



718.286.6000
WWW.QUEENSDA.ORG

QUEENS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
125-QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW 01 GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568



MELINDA KATZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE (718) 286-6315
QDACommunications@queensda.org

MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER OF 26-YEAR-OLD DELI EMPLOYEE

Defendant Faces Up to 25 Years-to-Life in Prison if Convicted

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced today that Steven Cohen, 63, has been charged with murder and other crimes for the Monday evening shooting that claimed the life of a 26-year-old man inside a Queens deli.

District Attorney Katz said, "The incident started with a dispute and ended with the accused allegedly taking of the life of a 26-year-old man. We need to thank the off-duty police officer for his bravery and swift action, tackling and disarming the defendant, assuring that no other lives were lost. The defendant will be held accountable."

Cohen, who has no known address, is being held pending arraignment in Queens Criminal Court on charges of murder in the second degree, attempted murder in the second degree and 2 counts of criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree. If convicted, Cohen faces up to 25 years-to-life in prison.

According to the charges, said DA Katz, on Monday, October 26, 2020, at approximately 6:15 p.m. inside the Cross Bay Express Deli, at 137-02 Cross Bay Boulevard, the defendant became engaged in a verbal dispute with the victim, Tarwala Mahmadrshid, employee at the store. The defendant was asked to leave the deli and shortly after allegedly returned with a Colt revolver, fired multiple times and struck the 26-year-old once in the abdomen. The defendant then turned to another employee and allegedly fired again, but missed his target.

The defendant was disarmed and immediately apprehended by a patron of the store, a police officer who was off duty at the time.

Mr. Mahmadrshid was transported to a local Queens hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Assistant District Attorneys Adarna DeFrietas, Emily Collins and Joseph Grasso of the District Attorney's Homicide Bureau is prosecuting the case, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Brad Leventhal, Bureau Chief, Peter J. McCormack III, Senior Deputy Bureau Chief, John W. Kosinski and Kenneth M. Appelbaum, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and under the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

Criminal complaints and indictments are accusations. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Note to Editors: Archived press releases are available at www.queensda.org.

