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**BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY DARCEL D. CLARK WILL MOVE TO
DISMISS WEAPON CASE AGAINST PEDRO HERNANDEZ**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that her office will move to dismiss a July 7, 2016 indictment against Pedro Hernandez in the shooting of a Bronx teenager.

District Attorney Clark said, "I have conducted a detailed review of the case against Pedro Hernandez for criminal possession of a weapon and other charges in a shooting on East 169th Street in the 42nd Precinct on September 1, 2015, with a multi-disciplinary team consisting of the Public Integrity Bureau, Conviction Integrity Unit, Crime Strategies Unit and senior trial attorneys. I then assigned a veteran prosecutor to dig even deeper by conducting an extensive investigation of the facts and evidence, including interviews and re-interviews of multiple witnesses.

"We discovered unanticipated witness and evidentiary issues, including that one of the original witnesses is no longer cooperative. The investigation also revealed that information originally provided to my Office during the initial investigation of this case has now proven to be inconsistent and contradictory. Further, the victim of the shooting is unable to identify who shot him.

"It is therefore appropriate to make an application to dismiss this indictment as a matter of justice, and my Office will do so at 10:30 a.m. today, September 6, 2017, in Part 60 before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett.

"I will not tolerate gunshots being fired on the streets of the Bronx, so the investigation into the September 1, 2015 shooting continues. Public safety is paramount and we must do everything we can to stop gun violence in our neighborhoods. There have been 20 shootings involving 26 victims so far this year in the 42nd Precinct, a marked increase from 2016. Prosecution of violent crime is challenging especially when victims and witnesses decline to cooperate, but this is the reality we face in the Bronx every day as we continue to build trust with the community.

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“I also will not tolerate misconduct by law enforcement. The Public Integrity Bureau is investigating allegations related to this matter and will go wherever the evidence leads it.

“Nor will I tolerate any practices that violate our legal or ethical obligations. I made a commitment to the people of the Bronx to hold my office to high standards. Last year I created a Professional Responsibility Bureau to maintain those standards. The Professional Responsibility Bureau will review this case.

“Accountability is key to pursuing justice with integrity. We strive for fairness in all we do and that remains foremost in serving the people of the Bronx.”

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