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PRESS RELEASE

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D.A. McMahon: Convicted Felon Pleads Guilty for Assaulting Police Officer at Hospital and Attempting to Steal Her Service Weapon

****Dante Martin assaulted police officer, tried to steal her service weapon in failed attempt to escape custody; he now faces 12 years to life in prison ****

Staten Island, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that **Dante Martin** has pleaded guilty to Assault in the Second Degree and Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree for attacking an NYPD officer and attempting to steal her service weapon after previously being arrested for possessing a loaded firearm.

The defendant entered his guilty plea today in Richmond County State Supreme Court, St. George, before Judge William E. Garnett. **Martin**, a mandatory persistent violent felon, faces a maximum of 12 years to life in jail when he is sentenced on July 10th.

“After being arrested for possessing a loaded firearm, this defendant attacked a police officer and attempted to steal her service weapon while he was being treated at the hospital,” said **District Attorney Michael E. McMahon**. “Mr. Martin, a previously convicted felon, now faces 12 years to life behind bars for his cowardly crimes. The brave men and women of the NYPD risk their lives every day to protect us, which is why my office will continue to vigorously prosecute anyone who attempts to do them harm.”

On or about August 25, 2016, police officers received a 911 call of a man who was threatening a woman and menacing her with a firearm near 55 Holland Avenue. Officers arrived on the scene and identified the defendant as the only person matching the description. As officers approached the defendant, he fled, and allegedly dropped a firearm. Police eventually apprehended the defendant and recovered a loaded Glock 23 with nine rounds of ammunition in the magazine. After **Martin** was arrested, the defendant claimed he needed medical attention and was taken to Richmond University Medical Center. **Martin** was admitted to the hospital and while there, on August 28, 2016, he told the officer who was guarding him that he needed to use the bathroom. The officer removed his handcuffs, and once she did, he physically attacked her and tried to get her gun out of the holster, even placing his finger on the trigger of the gun. In response to the officer's screams for help, other officers responded to the room and placed **Martin** under arrest.

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The case was prosecuted by ADAs Adam Silberlight, Deputy Chief of the Trials Bureau, and Kate Malloy, under the supervision of Trials Bureau Chief Mark Palladino.

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Defendant Information:

Dante Martin

D.O.B.6/20/1980

140 Park Hill Avenue, Staten Island, NY

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