



Kenneth P. Thompson
District Attorney

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
KINGS COUNTY
350 JAY STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11201-2908
(718) 250-2000
WWW.BROOKLYNDA.ORG

Office of Public Information
718-250-2300

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson Announces the
Dismissal of Charges Against Three Defendants**

The Decision Follows an Investigation by the Conviction Review Unit

Brooklyn, NY. Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson today announced that the murder convictions of Darryl Austin and Alveana Jenette in one case and the murder conviction of Robert Hill in a second case will be vacated and all indictment charges dismissed. The decision follows a thorough investigation of both cases by the KCDA's Conviction Review Unit, headed by Professor Ronald S. Sullivan, and a complete vetting by the District Attorney's Independent Review Panel members, Bernard W. Nussbaum, Jennifer G. Rodgers and Gary S. Villanueva.

"Based on a comprehensive review of these cases, it is clear that testimony from the same problematic witness undermined the integrity of these convictions, and resulted in an unfair trial for each of these defendants. We therefore have moved to vacate these convictions and dismiss the charges in the interest of justice," said District Attorney Ken Thompson.

Brothers Darryl Austin and Alveana Jenette were charged with the robbery and shooting death of Ronnie Durante at 728 Nostrand Avenue on September 10, 1985. They were convicted in July 1988, primarily on the testimony of one witness. Additionally, the review revealed notes in a police file indicating that the defendants were not the shooters as alleged by the witness. The notes were not provided to the defense at trial. Both defendants were sentenced to 18-years-to-life in prison. Austin died while incarcerated, having then served 14 years in prison. His brother Jenette was paroled in 2007, having been incarcerated for 20 years.

Robert Hill was convicted in the shooting death of Donald Manboardes at 125 Rogers Avenue on June 10, 1987. The conviction was due in large part to the testimony of the same eyewitness, as in the case of Austin and Jenette. Hill received a sentence of 18-years to life and has served 27 years in prison to date.

The dismissals were finalized in court before Judge Neil Firetog.

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Contact:

Public Information Office: 718-250-2300