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PRESS RELEASE

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DA McMahon: ADA Thomas Ridges, Special Counsel to the DA, Awarded Prestigious Thomas E. Dewey Medal by New York City Bar Association

Award is presented annually to outstanding prosecutors in New York City

Staten Island, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that Assistant District Attorney Thomas C. Ridges, Special Counsel to the District Attorney, was awarded the 2018 Thomas E. Dewey Medal by the New York City Bar Association yesterday evening during a ceremony in Manhattan. The award is presented annually to outstanding prosecutors in New York City.

“Throughout his distinguished career in law enforcement, ADA Ridges has embodied the meaning of public service and continues to display a deep commitment as a prosecutor that makes him an incredibly worthy recipient of this year’s Thomas E. Dewey Medal,” said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon. “From the instant ADA Ridges joined my administration he has worked tirelessly to make Staten Island a safer place, bringing his veteran experience as both a police officer and prosecutor to every challenge our borough faces. Without question, his leadership in our fight against the heroin and opioid epidemic – particularly in his role overseeing our Overdose Response Initiative – has played a major role in saving lives and getting drugs off the street. Congratulations, ADA Ridges, on this most deserving recognition.”

“It was my honor and privilege to receive the Thomas E. Dewey award which is named after a man who epitomized and embodied everything that a prosecutor should aspire to be,” said Thomas Ridges, Special Counsel to the District Attorney. “I would also like to thank DA McMahon for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this great administration and continue to do what I have done for over three decades – serve the public.”

Thomas C. Ridges was born and raised in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, and has resided on Staten Island since 1988. He began his career in law enforcement with the New York City Police Department. He was assigned to various commands, including the 88th Precinct, the Brooklyn North Task Force, the City-Wide Street Crime Unit, and the elite Emergency Services Unit (ESU). As a member of the Street Crime Unit, Mr. Ridges was part of a plainclothes team that had city-wide jurisdiction and monitored high-crime areas in an effort to thwart street violence, including gun possession and robberies. During his time with the Emergency Services Unit, he was assigned to counter-assault teams, handled emotionally

disturbed persons, executed numerous search warrants for guns and drugs, and extracted armed and barricaded perpetrators.

While working full-time as a New York City Police Officer, Mr. Ridges earned a B.A. in Criminal Justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 1995, and a Juris Doctorate (J.D.) from St. John's University School of Law in 1998.

After graduating St. John's University School of Law, Mr. Ridges joined the Kings County District Attorney's Office.

At the Kings County District Attorney's Office, as a trial attorney, he worked in various units including the Assault on Police Officer Program, where he handled cases involving law enforcement officers who were shot or seriously injured.

He also prosecuted approximately 50 homicides in the Homicide Bureau and worked on several high-profile cases, including the murders of P.O. Dillon Stewart, who was shot and killed as he and his partner attempted to pull over a car, Detective Patrick Rafferty and Detective Robert Parker, who were shot and killed while attempting to arrest a suspect on a domestic violence complaint, and college co-ed Imette St. Guillen, who was brutally raped and murdered by a nightclub bouncer.

Mr. Ridges also served as the Bureau Chief and Supervising Attorney in Charge of Trial Bureau 5 Orange Zone, responsible for prosecuting crimes within the confines of the 62nd Precinct (Bensonhurst), the 73rd Precinct (Brownsville), the 77th Precinct (Crown Heights), the 78th Precinct (Park Slope), as well as criminal activity in N.Y.C.H.A. housing developments and the transit systems within those police jurisdictions. He oversaw all legal and non-legal staff assigned to the Trial Zone, and also interacted with the commanding officers of each precinct as well as the civilians living within that precinct regarding community concerns.

During his time in the Kings County District Attorney's Office, Ridges trained newly hired ADAs and experienced prosecutors on subjects such as "Witness Preparation", "Opening Statements", "Direct Examination", "Cross-Examination" and "Closing Arguments." He has also conducted various training programs for police officers and supervisors assigned to the New York City Police Department. Mr. Ridges has also taught as an adjunct professor at Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

In February of 2016, ADA Ridges joined DA McMahon's administration as Special Counsel to the District Attorney. He has been an extremely valuable addition to DA McMahon's executive staff, where his duties include oversight of the office's Narcotics/Investigations Bureau, as well as the Crimes Strategies Unit and the Detective Investigators.

Mr. Ridges also serves as an important liaison with the NYPD, sharing and receiving valuable strategic crime information in real time. ADA Ridges' participation in a working group of prosecutors from all 5 District Attorney Offices, who meet and discuss the latest trends, challenges, and court decisions in the area of DNA, is yet another part of his portfolio. A much sought after presenter, ADA Ridges consistently shares his talents and knowledge as a regular faculty member at the yearly DAASNY Summer College.

ADA Ridges continues to play a major role in applying all of his experience and talents to help the office successfully battle the heroin and opioid epidemic. Last year, DA McMahon assigned Mr. Ridges to oversee the administration of the office's Overdose Response Initiative (ORI), which treats every scene of a drug overdose, fatal or otherwise, as a crime scene. As part of the protocols that ADA Ridges helped develop, investigators collect evidence at the scene with a view towards identifying the dealer who sold the drugs to the overdose victim. Mr. Ridges' oversight has been nothing but outstanding, using all of his professional skills, both as a prosecutor and a police officer, to move this initiative forward. Additionally, ADA Ridges

has overseen every major narcotics investigation since DA McMahon took office in 2016, which has resulted in the arrest and prosecution of Staten Island's most serious drug dealers.

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