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**BRONX MAN SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS IN PRISON FOR BRUTAL GANG  
ATTACK ON STREET VENDOR; BEATING LEFT VICTIM IN COMA  
Defendant and Five Others Beat the Victim As He Tried To Stop Them from Stealing**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx man has been sentenced to four years in prison following his conviction for second-degree Gang Assault after he participated in a brutal beating against a street vendor.

District Attorney Clark said, "This malicious attack left the victim in a coma with life-altering injuries. Even a year after the incident he is still attending rehabilitation. Moreover, the attack happened in front of the victim's wife and children, leaving them traumatized. Today's sentencing will hopefully bring some justice for him and his loved ones."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, William Burgess, 22, of Creston Avenue, was sentenced today by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Armando Montano to four years in prison and three and a half years post-release supervision. The defendant pleaded guilty to second-degree Gang Assault on April 10, 2018. Charges against the other five defendants who allegedly participated in the crime are still pending.

According to the investigation, on the evening of May 2, 2017, at the corner of 149<sup>th</sup> Street and Third Avenue, Burgess and five other men repeatedly struck Souleymane Porgo, 53, a street vendor, after he tried to stop one of them from stealing some of his merchandise. The victim was beaten to the ground and left in critical condition with multiple facial fractures. Porgo required multiple surgeries for swelling and bleeding in his brain and is currently in rehabilitation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Thomas Ostendorp of Trial Bureau 60 under the supervision of Hannah Freilich, Chief of Trial Bureau 60, and the overall supervision of Nicole Keary, former Deputy Chief of the Trial Division, and Theresa Gottlieb, Chief of the Trial Division. District Attorney Clark thanked Detective Richard Simplicio of the 40<sup>th</sup> Precinct Detective Squad.

