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PRESS RELEASE

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D.A. DONOVAN: MANSLAUGHTER PLEA ENTERED IN 2006 FATAL SHOOTING OF RETIRED PAPD OFFICER BY RETIRED NYPD OFFICER

******Retired NYPD Officer Allen Lau, 48, Enters Guilty Plea to Charge of Manslaughter in Shooting Death of Retired PAPD Detective Steven Vitale, Will Receive 21 Years in Prison******

STATEN ISLAND, NY - Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. today announced that a guilty plea to the charge of Manslaughter in the 1st Degree, a Class B felony, has been entered by Allen Lau (DOB: 12/5/1959), of Travis Avenue, Staten Island, on charges related to the April 10, 2006 shooting of Steven Vitale, 55, in the parking lot of a strip mall on Richmond Hill Road, when he is alleged to have fired fifteen shots from a 9mm Glock semi-automatic gun, killing the victim. As part of the guilty plea, which was entered prior to jury selection, the defendant will be sentenced to 21 years in prison on June 24, 2008, before State Supreme Court Justice Stephen Rooney.

Following a stand-off at the defendant's house immediately following the shooting, police recovered: three improvised explosive devices (homemade hand grenades), a defaced 9mm Luger pistol, a firearm silencer, a defaced 25 caliber Model 950 Beretta pistol, a 9mm Model M10 semi-automatic Luger pistol, a 9mm Model 19 Luger semi-automatic Glock pistol, ammunition for .357 caliber pistol, ammunition for a .38 caliber pistol, a magazine for an AR-18 semi-automatic rifle, a magazine for an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, ammunition for a 12-gauge shotgun, ammunition for a 20-gauge shotgun, ammunition for a .223 caliber rifle, ammunition for a .25 caliber rifle, ammunition for a 7.62X39 rifle and ammunition for a .22 caliber rifle.

District Attorney Donovan stated, "Accepting a guilty plea at this time removes the uncertainty of proving his guilt to a jury beyond a reasonable doubt and guarantees that Allen Lau will spend nearly all of the remainder of his life behind bars. Specifically, this eliminates the defense's ongoing claim to an 'insanity' defense. Additionally, by accepting this admission of guilt, the defendant has waived all rights to an appeal. My office has consulted with the family of Steven Vitale and they were amenable to the plea and satisfied that Mr. Lau will be punished for his actions."

The case against Allen Lau is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Bousquet, Senior Trial Counsel, and Assistant District Attorney Anne Grady. The defendant is represented by Ronald Kliegerman, Esq.

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