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PRESS RELEASE

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D.A. DONOVAN: S.I. FATHER SENTENCED FOR MURDER, SEX ABUSE OF INFANT SON

Joseph Wallace, 21, Sentenced to 15 Years to Life in Prison for Murder of 2 Month Old Son

STATEN ISLAND, NY - Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. today announced the sentencing of Joseph Wallace Sr., 21, of Jewett Avenue, to a prison term of 15 years to life in prison for the murder and sexual abuse of Joseph Wallace, Jr. who was the defendant's two month old son. Wallace, Sr. pleaded guilty on January 8, 2008 to charges of Murder in the 2nd Degree and Aggravated Sexual Abuse in the 2nd Degree, and was sentenced before Justice Robert J. Collini in State Supreme Court. The defendant will also be required to register as a sex offender.

Joseph Wallace, Jr. died May 17, 2007 in Richmond University Medical Center where he was taken via ambulance when his mother reported, via a 911 call, that her child was unresponsive. The mother discovered her child with the father, who was sleeping, when she returned home from work. An autopsy by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner later determined that the child died from internal bleeding caused by a blunt force trauma to the side of the head. It was also determined that the child suffered injuries, including lacerations, to his rectum which were caused by the defendant inserting his fingers. Following the autopsy report, Joseph Wallace Sr. was arrested and formally charged with his son's murder on August 16, 2008.

The case against Joseph Wallace Sr. was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Yolanda Rudich, Chief of the Sex Crimes/Special Victims Bureau. The defendant was represented by Kevin McKernan, Esq.

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