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D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN ARRAIGNED IN SHOOTING DEATH
OF YOUNG FATHER IN FRONT OF ST. ALBANS HOUSE

Face 25 Years to Life in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 20-year-old South Jamaica resident and alleged gang member has been charged with the murder of a young father outside his home earlier this week.

District Attorney Brown said, "The victim was a young father who single handily was raising his infant daughter when shortly after celebrating his first Father's Day his life violently came to an end. This crime is another example of mindless gun-related violence that too often takes innocent lives and recklessly endangers public safety."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Sherwin Thompson, 20, of 160-07 119th Avenue in Queens. The defendant was arraigned this afternoon before Queens Criminal Court Judge Joseph Zayas on charges of second-degree murder and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon. The defendant was ordered held without bail and to return to court on July 2, 2007. He faces up to 25 years to life in prison if convicted.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Germaine Persaud, 21, was standing on the sidewalk in front of his house at 119-46 192nd Street at approximately 1:00 a.m. on June 18, 2007, when Thompson, an alleged Bloods member, approached him and asked if he had a problem with him. When Persaud replied he didn't, it is alleged that Thompson turned as if to leave and then wheeled around and fired multiple shots at Persaud, striking him at least three times under the left arm, including once fatally in the heart. Persaud, the father of an 11-month-old girl, managed to run into his house before dying.

The District Attorney said that it is alleged that Thompson admitted to getting a chrome revolver from inside his house shortly after a dispute outside a nearby bodega between two groups of individuals that included both the defendant and the victim.

District Attorney Brown said that the defendant was taken into custody shortly after the incident by police officers assigned to the New York City Police Department's 113th Precinct.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robert S. Cielsa, of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, and Peter J. McCormack III, 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.

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