

Kenneth P. Thompson District Attorney Kings County

May 16, 2016

COMMUNITY PARTNER IN JUSTICE NOTIFICATION

Brooklyn Man Sentenced to Up to 15 Years in Prison for Fatal Crash That Left 12-Year-Old Girl Dead, Mother and Sister Injured

Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson today announced that Robert DeCarlo, 28, has been sentenced to the maximum of five to 15 years in prison following his guilty plea to manslaughter for the 2014 fatal car crash in Flatlands that left a young girl dead and her mother and sister seriously injured.

In the afternoon on July 2, 2014 the defendant was driving a stolen Dodge Caravan minivan in excess of 50 miles per hour on Flatlands Avenue, near Schenectady Avenue, when he lost control of the vehicle, drove up on the sidewalk and struck three pedestrians: Joie Sellers, 12; her sister, Charli Sellers, 9, and their mother, Marcia Landais, 38. The defendant climbed out of the window of the vehicle and fled the scene.

Joie Sellers was rushed to Kings County Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The defendant surrendered the following day.

"Robert DeCarlo was sentenced to the maximum allowed by law on this case, but this will never compensate for the loss of Joie Sellers, a beautiful and vibrant young girl who was robbed of her life because of the defendant's reckless and irresponsible actions," said the District Attorney. "We will continue to hold drivers accountable for the choices they make behind the wheel."