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**BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY DARCEL D. CLARK ANNOUNCES 2009 MURDER
CASE AGAINST STEVEN ODIASE HAS BEEN DISMISSED**
DA Moved To Dismiss After Re-Investigation of Case

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man whose conviction in the 2009 murder of a teenage boy was vacated will not be re-tried for the crime and the case has been dismissed, after an investigation has determined there is insufficient evidence to prosecute.

District Attorney Clark said, "I previously asked the Court on April 17, 2017 to vacate Steven Odiase's conviction and release him from prison after our Conviction Integrity Unit uncovered potentially exculpatory evidence that was not provided to the defense at the time of his trial. A lengthy and thorough investigation was conducted as to whether to retry Mr. Odiase. After determining there was not enough physical evidence or witness cooperation, I decided in the interest of justice to not proceed to trial and asked the Court to dismiss and seal the case.

"I thank my Office's Conviction Integrity Unit and Homicide Bureau for their exhaustive re-investigation of this case, which involved the senseless killing of a 15-year-old boy."

The case was dismissed and sealed today by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett.

Odiase, 31, had been sentenced to 25 years to life in prison after a trial in Bronx Supreme Court in 2013. He was convicted by a jury of second-degree Murder and second-degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the fatal shooting of 15-year-old Juan Jerez, who was shot at the corner of Minerva Place and Creston Avenue on June 12, 2009. Odiase's co-defendant, Daikwan Giles, confessed to the shooting and was identified by eyewitnesses. He was convicted in the same trial.

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In September, 2016, CIU began reviewing the case, and unearthed in the case file a DD5 (a detective's form summarizing the canvass of the murder scene) that apparently was not provided to the defense. The form contained a witness' description of the shooter that did not match Odiase.

The CIU turned it over to the defense in February, 2017. Defense counsel told the CIU that Odiase's defense team had been given the DD5 with the description redacted.

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