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Release # 207-2007
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2007

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D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN ARRAIGNED IN SHOOTING DEATH
OF ALLEGED LOVE RIVAL ON JAMAICA STREET

Faces 25 Years to Life in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 31-year-old Jamaica resident has been charged with murdering a Queens man earlier this because he believed that his victim was dating his girlfriend.

District Attorney Brown said, "The victim was a young man who had his life come to an abrupt end because of mindless gun-related violence. The incident underscores our commitment to remain vigilant in the fight to rid the streets of Queens County of illegal weapons."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Marlon Sanders, 31, of 142-05 Lakewood Avenue in Jamaica, Queens. The defendant was arraigned yesterday before Queens Criminal Court Judge Joseph Zayas on charges of second-degree murder, second-degree criminal possession of a weapon and tampering with physical evidence. The defendant was ordered held without bail and to return to court on November 27, 2007. He faces 25 years to life in prison if convicted.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Jamel Leavy, 37, was standing on the sidewalk in front of 109-42 142nd Street at approximately 6:05 p.m. on Monday, November 5, 2007, when Sanders approached him and repeatedly shot Leavy, killing him. Afterwards, Sanders allegedly got rid of the weapon by throwing it into a sewer near the Van Wyck Expressway.

The District Attorney said that approximately nine hours after the shooting detectives went to the home of Shante Dalton at 2445 Williamsbridge Road in the Bronx in search of Sanders. When they arrived at the Williamsbridge apartment, Sanders had barricaded himself with Dalton and her two young children. The NYPD Hostage Negotiation Team was summoned and the defendant and the other three individuals were removed unharmed about 9 a.m..

In statements made to police following his arrest by detectives assigned to the NYPD's 103rd Precinct's Detective Squad, Sanders allegedly admitted that he and Leavy had an ongoing dispute over a girl – Shante Dalton – for the last three or four weeks. The defendant also allegedly admitted that he shot Mr. Leavy after a verbal confrontation.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Dietrich P. Epperson, 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