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**REPUTED GANG MEMBER SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON  
FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER AND STRING OF GUNPOINT ROBBERIES**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 21-year-old purported member of the Bloods street gang has been sentenced to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty last month to attempted murder in the shooting of a man in December 2016. The defendant also pleaded guilty in September to a spree of armed robberies at commercial businesses throughout Queens County between October 2016 and January 2017.

District Attorney Brown said, "In pleading guilty, the defendant has now admitted that he shot a man in the back and hip. The defendant also admitted to a string of armed robberies - including one in which a store worker was pistol-whipped. This kind of violence and criminal activity will not be tolerated in Queens. The defendant, a young man who could have chosen a different path for his future, is now going to prison for a very long time. The sentence imposed by the Court yesterday will punish the defendant for his criminal activity as well as keep society safe."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Shukri Johnson, 21, of Guy R. Brewer Boulevard in Jamaica, Queens. On September 25, 2017, Johnson pleaded guilty to one count of second-degree attempted murder and five counts of first-degree robbery. Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Barry A. Kron late yesterday sentenced the defendant to 15 years in prison to be followed by five years' post release supervision.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, on December 30, 2016, the defendant shot the victim, Shariff Funny, 25, as he stood waiting for an elevator in a building on Foch Boulevard in Jamaica, Queens. The victim was shot in the back and hip, but survived the injuries.

District Attorney Brown continued that, according to the charges, the defendant and another individual committed five armed robberies of commercial establishments on October 17 at 131-08 Liberty Ave.; November 15 at 121-20 Liberty Ave.; November 27 at 194-06 Northern Blvd.; and December 31 at 132-07 Liberty Ave., all in 2016; and a final robbery on January 2, 2017, at 133-26 Springfield Blvd. The defendant wore a mask and holding a gun forced employees into a backroom and made them lie face-down on the floor. The defendant took cash and phones from cell phone stores and cash and narcotics from a pharmacy.

Assistant District Attorney Emily F. Collins, of District Attorney Brown's Gang Violence and Hate Crimes Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Mariela Palomino Herring, Bureau Chief, and Michelle E. Goldstein, Deputy Bureau Chief, and under the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney Laura M. Henigman.

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