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D.A. BROWN: POLICE OFFICER CHARGED WITH MURDER OF GIRLFRIEND

Faces Up to Life in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that an off-duty New York City police officer has been charged with intentional murder in the shooting death of his 22-year-old girlfriend last night in the Woodhaven section of Queens.

District Attorney Brown said, "This is a tragic case from any perspective. A young woman is murdered. A New York City police officer is charged with her death. However, the sad reality is that this was, in essence, a domestic violence incident that occurs all too frequently and illustrates that police officers are not immune from social problems that are endemic in our society."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Harry Rupnarine, 37, of Queens. The defendant, who joined the Police Department in January 2005 and is assigned to the Transit Kings Task Force in Brooklyn, is being held pending arraignment later today in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens on a single charge of second-degree murder. If convicted, the defendant faces up to 25 years to life in prison.

The District Attorney said that, according to the charges, the defendant and his girlfriend, Guiatree Hardat, 22, of Brooklyn, were arguing on Atlantic Avenue, between 81st and 82nd Streets, last night at around 7:30 p.m. when the defendant withdrew his service-issued Glock 9-mm handgun and pulled the trigger at close range, shooting her in the face and killing her. The defendant and Ms. Hardat allegedly had been dating off and on for the last sixteen months.

The investigation was conducted by the NYPD's Internal Affairs Bureau, with assistance from members of the 102nd Precinct Detective Squad and Detective Borough Queens.

Assistant District Attorney Annette B. Almazan, of the District Attorney's Homicide Investigations Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Peter T. Reese, Bureau Chief, Peter J. McCormack III, Deputy Bureau Chief, and Richard B. Schaeffer, Senior Trial Attorney, 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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