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Junior Don Behind Curtis Sliwa Shooting



As an act of revenge for badmouthing his old man on talk radio, John A. [\(Junior\)](#) Gotti ordered the 1992 shooting of Guardian Angels founder and radio host Curtis Sliwa, according to new evidence obtained by federal authorities.

The sensational shooting is one of several acts of mob violence that the feds have now tied to the younger Gotti, (right) Gang Land has learned.

Sources say the feds have evidence that Junior ordered crew members "to teach (Sliwa) a lesson" for his repeated portrayals of the late [Dapper Don](#) as a low life gangster who deserved to be jailed for life for his April 1992 racketeering and murder conviction.

Sliwa was shot and critically wounded by two gangsters who picked him up in a stolen taxi cab outside his East Village apartment as he left for his early morning talk show at about 5 A.M. on June 19, 1992 – four days before Gotti was [sentenced](#)



to life. Shot in the back and both legs, Sliwa underwent two operations, and spent three weeks in Bellevue Hospital. On his release, Sliwa resumed his show – co-hosted at the time with his then-wife Lisa Evers – and accused associates of Junior Gotti with being responsible for the attack.

No one has been charged in the case, and until today, none of the alleged participants has ever been named.

Sliwa often refers to the shooting on his WABC radio show – now co-hosted by



radical left-wing attorney Ron Kuby. Yesterday, for example, during a promo for a health plan, Sliwa recalled how he was “shot full of lead by the Gambino family” in 1992 when he failed to practice “preventive medicine....and keep my mouth shut.”

Turncoat capo Michael (Mikey Scars) [DiLeonardo](#), (left) who began cooperating with the feds last fall, has given the feds the lion’s share of the information concerning the several violent accusations against Junior, including the shooting of Sliwa, sources said.

DiLeonardo, a former partner with Junior in several topless bar extortion scams, has told the feds that Junior, angered by Sliwa’s continued attacks instructed his charges to “put Sliwa in the hospital” for constantly haranguing his father, as well as him and his sister Victoria on his show, in the newspapers and on guest appearances on other shows, sources said.

Here’s Junior’s cast of characters, and their roles, according to DiLeonardo’s account to the feds, sources say.

The wheelman in the plot was Joseph D’Angelo, a onetime protégé of Salvatore ([Sammy Bull](#)) Gravano. Three months earlier, [D’Angelo](#) had rattled Gravano during his testimony at John Gotti’s trial by standing up and slowly walking out and back into the courtroom shortly after the superstar turncoat took the stand.

[D’Angelo](#), 34, has 10 months left of a four year sentence for extortion.

The shooter was Michael (Mikey Y) Yanotti, a member of a crew headed by capo Nicholas (Little Nick) Corozzo. Yanotti, 30, and D'Angelo, have both become "made men" since the shooting.

Seconds after Sliwa (right) got into the cab at St. Marks Place and Avenue A, a man who had been crouched down in the front passenger's seat, rose and began firing down at Sliwa who bounced from side to side trying to open either door, which were both jury-rigged shut, Sliwa said shortly after the attack.

Two blocks away, as the cab careened around the corner on Ave B and East 7th St, Sliwa dove towards the driver's side open window – the partition between front and back seats had been removed – screaming "Code Red, Code Red" into his Guardian Angel radio. He got stuck, but was shot in the back and tumbled out into the street.

As Guardian Angels, police and an ambulance responded to his cries for help, the cab sped away and was recovered a few blocks away, where the getaway driver had waited to pick up D'Angelo and Yanotti, sources said.

Contacted yesterday, Sliwa told Gang Land: "The guys should go straight to hell without an asbestos suit. I've been right about this all along. This is the way the



Gottis have been doing business ever since the beginning. Thank goodness that it's starting to change. I won't be happy though until they're all either in jail or pushing up daisies."



The Sliwa shooting was one of several mounted by the budding young mob leader, sources say.

Six months after the Sliwa attack, Junior was on a three capo panel running the Gambino family for his dad that authorized the Christmas Eve execution of a daring husband and wife team that had robbed several Gambino and Bonanno family social clubs in Brooklyn and Manhattan, sources said.

Sources said that the feds have determined that Gambino soldiers Dominick ([Skinny Dom](#)) Pizzonia (left) and Ronald (Ronny One Arm) Trucchio were the gunmen who executed Thomas Uva, 28 and his wife Rosemary, 31, as they did their Christmas shopping in Ozone Park, Queens.

During their brief lived success, Thomas wielded an Uzi submachinegun and Rosemary served as getaway driver as the Bonnie and Clyde pretenders rolled up scores against victims who did not report their losses to the cops.

Sources said the Bonanno family – a Bath Ave. social club operated by then consigliere Anthony [Spero](#) (right) was the first to be hit by the Uvas – had the contract to whack them, but “the work was done by the Gambinos.”

[Pizzonia](#), 61, currently serving time for extortion, is set for release from federal prison in February. Trucchio, 51, recently pleaded guilty to state gambling charges and faces 1-to-3 years when he is sentenced next month.

As Gang Land reported last [August](#), the FBI and Queens cops have also targeted Junior in a Mar. 13, 1983 murder during a wild barroom brawl that young Gotti allegedly started by smashing a glass in one



patron's face and finished by stabbing another one to death.

The Manhattan U.S. Attorney's office, which obtained [racketeering](#) charges in 1998 that led to Gotti's current incarceration – he is scheduled to end his [77-month](#) prison term next year – is looking to make a new case against Junior, sources said. A spokesman for U.S. Attorney James Comey declined to comment about the case.

"Junior is turning out to be a chip-off-the-old block," said one law enforcement official. "He may not be coming home as soon as he thinks he is."

His attorney, Richard Rehbock ripped the government "for leaking this old and stale information for the sole purpose of creating a very negative atmosphere about my client. This leak speaks volumes about their intent."



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