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**FORMER NYPD POLICE OFFICER SENTENCED
TO 25 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR MURDER OF FIANCÉE**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a then-New York City police officer has been sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for the fatal, off-duty shooting of his 22-year-old fiancée two years ago in Woodhaven, Queens.

“The defendant’s senseless act robbed a beautiful young woman of her life,” said District Attorney Brown. “The imposition of the maximum penalty allowed under the law reflects the seriousness of his crime and the lasting pain his actions have caused her loved ones.”

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Harry Rupnarine, 39, of Queens. Rupnarine, who had joined the Police Department in January 2005, was convicted in September 2009 of second-degree murder following a three-week jury trial before Queens Supreme Court Justice Michael Aloise, who imposed today’s indeterminate sentence of 25 years to life in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the trial testimony, Rupnarine and his fiancée, Guiatree Hardat, 22, of Brooklyn, were arguing on Atlantic Avenue, between 81st and 82nd Streets, at approximately 7:30 p.m. on May 10, 2007, when the defendant drew his service-issued Glock 9-mm handgun and pulled the trigger at close range, shooting her in the back of the head and killing her. Rupnarine and Ms. Hardat had been dating off and on for the prior sixteen months.

Assistant District Attorney Jack Warsawsky, Deputy Chief of the District Attorney’s Homicide Trials Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Brad Leventhal, 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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