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**D.A. BROWN: RIDGEWOOD MAN CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER**  
**IN 2005 SHOOTING DEATH OF GIRLFRIEND**

*Faces Up to 25 Years to Life in Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 25-year-old Ridgewood resident who had fled to the Dominican Republic following the fatal shooting of his teenage girlfriend inside her family's residence in March 2005 has been convicted in connection with her death.

District Attorney Brown said, "The victim, a single mother raising a young child, had her life taken away by the defendant during a deadly verbal argument that ended in gunfire. I hope her family finds some degree of solace in today's conviction and in the knowledge that the defendant will be sent to prison for a long time as punishment for his actions."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Jose Tavaréz, 25, 45-55 48<sup>th</sup> Street in Ridgewood. He was convicted today following a two-week jury trial, of first-degree manslaughter and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon after five hours of deliberations. Acting Queens Supreme Court Justice Joel L. Blumenfeld, who presided at trial, set sentencing for July 18, 2007. The defendant faces up to 25 years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, at approximately 3:30 a.m. on March 5, 2005, Tavaréz met Liliana Alvarez, 19, at the restaurant/bar where she worked as a waitress. When her shift was over, he and Liliana got a ride with her sister and a friend. Shortly thereafter, the car they were passengers in was pulled over by police for blasting loud music and all four individuals were asked to step out of the car. After a search of the car revealed nothing, they were let go. Tavaréz and Liliana then got into an argument because Tavaréz had been armed with a loaded handgun – which he had secreted in the car before they stepped out. Although the gun had not been discovered, Liliana accused Tavaréz of placing them in jeopardy of arrest. The heated argument continued even as they returned to her family's Cypress Avenue apartment.

The District Attorney said that, according to trial testimony, Tavaréz shot Liliana once in the head at close range at approximately 5:00 a.m. that morning. Tavaréz then knocked on the bedroom door of Liliana's mother and told her to call 911 and fled. Liliana was found lying fully clothed on the bed and still breathing. She was taken to a local Queens hospital where she died later that day.

District Attorney Brown said that immediately after the shooting Tavaréz fled to Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, where he was detained upon his arrival there. He was taken in custody to Miami, Florida, where he subsequently waived extradition and brought back to New York.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Debra L. Pomodore, of the District Attorney's Homicide Trial Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Brad A. Leventhal, Bureau Chief, and Jack Warsawsky, Deputy 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 at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**