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**D.A. BROWN: TWO MEN ARRAIGNED ON MANSLAUGHTER  
AND OTHER CHARGES IN SEPARATE FATAL DRIVING INCIDENTS**

*Speed, Alcohol Likely Factors in Crashes*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that two New York City drivers involved in separate one-car crashes earlier this week that resulted in the death of two passengers and the serious injury of a third passenger have been arraigned on manslaughter, assault and other charges.

“Speed or alcohol were likely factors in these incidents,” said District Attorney Brown. “Such behavior all too often results in death or serious injury to passengers and pedestrians – and prison sentences for drivers who also have to live the rest of their lives knowing that if they did not get behind the wheel others would still be alive.”

District Attorney Brown identified the defendants as:

- Ramchand Hansraj, 35, of 78 Norwood Avenue in Brooklyn, who has been charged with Manslaughter in the Second Degree, two counts of Assault in the Second Degree and Leaving the Scene of an Incident Without Reporting/Personal Injury. If convicted he faces up to fifteen years in prison.
- Francisco Rosario, 26, of 89-23 85<sup>th</sup> Street in Woodhaven, Queens, who has been charged with Vehicular Manslaughter in the Second Degree, Vehicular Assault in the Second Degree, Criminally Negligent Homicide and Operating a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs and faces up to seven years in prison if convicted.

According to the District Attorney, a criminal complaint charges that defendant Hansraj recklessly caused the death of his front-seat passenger, Joel Lillah, 18, by driving a 2000 Nissan Maxima at a high rate of speed at about 1:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 8, 2006, and hitting a utility pole and tree at the intersection of Sutter Avenue and North Conduit in Lindenwood, Queens. The defendant then allegedly fled the scene on foot without reporting the incident, leaving a second passenger, Chaibarlall Ramu, 23, severely injured. Ramu had been a passenger in the rear seat and ejected from the vehicle. Ramu, who sustained internal injuries as a result of blunt trauma impact, is presently in critical condition at a local Queens hospital.

In the second case, said District Attorney Brown, defendant Rosario is charged with causing the death of his neighbor, Dante Paiva, 26, who was sitting in the front seat of the 1991 Honda Prelude that the defendant was driving on February 8, 2006, at approximately 2:41 a.m. while under the influence of alcohol. It is alleged that Rosario hit a median and lost control of the vehicle at the intersection of Woodhaven Boulevard and Union Turnpike, resulting in Paiva being ejected approximately 15 feet from the vehicle. Paiva died at Jamaica Hospital as a result of the injuries he sustained from the incident.

District Attorney Brown said that the defendants, arrested on February 8, 2006, were arraigned after being treated at local hospitals for injuries they sustained in the crashes. Hansraj was arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Gene R. Lopez and Rosario was arraigned earlier today before Queens Criminal Court Judge Alex J. Zigman. Bail was set at \$100,000 for Hansraj and \$30,000 for Rosario and a return date of February 24, 2006 was set for both cases.

Assistant District Attorney Kristin J. Fraser of the District Attorney’s Homicide Investigations Bureau is prosecuting the cases under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, Peter J. McCormack III, Deputy Bureau Chief, and Richard B. Schaeffer, Senior Trial Attorney, 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.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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