



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**GAMBINO FAMILY ASSOCIATE PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT
TO PARTICIPATING IN 1998 CONSPIRACY THAT RESULTED
IN MURDER OF FRANK HYDELL**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JOHN MATERA, an associate in the Gambino Organized Crime Family of La Cosa Nostra, pled guilty today in Manhattan federal court to conspiring to participate in the affairs of the Gambino Family through a pattern of racketeering activity that included the conspiracy to murder Frank Hydell, who was shot to death outside a club in Staten Island in the early-morning hours of April 28, 1998. MATERA also pled guilty to aiding and abetting the operation of an illegal gambling business, also in furtherance of the criminal affairs of the Gambino Family.

Prior to his guilty plea, MATERA had been charged, along with other alleged members and associates of the Gambino Family, including Gambino Boss Peter Gotti and Gambino Soldiers Edward Garafola, Frank Fappiano, a/k/a "Frankie Fap," and Thomas Carbonaro, a/k/a "Huck," in a wide-ranging racketeering indictment that includes charges of three murders, an attempted

murder, an additional murder conspiracy, the extortion of various individuals and businesses, loansharking, labor bribery, witness tampering, and illegal gambling.

According to the allegations in the Superseding Indictment, MATERA and his fellow members and associates of the Gambino Family murdered Frank Hydell because they suspected that he was cooperating with the Government. In addition to the Hydell murder charge, the Superseding Indictment also charges: (1) Fappiano and Garafola with the September 11, 1989, murder of Fred Weiss; (2) Fappiano, Garafola, and Carbonaro with the August 8, 1990, murder of Edward Garofalo, a Gambino Associate and the cousin of defendant Edward Garafola; (3) Fappiano with the January 1997 murder of Frank Parasole; and (4) Gotti, Garafola, and Carbonaro with conspiring to kill Salvatore Gravano, a/k/a "Sammy the Bull," the former Underboss of the Gambino Family. The trial of the remaining defendants, Gotti, Garafola, Carbonaro, and Fappiano, is scheduled to commence November 1, 2004, before United States District Judge RICHARD CONWAY CASEY.

The superseding Information to which MATERA pled guilty today carries a total maximum penalty of 20 years' imprisonment. MATERA, who is 32 years old, is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge CASEY on October 29, 2004, at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York City Police Department in this investigation, and stated that the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorneys MICHAEL G. McGOVERN,
JOON H. KIM, and VICTOR L. HOU are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Superseding Indictment are
merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent
unless and until proven guilty.

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