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**GENOVESE FAMILY CAPO SENTENCED
TO 5 YEARS IN PRISON**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that CIRO PERRONE, a "Capo," or "Captain" in the Genovese Organized Crime Family, was sentenced earlier today to 60 months in prison. PERRONE, 87, was convicted by a jury in June 2007, following a two-week trial, of all counts against him, including a violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations ("RICO") statute. The sentence was imposed by United States District Judge ROBERT P. PATTERSON in Manhattan federal court. According to documents filed in this case and the evidence at trial:

PERRONE has been a "made" member of the Genovese Organized Crime Family since at least the 1960s, and was promoted to the supervisory rank of Capo in the 1990s, taking over the crew formerly under the control of Genovese Family Acting Boss MATTHEW IANNIELLO, a/k/a "Matty The Horse," who pleaded guilty to racketeering charges in this case. In his capacity as Capo, PERRONE supervised and directed the criminal activities of numerous other "made" members and associates of the Genovese Family, which activities included operation of a lucrative gambling business and extensive loansharking operation. PERRONE based his criminal business in Ozone Park, Queens, engineering crimes from a number of locations, including his own "social club" located on 101st Street, and various establishments in the neighborhood, including a local butcher shop and Don Peppe's restaurant, where PERRONE regularly met with other members and associates of organized crime.

PERRONE was convicted of four separate racketeering acts -- including operation of the gambling business, loansharking conspiracy, and loansharking against two named victims; RICO conspiracy; conspiracy to make extortionate extensions of credit; and conspiracy to use extortionate means to collect extensions of credit.

At the sentencing earlier today, PERRONE requested that he be sentenced to a term of 12 months and one day imprisonment. Judge PATTERSON rejected that request, and stated that this type of crime is difficult to prosecute, as "it is hard to get witnesses. People are afraid of retaliation against them and their families," adding, "This type of crime is a crime that eats away at the good things that go on in our world."

In addition to the prison term, Judge PATTERSON sentenced PERRONE to 2 years of supervised release and ordered him to forfeit \$150,000 and pay a \$12,500 fine.

Mr. GARCIA praised the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York City Police Department in this case.

Assistant United States Attorney ELIE HONIG is in charge of the prosecution.

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