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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fare Beater Who Shot Police Officer Pleads Guilty To Aggravated Assault
Defendant To Serve 25 Years In Prison For Shooting Cop In Leg

Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson today announced that a 29-year-old Brooklyn man has pleaded guilty to aggravated assault on a police officer for shooting a New York City Police Department officer in the leg after the cop and his partner, who were both in uniform, stopped the man for boarding a bus without paying his fare. The defendant is expected to be sentenced to 25 years in prison in September.

District Attorney Thompson said, “This defendant showed utter contempt for police officers when he opened fire on them three times over a fare beating stop. He deserves the 25-year prison term that he will get in September.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as, Rashun Robinson, 29, of 692 East 48th Street, in East Flatbush. The defendant today pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated assault on a police officer before Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Alan Marrus who indicated he would sentence the defendant to a determinate term of 25 years in prison when he is sentenced on September 3, 2014.

The District Attorney said that, according to the investigation, the shooting stemmed from an incident that occurred on February 26, 2014, at approximately 5 p.m., in the vicinity of Empire Boulevard and Utica Avenue, when Police Officer James Li and Police Officer Randy Chow observed the defendant entering the rear of a New York City Transit Authority B46 bus and ordered the defendant to get off of the bus. The defendant got off of the bus and ran across Empire Boulevard, turned and fired multiple shots at both officers, striking Officer Li in the leg and groin.

The District Attorney said that, according to the investigation, both officers returned fire. The defendant was not hit. He was apprehended in a stairwell on Schenectady Avenue shortly after the shooting by officers assigned to the 71st precinct. The defendant had a .45 caliber handgun in his hand when he was caught. Three .45 caliber shell casings were recovered.

Officer Li, who graduated from the Police Academy two months prior to the shooting and was assigned to the 71st precinct, suffered significant nerve damage to his leg and walks with a cane. It is unknown at this time whether the nerve damage is permanent.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Lewis Lieberman of the District Attorney’s Homicide Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Kenneth Taub, Bureau Chief.

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