



John J. Santucci
District Attorney

District Attorney
of Queens County

520-2492

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STATEMENT BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOHN J. SANTUCCI

Queens District Attorney John J. Santucci today issued the following statement regarding an inquiry by his office into the so-called "Lon of Sam" case:

"Recently I directed my Homicide Bureau to look into the David Berkowitz case to re-evaluate the lone-gunman theory for that series of crimes. I initiated this inquiry for a number of reasons, including reports of information raising as a possibility the involvement of another person.

"Since a majority of the incidents involved in the David Berkowitz case took place in Queens County and since the reported new information raised questions which I regard as requiring resolution if possible, I instructed Assistant District Attorneys in my Homicide Bureau to re-examine the files, to make inquiries with authorities in various jurisdictions, to interview individuals who might have relevant information to volunteer, and, in general, gather such information as would be helpful in resolving the questions of any possible accomplices, living or dead.

"My purpose is to resolve such a question, if at all possible, and not to allow the lone-gunman theory of the case to linger in a limbo of doubt to emerge years later as a live question to bedevil the public and law-enforcement authorities, or in unanticipated legal proceedings.

"If we have learned anything from experiences of national tragedies about which questions emerged years later, it is that information and reports of information should be looked into with thoroughness and dispatch.

"Various media have inquired in recent days about whether my office is conducting such an inquiry. I declined to comment. Nevertheless, reports that my office was conducting a re-examination of the case have appeared.

"In view of publication and broadcast of reports about the inquiry by my office, I am breaking my silence on the subject to make clear its nature, scope and intent. It is an inquiry into information and reports of information that have raised questions about whether David Berkowitz alone committed the series of crimes for which he stands convicted.

"Those questions arose after published reports of information suggesting the possibility of an accomplice.

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"I determined that responsible law enforcement must not be deterred from asking questions simply because some file, somewhere bears an official stamp that is "closed". It may turn out that the reported information raising such questions is shown to have been not founded on verifiable fact. But at least we will have made the effort to resolve the matter and will not be saddled with an unnecessary additional nagging issue of why the questions were not pursued when initially raised. The questions have been raised and, to the extent possible, this office will seek to resolve them. We won't stamp "closed" on our minds.

"At an appropriate time, I intend to report the results of my office's inquiry."

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