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PRESS RELEASE

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**STATEMENT OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR. ON
CONCLUSION OF INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGATIONS OF HAZING
OF ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY STUDENT**

STATEN ISLAND, NY - Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. today issued the following statement on the conclusion of his office's investigation into the cause of medical conditions suffered by an 18 year old St. John's University freshman during the fraternity pledge period of the University's Sigma Chi Upsilon:

“Following allegations that a St. John's student suffered from kidney failure as a result of his participation in fraternity pledge activities last autumn, my office, along with personnel from the NYPD's 120th precinct, engaged in a laborious investigation to determine if the young man's medical conditions were caused by any criminal activity. That investigation included countless hours of interviews with the student and his mother, other witnesses and participants to the pledge activities, as well as medical professionals who treated the student. In addition, my office reviewed medical records from the two hospitals where the young man was treated for his condition. Information gathered indicated that the young man suffered from rhabdomyolysis, a condition which causes muscles to break-down. Muscle enzymes then are released into the blood stream and clog the kidneys to the point of failure. Our review and interviews with medical providers found an absence of any broken bones, fractures, or blunt trauma to the body which would have resulted in renal failure. While this condition may often be caused by a lack of hydration during excessive physical activity, that conclusion cannot be firmly established by science or medical evidence provided by the student's treating physicians in this incident.

This investigation has concluded that there is insufficient evidence to sustain a criminal charge that the injuries suffered by this young man were caused by members of Sigma Chi Upsilon during pledge related activity.”

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