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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brooklyn Man Sentenced To 12 Years In Prison For Manslaughter

Vicious Attack By Defendant Stemmed From Theft Of Eight Dollars

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson today announced that a 46-year-old Brooklyn man has been sentenced to 12 years in prison following his conviction last month on charges of first-degree manslaughter for beating and stabbing to death a 39-year-old man in East Williamsburg. The defendant's 21-year-old son pleaded guilty to assault for his part in the attack.

District Attorney Thompson said, "A man is dead and a father and son are headed to prison, all because of a fight over eight dollars. This defendant showed a callous disregard for life when he fatally stabbed the victim – who had already been knocked to the ground. He must now pay for his crime."

The District Attorney said that the defendant, Rafael Vargas, 46, of 73 Nostrand Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, was today sentenced by Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Vincent Del Giudice to a determinate term of 12 years in prison and five years' post-release supervision. The defendant was convicted of first-degree manslaughter last month following a jury trial.

The District Attorney said that, according to trial testimony, on February 1, 2013, inside the Cooper Park Houses on Jackson Street, in East Williamsburg, the defendant and his son, Richie Vargas, 22, attacked Anthony Dash, 39.

The District Attorney said that, according to trial testimony, Richie Vargas was attempting to purchase crack cocaine from an individual. Dash was also present. When Richie Vargas held out \$8 dollars, the victim grabbed it, saying that he was "owed" the money. Richie Vargas then left the area, got his father and went back to confront Dash. He repeatedly punched Dash in the head and body, knocking him to the ground. Rafael Vargas then pulled out a knife and began slashing at Dash, finally stabbing him in the thigh and cutting Dash's femoral artery. He died at Woodhull Hospital Center.

Richie Vargas pleaded guilty to first- and second-degree assault on October 21, 2014 and is expected to be sentenced on January 6, 2015.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Sara Kurtzberg and Assistant District Attorney Angela Weir of the District Attorney's Grey Zone Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Timothy Gough, Chief of the Grey Zone Bureau.