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October 1, 2025

Chief Assistant Ms. Meg Reiss
Office of the Manhattan District Attorney
1 Hogan Place
New York, NY 10013

By hand delivery and email: [REDACTED] **@dany.nyc.gov**

Re: **People v. Rivers**
CR-011614-25NY

Dear Ms. Reiss:

We represent Savannah Craven Antao, the victim in the above-referenced case, with respect to brutal assault of Ms. Craven Antao by Brianna Rivers on April 3, 2025.

As you are no doubt aware from the national and even international publicity this case has received (*see e.g.* <https://www.foxnews.com/media/pro-life-influencer-speaks-out-after-nyc-attacker-goes-unpunished-due-prosecutors-error>), your office allowed this case, inexplicably downgraded from a felony assault to a misdemeanor, to be dismissed for failure to meet the applicable 90-day speedy trial deadline for misdemeanors. Your office has since issued a public apology to Ms. Craven Antao for this alleged mistake.

Our research indicates, however, that “a speedy trial dismissal of a misdemeanor prosecution would not bar the subsequent prosecution of felony charges arising out of the same criminal transaction ‘because the indictment includes charges * * * subject to speedy trial deadlines which are longer than those [that] governed the misdemeanors contained in the prior accusatory instrument.’” *People v. Cooper*, 219 A.D.2d 426, 433, 643 N.Y.S.2d 532, 536 (1996), *aff’d*, 90 N.Y.2d 292, 683 N.E.2d 11 (1997), quoting with approval *Chang v. Rotker*, 155 A.D.2d 49, 552 N.Y.S.2d 676 (1990).

As you know, the speedy trial deadline for felonies is six months from the defendant’s first appearance, which was on April 10, 2025. *Cooper*, 219 A.D.2d at 432. Thus, your office would appear to have *at least* until October 10, 2025 to bring a charge of second degree felony assault under Penal Law § 120.05. Further, your office should also bring a pendent hate crime charge under Penal Law 485.05, given that video evidence reveals that the defendant made disparaging remarks about Ms. Craven Antao’s Christian beliefs and practices before brutally assaulting her.

Please advise us **immediately by email** at the email addresses indicated whether your office will bring these charges within the time permitted. Ms. Craven Antao remains fully cooperative and is available to appear before a Grand Jury to give testimony in this matter. We

have copied the originally assigned prosecutor with this request and ask that he bring it to your, and Mr. Bragg's, attention.

Sincerely yours,

/s/Christopher A. Ferrara
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