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**D.A. BROWN: FAR ROCKAWAY RESIDENT CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER
IN SHOOTING DEATH OF FRIEND**

Faces Up to 25 Years in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Far Rockaway man has been convicted in the slaying of his 20-year-old friend in April of 2001.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has been convicted by a jury of his peers of taking the life of a young man who was also his friend. His actions warrant the imposition of a lengthy prison sentence to ensure that he is severely punished for this senseless act and to protect society."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Shatell Spurgeon, 26, of 85-02 Rockaway Beach Boulevard in Far Rockaway, Queens, no known employment. He was convicted following a two-week jury trial of first-degree manslaughter and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

A jury of seven women and five men deliberated more than five and one-half hours over two days before returning a verdict of guilty earlier today before Queens Supreme Court Justice Mark H. Spires who set sentencing for September 15, 2006. The defendant faces up to 25 years in prison.

District Attorney said that, according to the trial testimony, at about 9:30 p.m. on April 22, 2001, at Beach 86th Street and Rockaway Beach Boulevard, the defendant and his intended victim, Alvin Briggs, 22, were engaged in a verbal altercation. Mr. Briggs then walked away from the defendant to enter his vehicle when he observed the defendant reach into his waist. As Mr. Briggs began to drive away he heard a single gunshot and observed the victim, Damon Waiter, 20, who was seated in the front passenger seat bleeding and shaking. The bullet had traveled through the back window of Mr. Briggs' vehicle striking Mr. Waiter once in the head.

Assistant District Attorney Jack Warsawsky, Deputy Chief of the District Attorney's Homicide Trials Bureau prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Brad A. Leventhal, Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted on www.queensda.org