



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
RICHMOND COUNTY

---

DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

130 STUYVESANT PLACE  
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301  
TELEPHONE (718) 876-6300

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release on October 10, 2006

Contact: William J. Smith (718) 556-7150  
[William.Smith@rcda.nyc.gov](mailto:William.Smith@rcda.nyc.gov)

# **D.A. Donovan: Murder Indictment Unsealed in Fatal Labor Day Weekend DWI Crash**

***\*\*\*Roman Furman, 39, Indicted on Charge of 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Murder & Related Charges in  
September 3rd Incident Which Claimed the Life of Joseph Conway, 39\*\*\****

STATEN ISLAND, NY - Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. today announced the unsealing of a 13-count Grand Jury indictment against Roman Furman (DOB: 6/20/1968), of Avenue X, Brooklyn, for an early morning incident on September 3, 2007 in which the defendant is alleged to have, while intoxicated, operated his Subaru Tribeca onto the West Shore Expressway, ignoring "Do Not Enter" and "One Way" signs, and traveled northbound in the southbound lanes at a high rate of speed, past several oncoming cars, and U-turn cut-outs, striking a Cadillac Escalade, and then colliding with another vehicle, a Volvo, killing its driver, 39 year-old Joseph Conway, of Massachusetts, a Staten Island native.

District Attorney Donovan stated, "This murder indictment alleges that under circumstances evincing a depraved indifference to human life, the defendant created a grave risk of death to everyone whom he passed on the road that morning and did in fact cause the death of Joseph Conway. Mr. Furman's alleged actions on the roads were no less dangerous than firing a loaded gun into a crowd of people, and these murder charges indicate the seriousness of those actions."

The defendant has been charged with one felony count each of Murder and Vehicular Manslaughter in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, two felony counts each of Assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Degrees, three felony counts of Reckless Endangerment in the 1st Degree, two felony counts of Vehicular Assault in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and two misdemeanor counts of Driving a Motor Vehicle Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs. The top count of the indictment, Murder in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, carries a maximum penalty of 25 years to life in prison.

Mr. Furman is the third defendant to face murder charges in a fatal crash involving alcohol or drugs on Staten Island since January 2006. On July 28, 2007 John Sambuco, then-21, pleaded guilty to 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Murder for

-more-

his role in a January 2006 fatal DWI crash which claimed the life of 18 year-old Marianna Edkins. He was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison on August 21, 2007. Additionally, 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Murder charges are pending against Talyah Taylor, then-24, for a October 18, 2006 incident in which the defendant is alleged to have operated a motor vehicle, while under the influence of drugs, which struck and killed a pedestrian, Larry Simon, 41.

The defendant was arraigned on the charges today in State Supreme Court in St. George before Justice Leonard P. Rienzi. He was ordered held without bail and is due back in court on October 30, 2007. Assistant District Attorney Mark Palladino, of the Investigations Bureau will be prosecuting the case under the supervision of ADA Mario Mattei, Chief of the Investigations Bureau. The defendant is represented by Barry Agulnick, Esq..

The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

*-end-*