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**D.A. BROWN: TEENAGE DRIVER CHARGED WITH KILLING  
NEW MOTHER IN REGO PARK DWI CRASH**

*Defendant Allegedly Ran Red Light*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 19-year-old Long Island motorist has been charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol after running a red light and slamming into a livery van, killing a young Queens mother who had just given birth less than a month ago.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendant is accused of getting behind the wheel while under the influence of alcohol and being involved in a traffic accident in which a young mother of two children died. At the time of the accident, she was cradling her three-week-old son, who miraculously survived the accident with just cuts and bruises. The defendant now faces felony homicide and drunk driving charges.”

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Qadir T. Ahmad, 19, of 7 Melissa Street in Lake Grove, New York. The defendant was arraigned last night before Queens Criminal Court Judge Joseph Zayas on charges of Vehicular Assault in the Second Degree (Vasean’s Law), Criminal Negligent Homicide, Operating A Motor Vehicle While Under The Influence Of Alcohol, and Failing to Obey a Red Traffic Signal Light. Ahmad, who was held on \$250,000 bail and ordered to return to court on May 7, 2007, faces up to seven years in prison if convicted.

The District Attorney said that, according to the charges, the defendant was driving a 1993 Toyota Camry east on Queens Boulevard at approximately 1:45 a.m. on April 22, 2007, when he ran a red light and struck a 2003 Dodge Caravan at the 65<sup>th</sup> Place intersection, killing Paula Serrano, 28, of Woodside, who was an occupant in the Caravan. The defendant was allegedly observed to have an odor of alcohol on his breath, watery eyes and slurred speech. According to the charges, the defendant admitted that he consumed some alcohol much earlier but claimed that he was not drunk. It is, however, alleged that an intoxilyzer test administered to the defendant resulted in a blood alcohol content reading of .089 percent – above the legal limit of .08 percent in New York.

District Attorney Brown said that the defendant was arrested by police officers of the New York City Police Department’s Highway Unit # 3.

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: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).**