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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**QUEENS RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 22 YEARS IN PRISON
FOR SHOOTING MAN INSIDE JAMAICA LOUNGE IN 2014**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 35-year-old Queens man has been sentenced to 22 years in prison after pleading guilty to manslaughter in the June 2014 shooting death of an individual inside a club in Jamaica, Queens.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant has now been sentenced for the senseless shooting of a 37-year-old man in a Queens bar. Gun violence has no place in a civilized society. The defendant took a life and for that he will be incarcerated for a lengthy period of time.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Fruitquana Hawkins, 35, of 173rd Street in the Jamaica section of Queens. Hawkins pleaded guilty last month to first-degree manslaughter before Queens Supreme Court Justice Kenneth C. Holder, who Tuesday sentenced the defendant to 22 years in prison to be followed by five years’ post release supervision.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to court records, around 2 a.m. on June 14, 2014, the defendant was inside the Edge Lounge on Merrick Boulevard with a .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol. He shot the victim, 37-year-old Timothy Tripp, multiple times in the head, shoulder, chest and abdomen. The pair got into a dispute when Hawkins grabbed a napkin from Tripp’s table. The victim, who owned a clothing store and coached youth football, died at the scene.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Karen L. Ross, of District Attorney Brown’s Homicide Trials Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Brad A. Leventhal, Homicide Trials Bureau Chief, and Jack Warsawsky, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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