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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**QUEENS TEENAGER TO BE ARRAIGNED ON MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE**  
**IN CHRISTMAS EVE STABBING DEATH**

*Defendant Faces Up To 25 Years in Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 16-year-old Long Island City girl has been charged with manslaughter in the fatal stabbing of a 29-year-old man outside the 21<sup>st</sup> Street-Queensbridge subway station this past Christmas Eve.

District Attorney Brown said, “Based upon our review of the evidence, Ms. Brown has been charged with first-degree manslaughter – that is to say that it is alleged that she intended to cause serious physical injury to her victim and, in the process, she caused his death.”

The District Attorney continued, “We do not believe that the evidence supports a defense of justification under the law. In order to have been justified – that is to say that she acted in self defense – it would have to be shown that she reasonably believed that deadly force was being used – or was about to be used – against her. And even then the law imposes upon her a duty to retreat.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Cyan Brown, 16, of 40-15 12<sup>th</sup> Street\* in the Long Island City section of Queens. She surrendered last evening to detectives assigned to the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct Detective Squad and will be arraigned later today in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens on a two-count criminal complaint charging her with the crimes of first-degree manslaughter and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon. If convicted, Ms. Brown faces up to 25 years in prison

The District Attorney said that, according to the criminal charges, Ms. Brown stabbed Thomas Winston, 29, also of Long Island City, once in the upper torso, piercing his heart, just before 9:00 p.m. on December 24, 2009, following a verbal altercation. The incident allegedly occurred outside a fast food restaurant located above the 21<sup>st</sup> Street-Queensbridge subway station, which is at 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 21<sup>st</sup> Street. It is alleged that Ms. Brown exited the restaurant with the knife she had been carrying and that the victim, seeing the knife, backed up but slipped on the snow and fell. At that point, it is alleged that Ms. Brown jumped on him and stabbed him once before fleeing into the subway.

Assistant District Attorney Naomi Schneidmill, of the District Attorney’s Homicide Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the case 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](http://www.queensda.org).**

\* Please note that the address is a correction from an earlier news advisory.