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PRESS RELEASE

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Statement of Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. on the Prosecution of Richard Danese and Thomas Elliassen

“To date, Officers Elliassen and Danese have been charged by my office with the crimes of Unlawful Imprisonment in the 2nd degree and Endangering the Welfare of a Child, each punishable by up to a year in prison. As a prosecutor I must make decisions based on the facts and on the law. Based on the current available evidence, those are the highest charges available to my office under New York State penal law. My office is conducting an ongoing investigation into this incident and we hope to interview the victim prior to the defendants’ next court date on December 5th. Should additional evidence arise which would support elevated charges, I would not hesitate to convene a grand jury to review the matter.”

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