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PRESS RELEASE

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DA McMahon: Staten Island Man Convicted of Murder in the First Degree

**** Dante Viggiano faces life in prison without parole after being found guilty of fatal home invasion ****

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that DANTE VIGGIANO has been found guilty of Murder in the First Degree, a class A violent felony, for the home-invasion murder of a 66-year-old man inside the victim’s South Shore home.

VIGGIANO, 21, was convicted today of the top count against him, as well as four additional counts including Murder in the Second Degree, Attempted Murder in the Second Degree, Burglary in the Second Degree and Assault in the First Degree. The verdict came halfway through the second day of deliberations in a month-long jury trial in Richmond County State Supreme Court before Justice William Garnett. The defendant faces a maximum of life in prison without parole when he is sentenced on Feb. 11, 2016.

“The people’s case proved that, without any reasonable doubt, this defendant had the mental capacity to fully understand the magnitude and horrific nature of his evil actions and today a jury returned a verdict that confirms just that,” said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon. “I want to thank ADA Adam Silberlight and ADA Natalie Barros for the many long hours of hard work they put into successfully prosecuting this case, both in and out of the courtroom.”

On August 31, 2014, at about 9:45 p.m., Vincenza Gialluisi, Peter Anthony Gialluisi and Vincenza’s brother came home after celebrating their birthdays at a family party in New Jersey. Because Mr. Gialluisi was disabled, his wife had been driving. She pulled into the garage, which is part of the house, and exited the vehicle. At this time, her brother returned to his upstairs apartment. As Mrs. Gialluisi walked into her kitchen through a door in the garage, she noticed a light on inside the home. At this moment, VIGGIANO approached from behind and repeatedly stabbed her in the head, neck and back with a large kitchen knife. He then went into the garage and fatally stabbed Mr. Gialluisi in the head and neck multiple times before running off into the woods across the street. Mrs. Gialluisi ran to a neighbor’s home for help.

VIGGIANO returned to his home following the attack on the Gialluisis, but was transported to an area hospital after his mother noticed he was covered in blood with cuts on his hand. It happened to be the same area hospital where Mrs. Gialluisi was being treated for the wounds inflicted by VIGGIANO. Detectives present at the hospital checked to see if there was a connection between VIGGIANO and the stabbings. When they ran VIGGIANO’s Armstrong Avenue address he had provided to hospital staff, they discovered that a person living at that same location had recently been arrested for car theft. That very vehicle, a dented Nissan Altima, was recovered several houses away from where the homicide occurred on Venus Place.

During a search of the woods across the street from 80 Venus Place, a large kitchen knife – the murder weapon – was found in an area where VIGGIANO had run toward immediately after the attack. Also, three plastic cups that contained a bloody glove were found in the woods as well. These cups matched the type of plastic cup that was observed in the victim’s home.

Mrs. Gialluisi was able to identify VIGGIANO in a photo array as the individual who attacked her and killed her husband. Investigators would soon learn that the homicide was not the first time that the defendant had been to 80 Venus Place. On July 21, 2014, Mrs. Gialluisi made a police report indicating that a person who identified himself as ‘Mike’ (but that we now know to be the defendant) came to her home the day before at approximately 4:30 p.m. and asked to speak with her husband. That individual left but returned at 9:30 p.m. and rang the doorbell. He fled after being told not to come back and warned that the police would be called. VIGGIANO was also seen by the Venus Place house on different dates in July, as well as the day before the stabbings. He had also called the house.

As for the dented Nissan Altima found up the block, this vehicle was linked to a burglary and grand larceny that VIGGIANO had committed several days prior.

Sometime between July 19 and July 22, 2014, the residence at 38 Radigan Ave. was burglarized and the keys to a 2004 Nissan Altima, which had been parked outside the location, were taken. This vehicle was also stolen. On July 31, 2014, one of the victims received a call from VIGGIANO who wanted to make a deal with them for the return of their car. The police were notified and worked with the victims to set up an exchange with the defendant. On August 1, 2014, the victim and a sergeant posing as a family member met VIGGIANO at the Woodrow Plaza as multiple NYPD members conducted surveillance. The victim handed the defendant a shaved down valet key and the defendant left, heading to the Prince’s Bay train station. He was followed by members of the NYPD and eventually boarded the train, traveling home to Armstrong Avenue. He was arrested once he approached the stolen vehicle and police recovered the shaved down valet key. The keys that were taken during the burglary were not recovered. When the defendant was arrested, he stated that his name was “Jonathan Rameriz” and that his date of birth was June 21, 1994. The vehicle was returned to the victims.

On August 30, 2014, the same victims went to sleep and their Nissan Altima was parked in the driveway. When the victims awoke the next day, the vehicle is again missing and they report this to the police. It was determined there was no entry into the home while the victims had slept. The only way to access and operate this vehicle was with the keys that had not been recovered during the burglary. VIGGIANO was the only person in possession of those keys.

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The case was prosecuted by ADA Adam Silberlight, Deputy Chief of the Supreme Court Bureau, and ADA Natalie Barros.

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Defendant Information:

DANTE VIGGIANO
5/23/1994
910 Armstrong Ave., SI NY

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