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PRESS RELEASE

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Staten Island Woman Convicted of Murder in October '06 Fatal DWI Crash

******Taliyah Taylor, 26, Convicted of 2nd Degree Murder Charges in Incident Which Claimed the Life of Island Attorney, Faces Maximum of 25 years to Life in Prison******

STATEN ISLAND, NY - Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. today announced that a 26-year-old Staten Island woman has been convicted of 2nd degree murder in an October 2006 fatal DWI incident in the defendant fatally struck a Staten Island attorney, a pedestrian crossing Forest Avenue.

District Attorney Donovan stated, "This was a senseless tragedy caused by a reckless and irresponsible woman who got behind the wheel of her car after consuming drugs and alcohol. This was a random murder, no different from someone randomly shooting someone with a gun on the street."

On the evening of October 18, 2006, the defendant, Taliyah Taylor (DOB: 2/28/1982), of Pine Place, Staten Island, while driving with a revoked license, impaired by the drugs Ecstasy and Marijuana, without headlights on, crossed a double yellow line into oncoming traffic at an excessive rate of speed, then passed through a steady red light and struck a pedestrian, Larry Simon, immediately causing his death. Mr. Simon, 41, was a Staten Island attorney and former assistant district attorney. The defendant was arrested immediately after the incident and has been held without bail since that time.

Richmond County Supreme Court Justice Robert J. Collini, who presided over the trial, set sentencing for November 13, 2008, at which time the defendant will face a maximum sentence of 25 years to life in prison.

Assistant District Attorney Mario Mattei, Chief of the Investigations Bureau, and Janet Silvers, Deputy Bureau Chief, prosecuted the case. The defendant was represented by Christopher Renfroe, Esq.

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