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PRESS RELEASE

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D.A. McMahon: Accomplice in “Ninja Burglar” Case Indicted for Burglary

Geovani Melendez acted together with Robert Costanzo to burglarize a home in Staten Island

Staten Island, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that **Geovani Melendez**, 47, has been indicted on single counts of Burglary in the Second Degree and Grand Larceny in the Third Degree for burglarizing a home in Staten Island in 2013 with Robert Costanzo, who is also known as the “Ninja Burglar.”

“This defendant acted together with the infamous “Ninja Burglar” to allegedly break into a private residence and steal a homeowner’s valuable possessions,” said **District Attorney Michael E. McMahon**. “My team and I have worked tirelessly to ensure that all involved in this terrifying crime spree are held accountable for their actions. I would like to commend my prosecutors, as well as the NYPD and all of our partners in law enforcement in the various jurisdictions that assisted with this extensive, investigative undertaking.”

According to an indictment and documents filed in court, on or about January 3, 2013, the defendant and Costanzo allegedly broke into a private residence located at 66 Jenna Lane, stealing jewelry and other items valued in excess of \$3,000.

Melendez has not been accused of committing any other burglaries associated with the “Ninja Burglar” pattern that occurred in Staten Island. He is currently incarcerated in Connecticut on unrelated charges of Hindering Prosecution in the First Degree.

Costanzo, 46, who admitted to committing more than 100 burglaries in Staten Island, and whose crime spree lasted from 2005 to 2015 and sprawled across three states, was recently sentenced to 22 years in prison after pleading guilty to three counts of Burglary in the Second Degree, a class C violent felony.

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

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Melendez was arraigned Friday in Richmond County State Supreme Court, St. George, before Judge Stephen Rooney and remains held on \$50,000 bail.

The case is being prosecuted by ADA Gregg Brown under the supervision of Deputy Bureau Chief Michele Molfetta. The investigation was handled by Detective Steven Greco and Lt. Kevin Gallagher, commanding officer of the NYPD RCDA Detective Squad.

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Defendant Information:

Geovani Melendez

D.O.B. 10/20/1969

Uncasville, CT

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