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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release on August 17, 2016

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D.A. McMahon: Three Teens Indicted for Robbery Spree on Staten Island

****Defendants targeted victims in and around Clove Lakes Park****

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. – Staten Island District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that FRANCHESA RIVERA, 16, and SAMUEL RUSSELL, 18, have been indicted on charges including Robbery in the First Degree and Attempted Robbery in the First Degree for allegedly committing a spree of knifepoint robberies in and around Clove Lakes Park, as well as other locations in Staten Island. Additionally, a 14-year-old male, who is being charged as a Juvenile Offender, has also been indicted in connection with the robberies.

“The victims in each incident were callously robbed while simply spending time outdoors. My office intends to fully prosecute the defendants and hold them responsible for their reckless actions,” said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon. “I would like to thank the NYPD for their efforts in apprehending these individuals as we continue working to ensure the safety of all people in Staten Island. Staten Island's parks are some of the safest in the City and we will keep them that way.”

According to a 15-count indictment and documents filed in court, the robberies were committed under the following circumstances:

On July 27, at about 5:35 p.m., by 34 Barrett Avenue, RIVERA stole property from an individual; on July 31, 2016, at about 4:20 p.m., at Clove Road and Forest Avenue, RIVERA, RUSSELL and the Juvenile Offender, forcibly stole property at knifepoint from two individuals; on July 31, 2016, at about 4:25 p.m., at Clove Lakes Park, RIVERA and RUSSELL forcibly stole property at knifepoint from a third individual; on August 1, 2016, at about 10:40 p.m., by Post Avenue and Greenleaf Avenue, RIVERA forcibly stole property at knifepoint from a fourth individual; on August 1, 2016, at about 11 p.m., by 86 Elizabeth Street, RUSSELL forcibly stole property at knifepoint from a sixth individual, and on August 2, 2016 at about 12:45 p.m., by South Railroad Avenue and Guyon Avenue, RIVERA forcibly stole property from a seventh individual.

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RIVERA was arraigned today in State Supreme Court, St. George. Bail was increased from \$25,000 bond to \$50,000 bond. RUSSELL was arraigned Friday in State Supreme Court, St. George, and bail was set at

\$250,000 bond and \$100,000 cash. The Juvenile Defendant was arraigned Tuesday in State Supreme Court, St. George, and bail was set at \$25,000 bond and \$25,000 cash.

The case is being prosecuted by ADA Kate Malloy and Adam Silberlight.

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The charges contained in the attached indictment are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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