

Supreme Court of the State of New York
Appellate Division: Second Judicial Department

D26791
C/kmg

_____AD3d_____

Argued - March 3, 2010

STEVEN W. FISHER, J.P.
JOSEPH COVELLO
PLUMMER E. LOTT
SANDRA L. SGROI, JJ.

2006-05891

DECISION & ORDER

The People, etc., respondent,
v Bernard Stoney, appellant.

(Ind. No. 7129/04)

Lynn W. L. Fahey, New York, N.Y., for appellant.

Charles J. Hynes, District Attorney, Brooklyn, N.Y. (Leonard Joblove and Morgan J. Dennehy of counsel), for respondent.

Appeal by the defendant from a judgment of the Supreme Court, Kings County (J. Goldberg, J.), rendered May 11, 2006, convicting him of criminally negligent homicide, after a nonjury trial, and imposing sentence.

ORDERED that the judgment is affirmed.

Contrary to the defendant's contention, viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution (*see People v Contes*, 60 NY2d 620, 621), we find that it was legally sufficient to disprove the defendant's justification defense beyond a reasonable doubt (*see* Penal Law § 35.15; *People v Spells*, 66 AD3d 924; *People v Acquista*, 41 AD3d 491, 492; *People v Williams*, 304 AD2d 595).

In fulfilling our responsibility to conduct an independent review of the weight of the evidence (*see* CPL 470.15[5]; *People v Danielson*, 9 NY3d 342), we nevertheless accord great deference to the factfinder's opportunity to view the witnesses, hear the testimony, and observe demeanor (*see People v Mateo*, 2 NY3d 383, 410, *cert denied* 542 US 946; *People v Bleakley*, 69

April 6, 2010

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NY2d 490, 495). Upon reviewing the record here, we are satisfied that the verdict of guilt was not against the weight of the evidence (*see People v Romero*, 7 NY3d 633).

FISHER, J.P., COVELLO, LOTT and SGROI, JJ., concur.

ENTER:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James Edward Pelzer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

James Edward Pelzer
Clerk of the Court