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UPSTATE NEW YORK MAN SENTENCED TO 11 YEARS IN PRISON
FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER IN STRAY SHOOTING OF INNOCENT BYSTANDER
Victim Was Exiting Queens Subway Station When Shot From Two Blocks Away

Acting Queens District Attorney John M. Ryan announced today that a 23-year-old Orange County man has been sentenced to eleven years in prison for the February 2018 shooting of a woman as she exited the subway in Long Island City, Queens.

Acting District Attorney Ryan said, “The defendant admitted that he was in possession of an illegal firearm which he claimed ‘accidently’ went off – repeatedly – as he whipped it from his waistband while arguing with his girlfriend in the middle of the street. Although he completely missed hitting his intended target, one of the stray shots unfortunately hit a bystander – a young woman two blocks away as she exited a subway station. While the woman thankfully survived being shot by the defendant, this case serves as a perfect example of just how dangerous illegal guns can be and how innocent people can at any time become a victim of senseless violence. Under the circumstances, the prison sentence meted out to the defendant by the Court is more than justified.”

The District Attorney’s Office identified the defendant as Snooze Brown, 23, of Middletown, New York. Brown pleaded guilty on May 13, 2019, to second-degree attempted murder, second-degree assault and second-degree criminal possession of a weapon before Queens Supreme Court Justice John B. Latella who yesterday imposed a determinate sentence of 11 years in prison plus five years’ post-release supervision.

Acting District Attorney Ryan said that, according to the charges, Brown was arguing with his girlfriend, inside her apartment in Long Island City around 7:00 a.m. on January 26, 2018, when he began to repeatedly punch her in the face, causing bruising and substantial pain. Locking herself in a bathroom, she used her cell phone to contact her mother for help as Brown demanded that she open the door and threatened to shoot through it.

When his girlfriend opened the door, she ran out of the apartment. Chasing after his girlfriend, Brown caught up to her at the intersection of 41st Avenue and 10th Street and again began verbally arguing with her and pushing her into the middle of the intersection. When his girlfriend’s mother and fiancé drove up to the scene, Brown threw a bag at the vehicle and then pulled out a gun and began firing several shots at her, one of which hit a schoolteacher exiting the subway two blocks away at 41st Avenue and 21st Street. The victim, 28, remembered hearing a loud pop and immediately feeling pain in the area of her abdomen. When she looked down, she saw a small hole in her jacket,

(MORE)

another one in her shirt, and blood seeping from her abdominal area. She was transported to a local Queens hospital by ambulance and treated for a gunshot wound.

Meanwhile, according to the charges, Brown fled the scene and was actively being sought when a member of the New York-New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force spotted him two days later on Doughty Boulevard in Nassau County – just five hundred yards from the Queens/Nassau border. At the time of his arrest, police recovered a loaded 9mm semi-automatic pistol from his jacket.

According to the criminal charges, Brown stated to police at that time, “That gun is yours now . . . I know I’m a fugitive. I seen myself on TV. How much time am I going to get?”

Continuing, Brown said, in sum and substance, that “the car [containing his girlfriend’s mother and fiancé] tried to run me over. The gun I got locked up with today is going to match the shell casings from the shooting. I pulled the gun out of my waistband and the gun went off. It was an accident. I bought the gun from a crackhead in August. If the gun comes back to other things before August, it wasn’t me. I’ll take five years for this.”

When asked by police how many times he shot the gun during the shooting, Brown responded, in sum and substance, “Well, how many shell casings did you find?” When asked why he held onto the gun after the shooting, Brown stated, in sum and substance, “Because I’m an idiot” He later apologized for shooting the innocent bystander.

Acting District Attorney Ryan noted that the Office of Nassau County District Attorney Madeline Singas deferred the gun possession charge to the Queens District Attorney’s Office for prosecution.

Acting District Attorney Ryan thanked Nassau County District Attorney Singas, as well as her Chief Assistant District Attorney, Albert Teichman, Deputy Bureau Chiefs Caryn Stepner and Jessica Cepriano and Senior Assistant District Attorney Teresa Aiello for their assistance in this case. He also thanked Detective Kristopher Spero and Lieutenant Timothy Thomson, of the New York City Police Department’s 114th Precinct Detective Squad, Sergeant Daniel Stellar, of the Nassau County 4th Precinct’s Detective Squad and Sergeant Cornelius Douglas of the New York New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force for their assistance.

Assistant District Attorney Kevin B. Ramnarain, of the District Attorney’s Career Criminal Major Crimes Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Patricia M. Theodorou, Bureau Chief, Shawn Clark and Michael Whitney, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and under the overall supervision of Senior Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials James C. Quinn and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Trials Laura M. Henigman.

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Note to Editors: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org