTED]. The profile did not match any known offenders in the CODIS data banks.

This tragic murder has been exhaustively investigated using every tool currently available, but it remains unsolved. The killer remains at large, the public remains in danger, and the suffering of the victim's family is amplified by law enforcement's inability to yet solve this most awful crime. The victim, her family, and the public deserve justice and we have an obligation to use every means at our disposal to identify the murderer. I believe that familial searching can be a powerful investigative tool in this case.

Sincerely yours,

Richard A. Brown  
District Attorney