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**D.A. BROWN: RIDGEWOOD MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON  
FOR 2005 SHOOTING DEATH OF GIRLFRIEND**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 25-year-old Ridgewood resident has been sentenced to fifteen years in state prison for the fatal shooting of his teenage girlfriend inside her family's residence in March 2005.

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. The defendant then attempted to escape responsibility for his actions by fleeing to the Dominican Republic shortly after the shooting. Fortunately, law enforcement officials there detained him as he stepped off the plane – still covered with his victim's blood – and he was brought back to Queens County where he was tried and convicted of the killing."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Jose Tavarez, 25, 45-55 48<sup>th</sup> Street in Ridgewood. Tavarez, who was convicted this past July of first-degree manslaughter and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon following a two-week jury trial, was sentenced today to fifteen years in prison by Acting Supreme Court Justice Joel L. Blumenfeld, who presided at his trial.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to trial testimony, at approximately 3:30 a.m. on March 5, 2005, Tavarez 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. Tavarez and Liliana then got into an argument because Tavarez 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 Tavarez 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, Tavarez shot Liliana once in the head at close range at approximately 5:00 a.m. that morning. Tavarez 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 Tavarez 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 was brought back to New York.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Debra L. Pomodora, 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).**