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**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS MAN CHARGED IN FATAL SHOOTING OUTSIDE
LAURELTON HOUSE PARTY**

Second Individual Wounded; Faces 25 Years to Life in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a 21-year-old Queens resident has been charged with the murder of a 22-year-old man and the wounding of another man as they sat in their car in front of a Laurelton home where a party had been held.

District Attorney Brown said, "According to the charges, the defendant reacted to a perceived slight by firing a gun multiple times at the victims as they sat unarmed in their car. This case is another example of the mindless gun-related violence that too often takes innocent lives and recklessly endangers public safety."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Rhian Taylor, 21, of 133-07 229th Street in Laurelton, Queens. The defendant is charged with second-degree murder, second-degree attempted murder, first- and second-degree assault, second-degree criminal possession of a weapon, and first-degree reckless endangerment. The defendant faces up to 25 years to life in prison if convicted.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, Darion Brown, 22, of 168-44 127th Avenue, along with friends, decided on the evening of Friday, August 10, 2007, to go to a party in Laurelton in the vicinity of 133rd Avenue. Arriving at approximately 1:45 a.m., and seeing that the party was ending, one of the male occupants in the vehicle Brown was driving, got out to speak with a woman he knew. During the course of their conversation on the sidewalk, the defendant Taylor allegedly approached them and began to harass the man about who he was and how he knew the woman. Although the woman was able to defuse the situation, shortly thereafter, the Brown allegedly shouted to his friend and asked when was he going to introduce him to his "pretty friend." At that point, it is alleged, another individual told Taylor that Brown had "violated" and handed Taylor a gun. Almost immediately, Taylor allegedly began firing the gun at the occupied vehicle. Brown was shot multiple times and died a short while later at the hospital. Another friend was shot once in the right thigh. The other occupants in the car were unharmed.

District Attorney Brown said that the defendant was arrested on last Tuesday, by police officers assigned to the New York City Police Department's 105th Precinct and was arraigned today before Queens Criminal Court Judge Fernando Camacho who held the defendant without bail and set a next court date of August 30, 2007.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robert S. Cielsa, of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau, 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: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org.