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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**TWO MEN TO BE ARRAIGNED ON HOMICIDE AND ASSAULT CHARGES**  
**IN DEADLY FAR ROCKAWAY ATTACK ON TAXI DRIVER**

*Two Defendants Allegedly Punched and Kicked Taxi Driver with Two Juvenile Females After Skipping Fare; One Defendant Faces Up to 25 Years in Prison if Convicted*

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced today that Austin Amos, 20, and Nickolas Porter, 20, have been charged with gang assault and manslaughter related to a fatal attack on a 52-year-old taxi driver in Far Rockaway, Queens last Saturday. The defendants are accused of repeatedly punching and kicking the victim after he confronted them for an unpaid fare on August 13, 2022. Two juvenile females, one still unapprehended, also allegedly participated in the deadly incident.

District Attorney Katz said, “As alleged, these two defendants, with two juveniles, fatally assaulted a taxicab driver after he confronted them for fare evasion. An entire family is now grieving the tragic and senseless loss of their loved one because of this abhorrent behavior. My Office will continue working with the NYPD to make sure that all those responsible for this horrific incident are brought to justice. These two defendants are in custody and face a lengthy prison term if convicted for their alleged criminal actions.”

Amos, of Beach 56 Place in Arverne, Queens, is pending arraignment in Queens Criminal Court on a six-count complaint charging him with gang assault in the first and second degrees, manslaughter in the first and second degrees, assault in the second degree and theft of services. Amos faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted.

Porter, of Hassock Street in Far Rockaway, Queens, is pending arraignment in Queens Criminal Court on charges of gang assault in the second degree and theft of services. Porter faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

According to the complaint, on August 13, 2022, at approximately 6:24 a.m. the defendants Amos and Porter were passengers with three juvenile females in the yellow minivan taxi of the victim Kutin Gyimah. When the group disembarked from the vehicle near the intersection of Beach 54<sup>th</sup> Street and Arverne Boulevard, the defendants refused to pay the ride fare and the group ran away in different directions. Mr. Gyimah pursued them on foot and caught up to one of the females. Video surveillance footage shows the victim and that unapprehended female became involved in a struggle. Defendant Amos circled back to Mr. Gyimah and punched him multiple times causing the victim to fall to the ground. Defendants Amos, Porter and two of the females, one still unapprehended, then surrounded Mr. Gyimah allegedly punching and kicking the victim repeatedly as he lay on the pavement.

Continuing, said the DA, Mr. Gyimah attempted to regain his footing. When he stood, defendant Amos stepped forward and allegedly punched Mr. Gyimah twice in the face causing him to fall back and hit his head on the pavement. The entire group- defendants Amos, Porter and the three females- then left Mr. Gyimah motionless on the ground.

DA Katz said, emergency medical responders transported the victim to a local hospital where he died from blunt force trauma injuries to his head.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Neil Cusick of the 101<sup>st</sup> Queens Detective Squad with the assistance of Detective James Zozzaro of the Queens South Homicide Squad.

Assistant District Attorney Lauren Reilly, of the Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau, is prosecuting the case, with the assistance of Assistant District Attorney Antonio Vittiglio of the Homicide Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter J. McCormack III and John Kosinski, Senior Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and Assistant District Attorney Shawn Clark, Bureau Chief, and Assistant

District Attorneys Karen Ross and Michael Whitney, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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*Criminal complaints and indictments are accusations. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.*

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