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**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY RICHARD A. BROWN**  
**RE: MATTHEW COLLETTA WHO IS CHARGED WITH MURDER**  
**FOLLOWING DEADLY DRIVE-BY SHOOTING RAMPAGE**

Last night Matthew Colletta was transferred from the Police Department's Queens Central Booking Facility here in Kew Gardens to the psychiatric ward at Queens General Hospital and then to Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan for observation.

I anticipate that within the next few days he will be arraigned on the charges arising out of last Friday night's shooting either at Bellevue or – if the doctors see fit – here in Criminal Court.

At that time it can be expected that an Article 730 examination will be ordered by the Court – that is to say that the Court will order that Mr. Colletta be examined to determine whether he is fit to proceed – whether he has the capacity to understand the proceedings against him and to assist in his defense.

If he is found fit, we will proceed – if not, he will be committed to a psychiatric institution where his status will be periodically reviewed. If at any time he is found to be fit, we will proceed with the criminal action.

As you know, Mr. Colletta is accused of turning the streets and highways of Queens – from Maspeth to Bayside – into a virtual shooting gallery last Friday night, randomly firing a 9mm handgun at vehicles and pedestrians. A number of people were injured and one – a 52-year-old Massepequa man returning from Poughkeepsie with his wife after dropping their daughter off at Marist College – was tragically killed.

Mr. Colletta was initially charged with murder in the second degree and numerous counts of felony assault and reckless endangerment together with possession of the 9mm handgun allegedly used in the shooting. Thereafter – pursuant to a search warrant – an additional handgun – a loaded .22 caliber revolver – was recovered in the flap of the rear passenger seat of the 1992 green Cadillac allegedly used by Mr. Colletta during the shooting spree and two bags of cocaine were found in the defendant's pants pocket. And so we've added charged with respect to the possession of the additional gun and the drugs to those which the defendant faces.

Finally, let me just add that this was a sad and terribly unfortunate series of events with tragic results. It apparently started when the defendant's former girlfriend threw him out. He claims that he lived in his car for a number of days and then – fueled by alcohol and cocaine – he went of his shooting rampage.

But regardless, he will be held responsible for his actions – either by being confined in a psychiatric institution or in a prison cell.

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**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**