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PRESS RELEASE

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Staten Island Man Convicted of Murder for Fatally Stabbing Two Young Children and Seriously Wounding the Victims' Sister

Michael Sykes, previously found guilty for fatally stabbing his girlfriend, Rebecca Cutler, is convicted at retrial for murdering her two children and causing serious injuries to her other child; faces life in prison without parole

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that MICHAEL SYKES was convicted of two counts of Murder in the First Degree for fatally stabbing Ziana Cutler, 1, and Maliyah Sykes, 4 months. The defendant was also convicted today of Attempted Murder in the First Degree for stabbing a third child, Miracle Cutler, 2, during the same incident on February 10, 2016 inside the Ramada Inn on Staten Island. SYKES was previously found guilty at trial in November 2017 of Murder in the Second Degree for fatally stabbing his girlfriend, Rebecca Cutler, 26. He faced a retrial after a jury deadlocked on the charges with respect to the children.

SYKES, 27, was convicted today in Staten Island Supreme Court, St. George, before Justice Mario F. Mattei. He faces life in prison without parole when he is sentenced on November 9, 2018.

“Michael Sykes committed one of the most heinous crimes Staten Island has ever witnessed when he brutally murdered his girlfriend, Rebecca Cutler, and her two small children, Ziana and Maliyah. Ms. Cutler’s other young daughter, Miracle, also suffered severe injuries at the hands of the defendant, but thankfully she survived his violent rampage and has shown a strength and resiliency which continues to serve as an inspiration for everyone in my office seeking justice on her behalf,” **said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon.** “Today’s conviction finally puts an end to this tragic ordeal and I hope provides some closure to the family and friends of the victims. I would like to thank the jury for their service as well as ADAs Lisa Davis and Michael Tannousis for their tireless efforts in successfully prosecuting this case and ensuring the defendant spends the rest of his life in prison.”

On February 9, 2016, at approximately 4 p.m., at the corner of O’Connor Avenue and Victory Boulevard, the defendant forcibly stole the cell phone of Rebecca Cutler. On February 10, 2016 on or about and between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m., inside of the Ramada Inn located at 535 North Gannon Avenue, the defendant repeatedly stabbed Rebecca Cutler about her body causing her to suffer over forty stab wounds

and resulting in her death. On that same date, time and location the defendant also repeatedly stabbed two year old Miracle Cutler, one year old Ziana Cutler and four month old Maliyah Sykes repeatedly about their bodies, resulting in the deaths of Ziana and Maliyah and resulting in serious physical injury to Miracle Cutler.

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The case was prosecuted by ADAs Lisa Davis and Michael Tannousis.

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