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NYPD SERGEANT INDICTED IN OFF-DUTY CAR CRASH THAT KILLED ROOKIE COP NEAR CITY ISLAND AFTER A NIGHT OF DRINKING

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a New York City Police Department sergeant has been indicted in the off-duty fiery car crash that killed his passenger, a 27-year-old NYPD officer, near City Island nearly a year ago.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant allegedly was drinking and got behind the wheel of a car that crashed, flipped over and burst into flames. A young officer who was his passenger died at the scene, her promising life cut short. The defendant was critically injured. This tragedy is all the more senseless because it was avoidable.”

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Randolph Price, 33, an NYPD officer for eight years, was indicted on second-degree Vehicular Manslaughter and two counts of Operating a Motor Vehicle While Under the Influence of Alcohol (Vehicle and Traffic Law). He was arraigned on January 4, 2018 before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett, who set bail at \$100,000, and is due back in court on February 21, 2018. If convicted of the top charge, he faces up to 2 1/3 to seven years in prison.

According to the investigation, on February 1, 2017, Price was with Bianca Bennett, 27, an NYPD officer for 10 months, and two other people at an establishment on City Island. Price allegedly drank enough alcohol to put his blood alcohol level over the legal limit of .08.

According to the investigation, at about 11:45 p.m., Price allegedly was driving on City Island Road in excess of the speed limit, and his 2012 Dodge Charger went off the roadway onto the grassy Circle at Park Drive, where it hit a stump, flipped over, landed on its roof and was engulfed in flames. Bianca Bennett died of thermal injuries at the scene, and Price suffered critical injuries to his legs.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Allison Riesel and Nicholas Collins of the Public Integrity Bureau, under the supervision of Wanda Perez-Maldonado,
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Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau, and the overall supervision of Stuart Levy, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division. District Attorney Clark thanked the NYPD's Internal Affairs Bureau and Collision Investigation Squad for their assistance in the investigation, as well as Assistant District Attorneys Tina Petrillo, Deputy Chief of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau and James Brennan, Deputy Chief of the Rikers Island Prosecution Bureau for their assistance in the case.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.

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