



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY**
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000

Release # 84-2006
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006

CONTACT: KEVIN RYAN
NICOLE NAVAS
MERIS CAMPBELL
(718) 286-6315

**D.A. BROWN: FORMER NYPD PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER
CONVICTED IN SHOOTING OF GIRLFRIEND'S TEENAGE SISTER**

Faces Up To Seven Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a former New York City Police Department Probationary Police Officer has been convicted of reckless assault and tampering with evidence in the pre-dawn shooting of his girlfriend's sister at a friend's Ozone Park apartment in July 2004.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant stands convicted of recklessly shooting and seriously injuring his girlfriend's 18-year-old sister, who, fortunately, survived her brush with death. The defendant, who at the time of the incident had recently graduated from the Police Academy, should have known better than to display a loaded firearm in a roomful of people. He must now live with the burden of knowing that his conduct led to an innocent girl being shot."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Jeffrey Rivera, 26, of Jamaica, Queens, a former rookie police officer assigned to the 70th Precinct in Brooklyn. The defendant was convicted late this afternoon of Assault in the Second Degree and Tampering With Physical Evidence. He faces up to seven years in prison.

The jury deliberated for 3½ days before returning a verdict of guilty before Queens Supreme Court Justice Joel L. Blumenfeld, who presided at the ten-day trial. Justice Blumenfeld scheduled sentencing for May 12, 2006. The defendant remains free on \$10,000 bail.

The District Attorney said that, according to the trial testimony, while in the kitchen of a friend's apartment at 107-49 100th Street in Ozone Park at about 2:30 a.m. on July 22, 2004, the defendant removed his department-issued 9mm Smith and Wesson semi-automatic pistol from its holster and showed it to friends. While the handgun was pointed in the direction of his girlfriend's sister, Justina Diaz, 18, it discharged, striking her in the chest and seriously wounding her.

The District Attorney said that a court-authorized search warrant drafted by the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau was executed at the crime scene later that day and a disassembled 9mm semi-automatic pistol was recovered by the NYPD Crime Scene Investigation Unit.

Assistant District Attorneys Carmencita N. Gutierrez, Deputy Chief of the District Attorney's Integrity Bureau, and Michelle Y. Cort-Hourie prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney James M. Liander and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

#

Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org.