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**D.A. BROWN: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CHARGED WITH SENDING LETTER  
THREATENING TO KILL STUDENTS TO SCHOOL AUTHORITIES**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 16-year-old female high school student has been charged with sending a threatening letter to the school's assistant principal which indicated that several students would be killed and the method by which each one would die. A second student, a 15-year-old girl who allegedly took part in sending the letter, has been charged as a juvenile; her case is being handled in Family Court.

District Attorney Brown said, "The sad reality is that we live in a time when every threat to student safety must be taken at face value. In this case, the defendant and her young acquaintance are accused of creating a scenario that could have had serious consequences."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Shelena Clark, 16, of Cambria, Heights, Queens. She is presently being held pending arraignment on charges of second-degree reckless endangerment, second-degree aggravated harassment and third-degree falsely reporting an incident. If convicted, she faces up to a year in jail.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the assistant principal of the Queens High School of Teaching, located at 74-20 Commonwealth Boulevard in the Glen Oakes section of Queens, found a handwritten note in his office mailbox at approximately 1:45 p.m. yesterday, December 12, 2007, which included a list of students' names and the various methods which would be used to kill each student, including shooting one student in the head. The letter also allegedly indicated that the killings were to occur that day and that the killer would commit suicide when the killings were done.

The District Attorney said that because classes were still in session, school authorities immediately instituted lock down procedures for the entire school campus – which includes a junior high school and an elementary school. Approximately fifty police officers from various precincts and the school safety division responded to the school campus and prevented anyone from entering or exiting any of the schools. During the lock down, police enforced a freeze in which students had to remain in the classroom they were in at the time the incident was reported. The lock down lasted for approximately two hours as police conducted a search of the school classroom by classroom.

In statements made to the police, according to the complaint, Clark said that she and the juvenile decided to write the note as a joke and that they put it in the assistant principal's mailbox together.

The case is being prosecuted by the District Attorney's Criminal Court Bureau under the supervision of Joan I. Ritter, Bureau Chief, and Kimberly A. Affronti, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Senior Assistant District Attorney for Trial James Clark Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorneys for Trials John H. Larsen and Robert Masters.

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

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