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D.A. BROWN: BROOKLYN RESIDENT CHARGED
WITH KILLING QUEENS PAWNSHOP OWNER DURING ROBBERY

Faces 25 Years To Life In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a Brooklyn man has been charged with shooting a Richmond Hill pawn shop owner to death during an apparent robbery at the store in January.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is accused of entering the victim's pawnshop and intentionally and fatally shooting him during the course of committing an armed robbery. The defendant's alleged actions are another clear example of the lethal consequences of senseless gun violence."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Demetrious Greene, 29, of 647 Watkins Street in Brooklyn. The defendant was arraigned yesterday before Queens Criminal Court Judge Shawn Simpson on charges of Murder in the Second Degree, Attempted Murder in the Second Degree, Attempted Robbery in the First Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second and Third Degrees. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 25 years to life in prison. Judge Simpson ordered the defendant held without bail and set a return date of March 27, 2006.

District Attorney Brown said that a criminal complaint charges that, on the evening of January 19, 2006, the defendant entered Rich-Atlantic Gold and Silver Exchange located at 118-20 Atlantic Avenue, and attempted to rob the store's owner, Richard Schoenfeld, 40, of Merrick, Long Island. During the course of the robbery the defendant allegedly shot Mr. Schoenfeld twice, fatally wounding him, before fleeing.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Jose H. Morel of the New York City Police Department's 102nd Precinct Detective Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Peter Clark.

Assistant District Attorney Jasmine Chang 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 criminal charges are merely an accusation and that defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org.